

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: James Dean james.dean@swaffhamclimateaction.net
Sent: 14 December 2019 10:13
To: CllrSkinner.SwaffhamTC@gmail.com
Cc: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council; Colin Abbiss; Stan Sole
Subject: Swaffham Climate Action
Attachments: SCA letter to Mayor of Swaffham, Cllr Jill Skinner 13th Dec 2019.odt; SCA - Four Graphs of CO2, Earth and Land Temps against Date.doc; Swaffham Climate Action Appendix of possible projects 11 Dec 2019.docx; Image.jpg

Good morning Jill

Our group, Swaffham Climate Action was set up recently to voice our concerns about the seriousness of global warming and to suggest what measures might be adopted to help reduce the effects locally. I attach a letter suggesting measures which could be put in hand. As additional information there are some further related attachments. Similar letters with the attachments have also been emailed to the leaders of NCC and BDC. We would be grateful to have a response from STC on these important matters.

Kind regards

JAMES (Hon Sec, Swaffham Climate Action)

To the Mayor of Swaffham Town Council, copy to Town Clerk. 13 December 2019

Dear Cllr Jill Skinner

Our Group, **Swaffham Climate Action** was formed recently to encourage initiatives by our three local authorities to promote a reduction in the output of greenhouse gases and to introduce measures to absorb CO₂, as a means of reducing the effects of global warming. In parallel we would like to encourage the three authorities to see in what ways the wider public can be involved.

Attached are four graphs, derived from the Berkerley Earth Report which show that without a considerable increase in action, world-wide, the human race **faces extinction by year 2100**. All residents and businesses need to take action to reduce their carbon footprints and this is where local authorities through their publicity departments can help. It is recognised that action in a small town will have little overall impact but the cumulative effect of small actions across the country and in other countries will be important. Therefore, our suggestions are that:

- Norfolk County Council (NCC) and Swaffham Town Council should both declare a “**Climate Emergency**”, as has Breckland;
- each local authority should work out their own **carbon footprints** and take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero, as a matter of urgency, preferably before 2025; and
- the authorities should engage with their communities to improve awareness on this issue which could well involve far reaching changes in our personal choices and behaviour. Perhaps the most effective way of doing this would be to set up a **Joint Working Group on Climate Change** comprising members and officers from the three authorities to avoid duplication of effort. This Group could also decide on practical measures which it would be appropriate to implement.

Our further attachments list a number of the more detailed proposals our Group is considering (some of which have already been discussed with officers of the three councils) which are aimed in the main to reduce the effect of pollutants within our town centre. We are sending similar letters and enclosures to leaders of NCC and BDC..

We would be grateful to receive your response especially on the idea of joint working with both NCC and BDC to tackle this serious issue, with possible time scales.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

