



ACT Newsletter July 2021

Last Chance to Influence Where New Housing is Built - TDC's Local Plan - Part 2

As mentioned in last month's [newsletter](#), we have until noon on Monday 9 August to give Teignbridge District Council (TDC) our views on the [100 plus sites](#) around Teignbridge proposed for new development. [This piece](#) on our website provides information on how to respond and what to say and [here is an example](#) that might help.



ACT's Planning Application Tool



We have written a new tool which enables you to see details of all active planning applications on a single interactive page. Applications can be filtered by date range, parish, ward or Wildlife Warden area, type and decision level. You can now also sign up to receive alerts when new planning applications are added or applications change. Access the tool [here](#) on the support section of our website.

Catch up with ACT Wildlife Wardens

A huge amount has been going on including a visit from one of the Wardens' main funders [Devon Environment Foundation](#) and the launch of the [Devon Rewilding Network](#). For all the news and information on WW projects have a read of the latest [Newsletter](#) and listen to the latest [Podcast](#).



A “Just Transition” to Net Zero



Shifting the country and the world to [Net Zero](#) will involve huge societal and economic change but, rather than relying on governments to lead us through this, possibly using frameworks that got us into the mess in the first place, there is a growing call for more fairness and local decision making to make the transition beneficial for all by providing a “People’s Dividend”.

The cross-party Environmental Justice Commission (EJC), run by a think tank in The Institute for Public Policy Research ([IPPR](#)), was established in May 2019 to develop a plan for how the UK can tackle the climate and nature crises, transform its economy, and realise the substantial opportunities to address underlying economic and social inequalities.

Based on a two year series of citizens’ juries, involving hundreds of hours of discussion with people from all walks of life, plus consultations with business and trade unions, the EJC has released this [online report](#) with 100 recommendations including a £7.5bn green subsidy scheme promoting zero-carbon alternatives on home heating and insulation, redistribution of carbon tax revenues to the less well-off, free bus travel by 2025 and a right to retrain for workers in carbon-intensive industries.

Have a look through the report and watch [the video](#), it's pointless trying to tackle the climate and nature crisis using the principles and mindset of "business as usual".

The Government unveils its Transport Decarbonisation plan



On 14 July the transport secretary, Grant Shapps, published the long awaited [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) including pledges to stop the sale of new diesel and petrol lorries by 2040 and to completely decarbonise transport, including internal UK

flights, by 2050. Here is a generally supporting piece in [Transport & Energy](#) and a less than supporting piece in [The Guardian](#).

On a related topic the Transport Action Network recently [lost its High Court case](#) against the Government's £27bn road building programme but, following another legal challenge against the [National Policy Statement](#), of which the road building programme is a part, and the fact the statement was made in 2014, before the 2050 Net Zero pledge, [a review of the statement](#) will start later this year to be completed in early 2023.

Climate conflict

Despite the stance of the previous United States administration towards climate change, many states and cities chose to go their own way, enacting local mitigation and incentives and even suing fossil fuel companies. Even under the new administration local action is still key and tiny



Whatcom County in Washington State is the first US jurisdiction to not only ban any new fossil fuel facilities but to also restrict the activities of existing ones. A small start but [good news](#) just the same.

Then in not such good news, from this side of the pond, [activists are taking the government to court](#) over their recent approval of a new crude oil facility in the Cambo field off the Shetland Isles, capable of pumping

150-170 million barrels of oil a year until 2050. Ordinarily it might be hoped that this sort of publicity would prove embarrassing for the government, with COP26 only a few months away, but then a recent report has highlighted that G20 countries have together provided over \$3tn in fossil fuel subsidies since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015.

Finally, and in a twist that might seem more appropriate for 1 April, a Wiltshire based oil company is [suing the Italian government](#) for \$275m for having banned drilling off its coast. Under an obscure legal clause, known as investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS), inserted into hundreds of international treaties, companies are entitled to sue countries for putting future profits at risk and it seems fossil fuel companies are looking at a potential bonanza as countries look to comply with their climate change obligations. You couldn't make it up!

The Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill)

Just by way of an update, Mel Stride MP responded to [our last request](#) to support [the bill](#) by saying:

“Central Devon constituents are very welcome to contact me directly if they would like to raise any concerns”.

The logo consists of a solid orange-red rectangular background. On this background, the text "Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill Alliance" is written in a white, sans-serif font, arranged in four lines: "Climate &", "Ecological", "Emergency", and "Bill Alliance".

Climate &
Ecological
Emergency
Bill Alliance

You may do so directly [here](#) or or with help from the [CEEBill website](#).

With regard to Anne Marie Morris MP, we received an automated reply to [our emailed letter](#) last month stating that, as she gets so many campaign requests, we are better waiting for a general response via the [My Views](#) page on her website. As far as we can see the closest view is [this one](#) however, being undated, we have no idea whether it is designed to address our request, besides which, it goes no way to address the issues raised in the Bill or in our enquiry and so we have again requested a formal response.

Again, members may wish to contact her [directly](#) or via the [CEEBill website](#).

The state of the UK's rivers

RIVERCIDE

Only too relevant to the sewage outfalls along The Teign and our coastline, and following Southern Water [being fined £90m](#) for deliberately discharging raw sewage into waterways, if you missed George Monbiot's documentary, mentioned last month, it is now available [as a recording](#) exposing why [only one UK river is safe to swim in](#) and who's responsible.

For a taster (but preferably not while you're eating) here's [the trailer](#) again.