

SOUTH POOL, KINGSBRIDGE, TQ7 2RW

Cllr Judy Pearce

Cllr.Judy.Pearce@southhams.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Pearce

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of the South Hams. In July this year your council declared a Climate Emergency and agreed to publish a Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan within six months. As a member of the South Hams Society and someone who cares deeply about this area's loss of wildlife and biodiversity, I was delighted to see that positive action is being taken by the District Council.

I very much support point 7 of the Resolution passed. To help combat the current Climate and Biodiversity Crisis, it is essential that our Planning system contains meaningful measures to genuinely protect and enhance our precious natural environment. In my view, such considerations must be given 'great weight' when planning decisions are made. The long term sustainability of our natural environment - its rivers, estuaries, pastures, trees, hedges and wildlife - must outweigh the desire of landowners and developers to make money.

I note that neighbouring councils – Torbay, Plymouth, Teignbridge and Cornwall - have all committed to being carbon neutral by 2030 or earlier. It is disappointing to see that South Hams District Council has only committed to "an assessment of the viability of a 2030 target".

I and other residents of this area want to see real action on this critical issue by the District Council and others and we need it soon.

I very much support the idea of forming a Citizens' Assembly to work on this and hope to see as many local people and organisations as possible being involved. The stakes could not be higher.

Yours sincerely,

MRS ELIZABETH BENNETT

Cc: Cllr Richard Foss

Cllr Julian Brazil

Cllr Frank Green