

12 March 2021 12:29

Dear Sue

Thank you for your letter concerning the Climate and Ecology Bill.

As you acknowledge we have already discussed my view of this Bill and I have written on the same on my website along with other important environmental issues and initiatives. <https://www.johnhowell.org.uk/news/john-comments-some-current-environment-issues>. However I also note that you feel duty bound to send me the letter following the Council's resolution!

I am fully aware of the role that I can play as an MP to drive through the agenda for change which is needed in this area. Let me restate what I have already said many times over, tackling climate change remains a key priority for the Government and I fully support the work that is being done. For my own part I am a member of the Conservative Environment Network which works, among other things, to ensure that MPs are fully briefed on the issues in this area as they arise. It is a fast moving and cross-cutting issue that has to be taken into account in all decision making.

At risk of repeating myself, I find the CEE Bill a curious one which I do not believe is necessary as work is already underway on many of the things outlined in it and it has already been agreed that tackling climate change is a priority. One does, therefore have to wonder at the motivation behind the Bill and I have set out the issues around this on my website too

In seeking to bring the public with us on this we have to be proactive and positive, which is exactly the approach the Government is taking. For the most part it is not about telling people what they cannot do but to make it possible for them to do the things they want to do in ways that are not detrimental to the environment. Indeed you will recall how SODC did this when introducing the wheelie bin system. Unlike many councils that introduced complex recycling systems, those at SODC at the time decided that it was important to make it easy for people to recycle and hence the simple system that is in place with the excellent recycling rates to prove the point.

I look forward to moving this agenda forward at an ever accelerating pace as we are currently doing and at the same time bringing the public with us to ensure that we make lasting changes that will benefit the global environment.

John

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