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Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

Planning Committee

Date: Friday, 24th January, 2020
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber - Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER

Chair: Councillor S Merifield
Members: Councillors G Bagnall, P Fairhurst, R Freeman, G LeCount, M Lemon (Vice-Chair), J Loughlin, R Pavitt, N Reeve, G Sell, A Storah and M Sutton

ITEMS WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION PART 1

Open to Public and Press

2 UTT/18/0460/FUL - Stansted Airport 3 - 6

To consider whether to approve the issue of the decision notice for UTT/18/0460/FUL – Stansted Airport.

- Public Statements made at the meeting on 17 January 2020 but received via email following 20 January.



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For information about this meeting please contact Democratic Services

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Cllr Louise Pepper

Mr Chairman, fellow members, colleagues and friends.

I'm speaking on behalf of SSE and other campaigning groups all over the world.

We have a global crisis. Severe impacts from climate change are being experienced now. The last decade was the hottest ever recorded. 2019 was the second hottest since records began. Last year saw two major heat waves hit Europe in June and July, with a new national record of 46C set in France. New records were also set in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and in the UK at 38.7C. **Extreme heat is hitting even faster and harder than scientists anticipated.**

The underlying driver is indisputable. The concentration of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere is increasing more and more as fossil fuels are burned. There is more CO₂ in the atmosphere today than any point since the evolution of humans. By allowing temperatures to rise more than 1.5 degrees, it will have hugely damaging effects for human, plant and animal life across the planet. Australia have experienced one of its worst droughts in decades, their spring was the driest on record. A heatwave in December broke the record for the highest nationwide average temperature, a sweltering 40 degrees. For the past three months, I've watched my antipodean cousin's country burn. Exhausted firefighters have had to fight ferocious fires that have burnt around 18 million hectares, thousands of people have had to be evacuated, they're choking from the toxic atmosphere. Up to half a billion animals and plants have been lost. That figure excludes insects and frogs, so the real sum is almost certain to be much higher. I am not ashamed to admit that I have shed tears over this loss.

Young people across the world are angry. Their message is clear. We're playing with their future. This needs to be urgently addressed. We, the decision-makers, must act now.

UDC have committed to achieving net-zero status by 2030. The UK have committed to achieving net-zero by 2050. A landmark UN report last year concluded that CO₂ emissions must drop 45 percent by 2030-and reach "net zero" by 2050. Britain is not on track to meet its current commitments. Each year that passes makes it more difficult to achieve the necessary targets.

Under no circumstances should we be increasing economic growth and greenhouse gases at the expense of the environment, when we face "unprecedented" challenges from climate chaos, pollution and biodiversity.

Airport expansion will unquestionably add even more greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. Multiple UK airports, including Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick and Luton- four out of the five largest UK airports by passenger traffic – all currently have planned expansions. The plans announced would increase the country's airport capacity by an estimated 200 million passengers yearly, representing an astounding increase of 70%.

The more planes and carbon we put in the air, the higher chance we have in the future, of habitable places we frequently visit becoming uninhabitable. Subsidising fossil fuels makes no sense.

However, we're fortunate that at local level, we have our local MP Kemi Badenoch's full support.
READ OUT LETTER FROM KEMI.

We decide not central government.

The evidence on new material changes is unequivocal. A rise of anything above 1.5C would mean that coastal flooding, heatwaves and damage to coral reefs would become more severe. The latest figures show that the world has already warmed by just over 1C. Time is running out.

Wealth or health. Profit or planet

We must safeguard our precious planet now and future generations before it's too late. Thank you

Hello, my name is Louise Yellowlees and I am representing Saffron Walden Action on Climate change, SWACC (850 members)

I'm going to jump right in to see if I can put the decision you are making next Friday into the context of the climate crisis.

I'm sure you've heard a lot today about the horrific fires in Australia, the drought, the record breaking heat. Also the floods in Indonesia, Bangladesh, the flooding here in the UK last year, along with the dam at Whaley bridge. The wild fires in California last year. The list goes on and on.

But I don't want to talk about that, amazingly that's not the worst part of this crisis, these events are the warning signs of this emergency come.

In the next 25 years it is predicted that we will run out of fresh water with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the global population not having access to fresh water. It is predicted that in the future we may have wars over fresh water. Just imagine for a moment, turning on the tap and nothing comes out. Where exactly will you go in Saffron Walden for clean, fresh water? If there's not enough water, how will we grow enough food? Where will you get it if supermarkets are empty. And with rising sea levels there will not be enough land. It's predicted that 500,000 - 1 billion people will be displaced, will be refugees.

So, in the next 25 years; not enough water, not enough food, not enough land. Add to that the extra 2.8 billion more people predicted to be living on this planet earth and it paints a terrifying picture. And 25 years isn't very far away.

Now maybe you're thinking, 'But in the grand scheme of things, what's another couple of thousand flights, or a couple of million passengers? Compared to global emissions that's just a drop in the ocean.'

But that's like telling me and everyone from SWACC and every single person who makes an incredible effort every day to reduce their carbon footprint that what we're doing is completely pointless and irrelevant. It's like saying we might as well leave our massive, diesel cars running all day, leave the fridge door open, all the lights on, fly 100 times a year and eat meat all day because hey! in the grand scheme of things my emissions are just a drop in the ocean, right?'

Well that's not right. Every single choice that every single person makes every day matters. Because it changes the way you think, the way you view the world, the way you vote! Every action I take affects the people around me, and their choices in turn affect those around them and it goes on and on, it's a ripple effect. And these ripples are alive right now, rippling around the world.

And make no mistake, the decision you make on 24th January will create enormous ripples, whichever way you decide to go.

The people of SWACC are asking you to be brave. Be brave and allow yourself to make the decision you know to be right. With this 'No', you will inspire others, you'll be giving them the option to say 'No' to the other airport expansion plans coming up this year. And if we can all start saying 'No', maybe we can stop hurtling at full speed towards the edge of the cliff,

maybe we'll have time to slow down, stop, reassess and then start saying 'Yes' again whilst moving in a different direction.

Thank you