

Public Speaking – Council, 16 December 2019

Mr Veal

Mr Veal said human beings were changing the very geology of the planet and if nothing was done we would be facing an unprecedented extinction crisis. He said a solution to this crisis would only be found if people worked together co-operatively and everyone had a part to play.

Ms Yellowlees

Ms Yellowlees said she had spoken on the previous climate change motion and that little had changed since the motion was passed. She said the weight of the emergency needed to be recognised and urgent action was required now. She said the Council could give hope by showing the way to other councils on how to go about achieving an environmentally friendly agenda.

Mr Gildea

Mr Gildea said he supported the Climate Change motion as it took the crisis seriously. He said ambitious measures needed to be put in place to rise to the challenge of climate change, such as taxing unsustainable behaviours and working with farmers to improve agricultural practices. The Local Plan was another area in which the Council had to wield influence; sustainability had to be at the heart of the development process.

Mr Dodge

Mr Dodge said he had set up a community energy collective to encourage the use of renewable energy, and he hoped that UDC would also get involved. He said the community and Local Authority needed to act together on a project such as this to create jobs, steer priorities and reduce carbon emissions.

Ms Muir

Ms Muir said all were aware of the climate crisis and the need for action was urgent. She said eco systems and biodiversity were suffering and the district was losing its green spaces. She appealed to Members to reassess those flawed policies and make changes with immediate effect. Joined up thinking was required to counter such a threat.