

An open letter to David Drew MP

From residents and users of Uplands Road,
Stroud*

7 May 2019

Dear Mr Drew

We are very concerned about the inadequacy of governments' national actions and international cooperation to limit climate change.

We are a group of people who have come together, not to campaign about climate change or any other major issues, but simply to deal with some issues affecting our street, namely repeated failures of the mains water supply pipe and deterioration of the road surface.

With (eventually) the cooperation of the water company, these are issues we can cope with by working together.

By contrast, we feel powerless to do anything meaningful to deal with the relentlessly increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, and the threats they pose to the world we (especially children) will experience in future.

Three decades ago, when some of us were not even born, politicians (including the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher) started making speeches about the need to limit the causes of global warming. As you know, in October last year, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned the world that humanity has only about one decade left for action to limit global warming to a tolerable level (1.5°C).

The first action needed is to get global emissions of greenhouse gases to stop increasing and then start decreasing steeply. This has been called "bending the curve".

We do not know how to make that happen, but then why should we? That is what we expect politicians and their specialist advisers to work out, above all by working together at international level. This does not seem to be happening in an effective manner.

We hope that you and other politicians will get the message that if a diverse group of people brought together by a small neighbourhood emergency are also concerned about the unfolding climate emergency, there must be countless others wanting to see genuinely effective national and international leadership on climate change emerge, and very soon.

We also hope that this expression of concern may inspire other informal groups to remind their political representatives of their responsibility to give climate change the priority it needs, and to do so this year.

We wish you a speedy recovery from your recent surgery, and trust that you will not try to respond to this before you are well enough.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Bethell
Robin Craig
Hannah Dyson
Laurence Finch
Daniel Giles
Elizabeth Giles
Jack McQuail
Catherine Miles

Mungo Morris
Alison Richards
Hugh Richards
Megan Sheer
William Sheer
Jessica Smith
Sam Smith
Rosie Spooner
Paul Tavener
Gavin Wilson
Gillian Woolhead

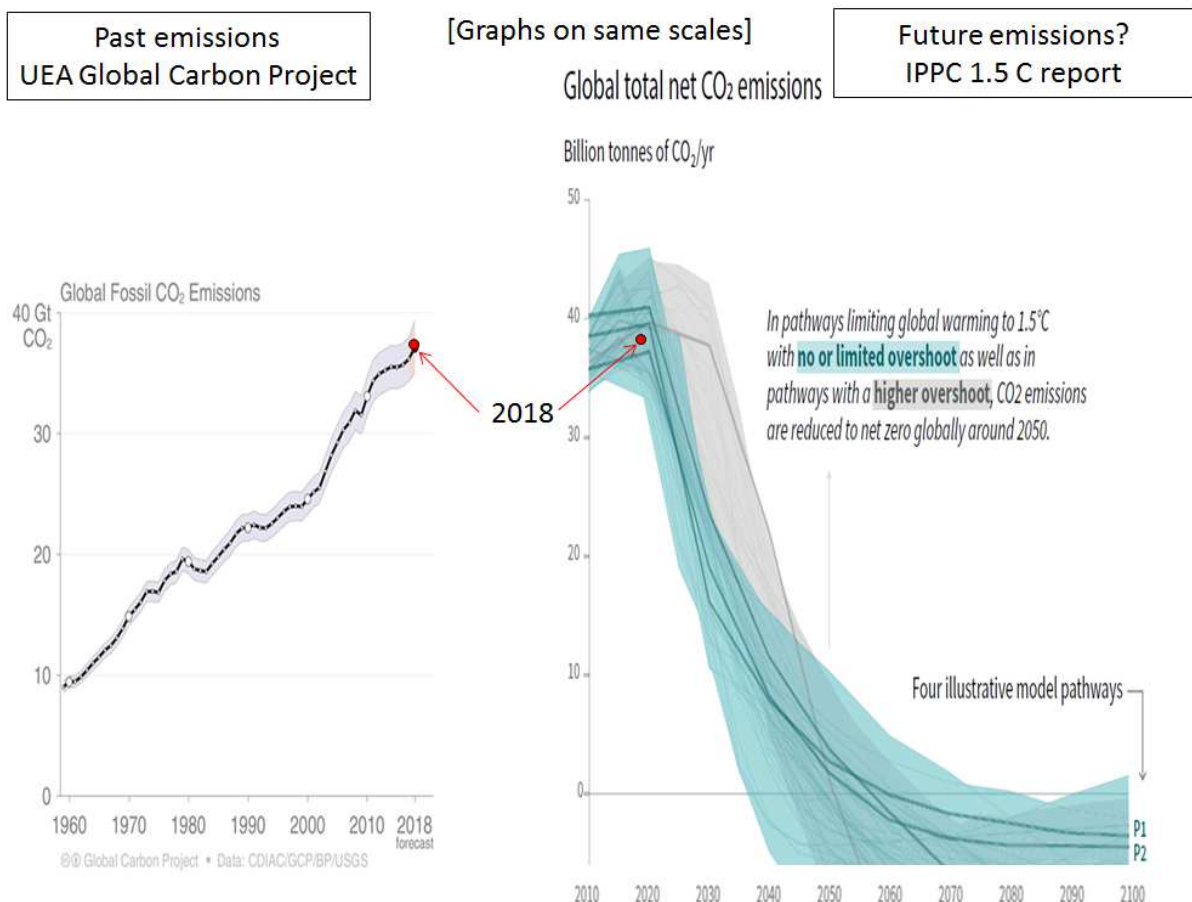
[Residents and users of Uplands Road, Stroud]

*Please send any reply to this address:

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Some food for thought:



“I want you to panic”

Greta Thunberg (16-year-old Swedish school student, addressing the World Economic Forum)