

Original Motion with proposed amendments underlined.

Motion to Council presented by Councillor Mrs C Bainbridge (14 December 2023)

Climate & Ecology Bill motion (Last Updated 20/10/23)

Preamble Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are 'worried about climate change and its effects'. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's Save Our Wild Isles initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.

Climate & Ecology Bill

The Climate & Ecology Bill, a private member's bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the CE Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Framework (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

Fareham Council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by 180 cross-party MPs and Peers, 250 local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; NGOs, such as the Wildlife Trusts, the Doctors' Association, Oxfam, the W.I. and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Riverford and The Body Shop; and 42,000 members of the public.

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1st Amendment

We are unable to support a motion that no longer exists. However, we propose these amendments to the original motion to reflect our commitment to responsible governance, economic pragmatism, and long-term sustainability. These amendments ensure we balance environmental issues with economic viability.

2nd Amendment

We believe we can further improve on the amendment raised yesterday and this document summarises our proposed second amendment (25 July 2024). Yesterday's amendment states that the original motion 'no longer exists' however the motion still very much exists, albeit with a minor name change. It was previously called the Climate and Ecology Bill and now called the Climate and Nature Bill. No other material changes have been made to it.

The framework set out in the CAN bill aims to take the latest scientific advice and lock these recommendations into law, ensuring that right across the UK appropriate actions are taken to ensure the UK is doing its fair share to maintain a liveable planet. This is the only proposed legislation to address our nation's out of date climate targets.

The amendment also proposes that we should reflect on our commitment to responsible governance, economic pragmatism, and long-term sustainability by not supporting the CAN Bill. On the contrary, we would suggest that we best demonstrate our commitment to these behaviours by supporting the bill.

Climate change is a global existential threat to human life on the planet. This statement sounds heavy but we simply cannot underestimate the dangers that we are facing. 'Responsible governance' demands that an urgent and proactive response is required. The UK's current targets are far from sufficient to limit warming to 1.5°C and the door is closing on the chance to keep temperatures close to the Paris Agreement Pledge. We can only guarantee 'long-term sustainability' if we take urgent action now, and a good start would be by supporting the CAN bill.

Understandably, everyone has concerns about the costs required to tackle climate change and the need to operate with 'economic pragmatism'. By asking the council to support the CAN Bill we are not agreeing to sign a blank cheque and we are not asking the council to enact the bill. Instead, we are simply asking that the council support this Bill so that we develop laws to ensure that the UK plays its fair part in addressing climate change and that this responsibility is shared equally across the nation. All of the changes required will be more effective and efficient with a central government lead.

It would be irresponsible to reject the CAN Bill because we don't fully understand the cost implications of addressing climate change. Only by supporting the Bill will we properly understand what future actions are required. Ultimately, we're not going to

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have a choice about taking action and the sooner we do so, the less drastic (and costly) the counter-measures will be.

If we choose not to support the CAN Bill then the message we are giving to our residents about our commitment to playing our part in addressing climate change is at odds with many of the proposed amendments.

The CE Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1st Amendment

The CE Bill would have required the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, Fareham Borough Council proposes to:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;

1st Amendment

Deliver our environmental strategy, which will be the Council's response to address climate and nature concerns.

2nd Amendment

Finalise and deliver our environmental strategy and support the CAN bill so that our future strategies are aligned.

2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;

1st Amendment

Where possible, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to meet our obligations under the Paris 2015 agreement.

2nd Amendment

Have clear, targeted and achievable reductions in net greenhouse gas emissions to meet our obligations under the Paris agreement to set ourselves on a clear path in support of the national CAN Bill.

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3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;

1st Amendment

Our biodiversity net gain delivery as part of the Environment strategy is designed to halt the decline in nature and promote recovery. We advocate for the use of reliable and meaningful data about nature that is measurable and understandable to the general public to demonstrate our support.

2nd Amendment

FBC's environmental strategy is still in development. The CAN Bill sets out the strategic steps that need to be taken not just to promote recovery but to reverse the decline in nature by 2030. We must not take a parochial view and need to embrace the bigger picture through support of the Bill.

4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;

1st Amendment

Encourage the Government to work towards the development of an internationally accepted accounting mechanism for costing emissions and ecology.

2nd Amendment

Agreed, this is best achieved by supporting the CAN Bill.

5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;

1st Amendment

We aim to reduce the use of fossil fuels and transition towards relying solely on affordable and renewable energy sources. In doing so we will continue to use a mix of energy sources, including fossil fuels, to ensure that we can continue to function effectively as an authority.

2nd Amendment

We will reduce the use of fossil fuels and transition towards more renewable energy sources in line with government targets.

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6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries;

1st Amendment

Support retraining of those people wishing to move into the new eco-industries.

2nd Amendment

Agreed.

7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative Climate & Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

1st Amendment

Strike this item

2nd Amendment

Engaging people in significant change is fundamental to the success of those changes and a national Climate and Nature Assembly, as proposed by the CAN Bill would help to secure buy-in from the start. This assembly will be advised by world-leading scientists and experts.

Fareham Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to Suella Braverman MP to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Fareham Councils support (councils@zerohour.uk)

1st Amendment

Fareham Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the amendments to the motion

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2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision despite the original bill no longer existing.

3. Write to all **three** MP who represent the Borough to inform them that this motion has been passed

2nd Amendment

1. Support the second amendments (raised 25 July) to the motion

2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision

3. Write to all **three** MPs who represent the Borough to inform them that this motion has been passed as per the second amendment.