

Climate Emergency

Meeting held 5th December 2019 RSM

Following the laudable step taken by Rockland St Mary Parish council to declare a Climate Emergency Professor Tim O'Riorden was invited to speak to an open meeting of parishioners from our local villages.

The meeting was opened by Ingo Wagenknecht, chaired by Philip Halstead and notes taken by Steph Ross Wagenknecht and it's purpose was to discover steps that could be taken by us as a community towards a more sustainable way of life.

Tim is presently President of Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC), also President of Council for the Protection of Rural England. He talked about his work bringing together these two strands.

Tim stated that the proof of climate chaos can now be seen with the turbulence. He said it is only just beginning, cannot be stopped but can be reduced. This needs to be done in the next decade 2020 to 2030. He then gave 4 areas of action:

Net Zero (<https://.net/briefings/net-zero/net-zero-why>)

1. Need to get to this as soon as possible. To achieve this needs revolution and transformation. Need to reduce gas production and increase absorption. He talked about taxing carbon, methane producing animals and helping the Earth swallow this carbon.
2. **Enhancing the natural world** We are losing nature. Tim believes that every young person should have 1 hour per day with the natural world and that schools should be sensitised to nature.
3. **Well being** We need to have a society that gives people purpose, overcome worthlessness and help their mental health. Loneliness is not the same as solitude. He said many are bereft of a feeling of belonging.
4. **Society** Tim believes we need a different society, one where the young and old mix. The current economics and politics are antagonistic to Net Zero.

Tim then outlined what projects NALC (www.norfolcalc.gov.uk) are currently engaged in.

1. Every parish to **plant trees** (2K available) ideally in a nature enhancing 'safe' area, could create parish woodland.
2. **Electric Charging Points** – ideally in every village. Electric bus with solar maybe, within the next ten years.
3. **Planning** – every planning permission where parking is involved to have a charging point.
4. **Working with house builders.** Powerfully designed homes, which are affordable. NALC want every parish to start this process. If every village had a good example of building then seeing examples would help understanding.

Tim ended by stating:

We can't afford to wait; there is a lot we can do, and if it is done with other people this is much better and a world of compassion has been entered.

It was inspirational to hear that so much can be done locally not only to reduce the impact of climate change but to make our locality an even better place to live.

Next steps

**Further open meetings will be arranged to join in or find out more
email climateinterest@protonmail.com**

