

Moreton declares Climate Change Emergency

At its September meeting (2019), Moretonhampstead Parish Council joined a number of district and parish councils in the SW, including Teignbridge, Bovey Tracey and Ide, in declaring a climate change emergency.

Moreton already has number of active groups taking measures to reduce the adverse impact of human activity on our planet's environment and the Parish Council both commends these efforts and wishes to support them wherever possible.

Climate change is part of a wider crisis – the unsustainable use of finite resources, over-population, increasing pollution, environmental damage and extinctions. Many of us feel powerless in the face of a daunting global situation; however it is better to do something rather than nothing – “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. The Parish Council will do whatever it can in its daily operation to improve sustainability and would be pleased to receive any suggestions for other viable measures that can be taken.

However we recognise that it is important to make sure that what we do to address one problem doesn't add to another. For instance, whilst we believe that renewable energy is good, using fossil fuel to ship palm nut waste from Indonesia to the UK to generate electricity to meet a biofuel requirement doesn't make much sense; and we all now regret the misconceived drive in the 1990s to increase the use of diesel, and the pollution that this has created. We are also mindful that electric cars aren't pollution-free, and their batteries use scarce resources and create disposal problems.

Using new technology to decrease or mitigate impacts is only a partial answer – where possible, we also need to use less of everything, and mend and repurpose more.

We look forward to working with all those interested in ensuring that Moretonhampstead does what it can to reduce the effects of climate change and plan appropriate responses to associated risks.

Moretonhampstead Parish Council