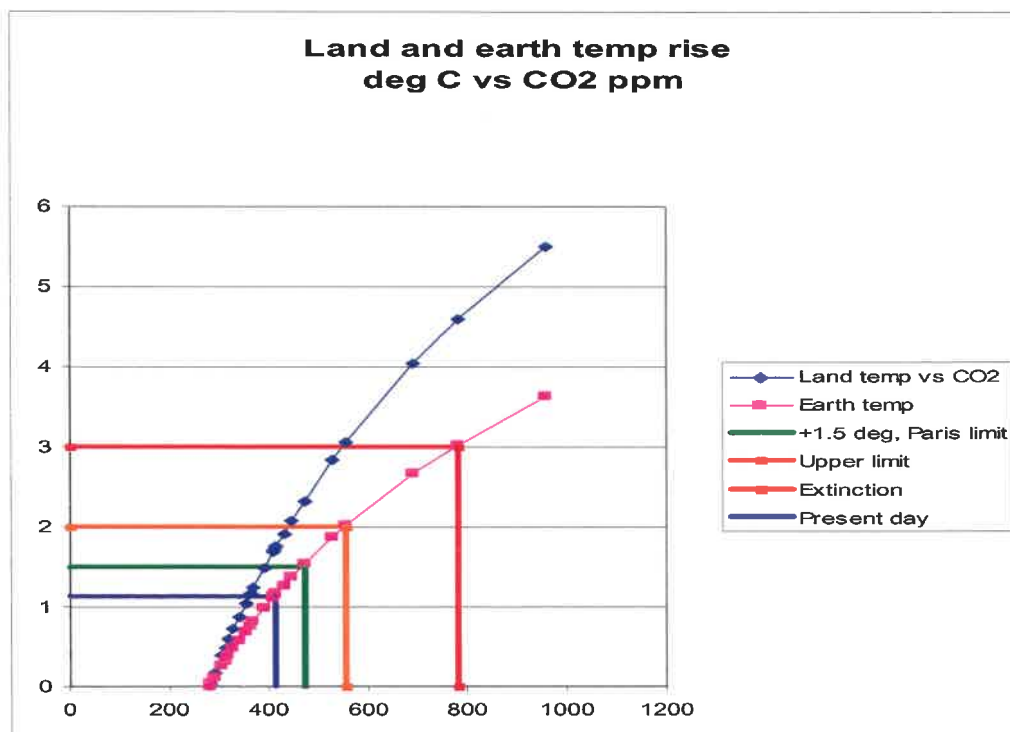
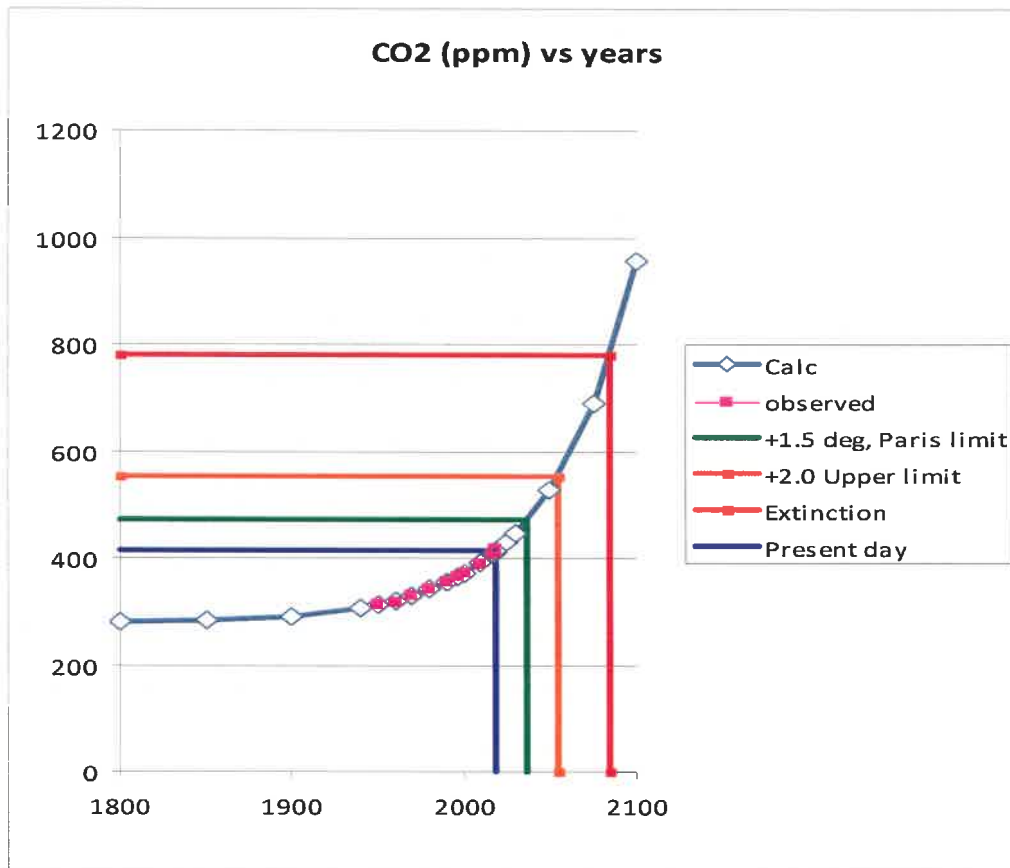
Yours sincerely

