

John Whitby MP Derbyshire Dales

Thank you to everyone who has come along this afternoon, and particularly to those who have organised this screening.

I am very sorry that I cannot be with you in person. Having seen the film myself, I know that what you have just watched is not always comfortable viewing, but I am grateful that people across Derbyshire Dales are taking the time to engage seriously with its message.

The People's Emergency Briefing brings together evidence from leading experts on nature, climate, extreme weather, food security, health, national security and the economy. What comes through very clearly is that these issues cannot be considered separately.

A changing climate affects the food we grow and the price we pay for it. Extreme weather affects our homes, infrastructure and public services. The destruction of nature makes us less resilient to flooding and rising temperatures. And instability in food, energy and natural resources ultimately becomes an issue of economic and national security.

Those connections matter enormously across Derbyshire Dales.

We are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, including much of the Peak District National Park. Our farmers manage the land and produce our food. Our communities live alongside rivers that are increasingly vulnerable to flooding and pollution. Our local economy depends heavily upon the landscapes and natural environment that bring millions of visitors here.

Protecting nature and tackling climate change are therefore not abstract environmental concerns for us. They are about protecting our homes, our farms, our businesses and ultimately our way of life.

I have been fortunate enough to attend several local screenings of this film so far, and each time I not only take something new away from it, but also a renewed sense of purpose. The film makes an important point that I hope we do not lose sight of: we are not powerless. I am proud to have signed the Parliamentary Call on the Government to hold a prime-time televised emergency briefing on the climate and nature crisis.

Since coming into office, this Labour Government has made clean power by 2030 one of its central missions. It has lifted the effective ban on onshore wind, established Great British Energy

and set out a Clean Power 2030 Action Plan designed to reduce our reliance on volatile fossil-fuel markets.

There has also been important progress on nature. In July, the Government published its plan to accelerate progress towards protecting 30% of England's land for nature by 2030.

But recognising progress should never mean pretending that the job is done.

The evidence presented in the briefing you've just watched should challenge all of us in public life. Government has a responsibility not only to reduce emissions, but to prepare our communities for changes that are already happening; to protect and restore nature; to strengthen our food and energy security; and to explain openly to the public the scale of the challenge we face.

I have said before, in Parliament, that those of us who make laws have a duty to think beyond the next election and about people who have not even been born yet.

I firmly believe that.

There will inevitably be disagreements about individual policies and about precisely how quickly change can be delivered. That is democracy. But scientific evidence cannot simply be wished away.

The challenge before us is not simply avoiding something worse but building something better.

Thank you again for coming this afternoon, for engaging with the evidence, for continuing this important conversation here in Derbyshire Dales, and, because of this film, being part of a conversation that is happening up and down the country.

We all have different roles to play, but we share the same responsibility: to leave behind a country, and a planet, that is safe, healthy and thriving for the generations that follow us.

Kate Smith

Amber Valley Borough Councillor for Crich & South Wingfield

I'm not going to make the mistake of saying "I hope you have all enjoyed the film". Its nature and purpose are too important for that, and its theme too inescapably urgent. But I hope you

have found it useful on the horrifying current climate change situation (as I did) – and I also hope that you found it salutary (as I did, too). As they say, “Doing nowt is not an option”.

It’s also good that St Mary’s and Transition Crich have shown it together; a great example of the teamwork and mutual help that have to be hallmarks of life in our planet-wide climate emergency. Thank you to both.

There are so many examples large and small of local government changing course, even just slightly, to help mitigate climate problems. Crich Parish Council (the secular one) planting trees on the Rec, Amber Valley Borough Council helping residents with home insulation, the County Council not cutting roadside greenery till after the bird-nesting season - and so on.

Finally, change is unavoidable in the near future, with local government reorganisation starting in May 2027. We are losing Borough, District and County Councils across the County, and they will be replaced by two Unitary Authorities, Derbyshire North and Derbyshire South. At the moment, for instance, the Lead Local Flood Authority is the County Council; who will be the successor, North or South or both? It won’t be long before we find out, but you can bet co-operation will be just as essential as it is

AVBC Councillor Amina Burslem

Labour

Heage & Ambergate

AVBC Councillor Rachael Hatchett

Green Party

Alport & Duffield Division

Crich Parish Councillors

Ann Tipton

Chris Collison

AVBC Sustainability Officer

Sarah Hodgson

