

Cllr Beryl Ezzard

Proposed Amendment updated: Dorset Council for 16 February 2021 Meeting

Budget Statement - Item 10 – Agenda Supplement

Most Members on this Council agreed to the Climate & Ecological Emergency in May 2019 in an urgent call to action. We need action now, where our communities can see our revenue contribution at the grass roots level, to slow down and reverse the current global temperature rising and reduce our carbon emissions.

Why, when other Councils nearby have, this Council has not, budgeted for Climate & Ecological emergency action in the coming year? A £100,000.00 at the very least, should be a priority for this Council; although we face many difficulties and trials currently, we need to focus on the objective of being carbon neutral by 2030 not by 2040!

My proposal is to maintain a Balanced Budget whilst adjusting a couple of items of lesser priority, that would give £100,000.00 for Action initiatives in the Community.

In the Agenda Supplement Appendix 1e: Page 9; shows Members Allowances – an increase of nearly £90,000.00 which I understand, is for Lead Members & allowance increases over the year. Compared to BCP Council where the Cabinet Members have shared with their Lead Members their Allowances; DC has not.! Most of this sum, i.e. £75,000.00 would be better used for combating Climate Change. To add in Appendix 1f: Page 10 shows Unfunded Tourist Information Centre's (TIC's) a sum of £60,000.00 where a saving of £25,000.00 could also be found, leaving £35,000.00 for the 3 TIC's still supported. To recap: £75,000.00 + £25,000.00 = £100,000.00

This sum would be well used to reduce carbon emissions: For example - employing an Ecologist specialist Officer to lead on Planting Trees - at least 5,000 Trees @ £10.00 of deciduous native trees including fruit & nut trees and initiate a database of Dorset wild flora by our highways and green spaces and wild-up areas for protection. Will the Council now act and amend the Budget Statement to include £100,000.00 for the Climate & Ecological Emergency Action this coming year?

Thank you