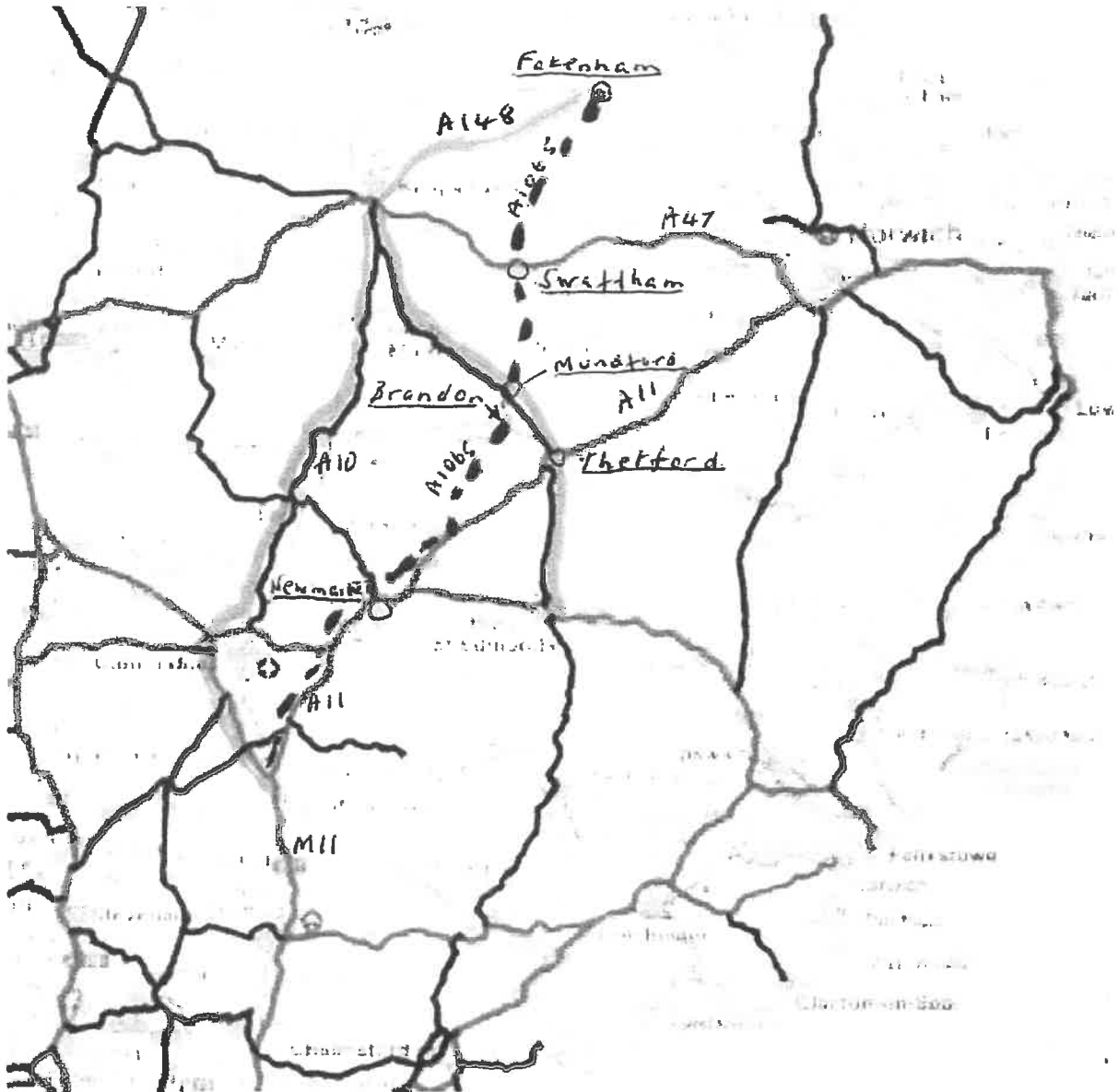
Dr. Colin Abbiss (Chairman), James Dean (Secretary), for and on behalf of
Swaffham Climate Action

Swaffham Climate Action

Our Group has devised this list of possible projects to be pursued:

- 1. Promote an intensive campaign** to alert the public within Swaffham regarding global warming and steps individuals can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Produce and distribute to every household / business premises a self-completion guide to establishing the property's **carbon footprint** and offering advice as to how that could be reduced. (Lead **BDC**).
- 2. With the assistance of the Woodland Trust, carry out a large planting programme** of appropriate tree species in order to help absorb greenhouse gases. This will apply to land in ownership of all three authorities and also large private land owners. The concentration of pollution in the town centre takes place mostly in Station Street and in Market Place near the Butter Cross. Special consideration will need to be given to the planting of trees in these hard landscaped areas of the town. The Woodland Trust have some excellent guide reports on which trees and hedging to plant where, e.g. "Urban Air Quality". (**NCC / BDC / STC**)
- 3. Some existing guard railing at the traffic signals could be replaced with evergreen hedging in planters.** (**NCC**).
- 4. Involve the business community** in a parallel move to plant a significant number of new trees on private land. A good example would be the Antinghams field which is close to the town centre where the owners could plant a large number of trees alongside existing public footpaths. (Lead - **BDC**).
- 5. Pursue the possibility of setting up an advisory ("white lorry") route or routes to divert long distance heavy goods vehicles** away from the A1065 through Swaffham – see attached sketch plan of possible alternatives. If successful this would reduce the emission of pollutants within the town centre to a marked degree. (Lead – **NCC** in cooperation with Suffolk County Council).
- 6. Arrange for a Feasibility Study of the proposed North / South Swaffham Relief Road** to be put in hand as soon as possible. It is acknowledged that the actual construction of this route is a longer-term project but when complete would remove most of the through traffic from the town centre and therefore the pollution. This would enable more pedestrian areas to be provided which in turn would help businesses and shops to thrive. (Lead **NCC**)
- 7. The three local authorities should work out their own carbon footprints and produce proposals to offset these.** (**NCC / BDC / STC**).





Present HGV route via A1065

Suggested HGV advisory routes to replace A1065

'White Lorry' sign →

JJD. March 2019

