Dear

I am a resident in the Chichester District electoral ward of

I am very worried about Climate Change especially after learning about the IPCC report published last year that stated “Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” and “emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050”.

Some of the impacts that are of concern to me are:

* Sea level rise
* Transport - carbon emissions are increasing in Chichester District
* Unpredictable weather, including excessive summer heat, extremely wet winters, wild fires and flash flooding
* Crop failures
* Runaway global warming, impacts ongoing for many centuries
* Stresses on water resources
* Threats to biodiversity and natural habitats
* Repercussions for the UK from climate change impacts abroad, including food supply, conflict due to resource disputes and migration

However, there are potential positive outcomes if we respond well to the crisis:

* Energy generation and efficiency – local job creation
* Electrical transport – reducing harmful local atmospheric pollution
* Better public transport, improved walking and cycling routes
* Tree planting
* New food crops
* More local tourism
* Improved living conditions due to retrofitted homes and fall in the number of cold-related deaths
* Community cohesion from working together to confront the crisis

The number of local councils ‘Declaring a Climate Emergency’ has been gathering speed ever since Bristol City Council declared in November 2018. So far at least 44 councils across the UK have followed suit, including Oxford, Hastings, Brighton and Hove, Somerset and Wiltshire. More are declaring every week, and from all political hues. The movement is building and spreading globally.

A Climate Emergency declaration issued by a body such as a local council can be a powerful catalyst for community-wide action if paired with a clear action plan. Many have set targets to become carbon neutral by 2030. It is a way of shifting climate change from the fringes of council agendas to the centre, and of recognising publicly that ‘business as usual’ is not going to be good enough to tackle this massive global challenge. ‘Our house is on fire’, as Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg memorably put it, and we need to take action before it’s too late. “We are failing, but we haven’t yet failed. We can still fix it”

This emergency requires everyone to respond, including Chichester District Council.

I urge you to support a Climate Emergency if you are elected to the council and will work to ensure that it becomes an overriding policy through which all future decisions are taken.