Steve Ardagh-Walter

Council Offices

Market St,

Newbury RG14 5LD

Dear Mr Ardagh-Walters,

Following the Climate Crisis, declared by our government in May 2019, West Berkshire council released their Environmental Strategy until 2030. This strategy is a promising first step for at least acknowledging the challenge ahead in tackling climate change and setting firm targets for carbon reduction in the West Berkshire area. However, the projects and methods to reach these targets, in places, lack clarity.

I am writing to you, as our local councillor committed to delivering this strategy, to show my support for the 10-point plan, set out by a local environmental group, Newbury Friends of the Earth, to help reach these targets. Please see a summary of this action plan below.

**NEWBURY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH 10 POINT PLAN**

1. **EDUCATE**
Create a compulsory education program on climate change for all councillors and senior council officers within WBC to allow them to understand the urgency of climate action and hence prioritise it in their decision making.
2. **DIVEST FOSSIL FUEL FUNDING**
Insist that all WBC investments held in the Berkshire Pension fund are divested from fossil fuel investment towards more sustainable options.
3. **SOLAR ENERGY**

All council buildings with south facing roofs must be fitted with solar panels saving money in electricity bills as well as the planet.

1. **EFFICIENT NEW BUILDS**

All new constructions in the WB area must achieve Passivehaus standards, ensuring a low carbon footprint for this building.

1. **RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT**

Create a community bond to fund the construction of three new wind turbine sites in the WB area.

1. **ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS**

The world is changing rapidly and we need WB to keep up! Install dedicated charging points and car parking spaces for electric cars.

1. **DOUBLE TREE COVER BY 2030**

We need to prioritise green space for carbon sequestration in West Berkshire. This can be achieved through community planting projects such as The Lockdown Woods.

1. **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Offer commercial composting facilities and ditch the green waste charges for WB residents. Provide new wheelie bins and better information on recycling options.

1. **ENGAGE LOCAL BUSINESSES**
Provide practicable and specific guidelines for local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and highlight their role as a business in making environmental change.
2. **ENGAGE THE PUBLIC**
Provide useful information through your website outlining how we as individuals can reduce our carbon footprint in the WB area as well as progress on climate change mitigation locally.

These stages aim to work not against but alongside the Environmental strategy, offering a solid action plan to achieve the ambitious targets set in the aforementioned document. For example, the environmental strategy mentions the importance of carbon sequestration programs and mentions increasing tree cover significantly, both of which would be achieved in Stage 7. Furthermore, it describes the need for energy efficiency schemes which can be practiced through ensuring Passivhaus construction (Stage 4).

I hope you found this document useful and informative and shows enthusiasm, as a West Berkshire resident, to prioritise the Climate Crisis. If you have any questions about the Action Plan, please visit Friends of the Earth Newbury website or contact them directly for more information.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

It is very important to include this information to show you are a resident of West Berkshire

(Your postal address)

(Your email)