

**Notes of showing of the National Emergency Briefing Film- shown at Gamlingay Eco Hub on
Weds 13th May at 7pm**

22 members of the public in attendance

Film introduction- by Emma Leaf Grimshaw- outlining the purpose of the film and comfort break and informal session to follow. Questionnaires online completed by some attendees.

Film Showing- 48 mins

Introduced by Chris Packham and Mike Berners-Lee

Climate change -threat shift has been accelerating faster than previously predicted by climate scientists. Facts to be presented and film is to provoke and find out what reactions there are to the facts-

Issues

Cost of living

News atrocities

More worries

Most want urgent action and to act together

Themes

1) Weather

We are currently experiencing the least extreme weather in our lifetimes- increases in extreme weather will increase- much faster than expected than the climate models predict. European mega floods can happen here-8m properties will be at risk of flooding because of fossil fuel use. Temperatures will be 40 degrees will become more common- winters 3 months at -20 degrees. Public services will not be able to cope with occurrences of incidental and wildfires. Adaptation keeps us safe- e.g. Copenhagen sponge for flood waters, and temporary lakes planned into urban environment -create a greener and healthier environment. Need to commit to urgent action-weather is getting worse.

2) Climate

CO2 concentrations rising at alarming rates-10,000 years stable at 20 parts per million- since 1850 industrial revolution has raised CO2 to 424 parts per million and rising rapidly every year. 1.5 degrees warmer-will be 4% by the end of the century. - will result in dire implications of extreme weather unstable climate-lead to societal collapse/no economy/systematic collapse. We have cut emissions in UK since 1990 by 50% but this only equates to 0.6% cut per annum including shipping etc. Graph shown shows dramatic increase of CO2 in our lifetime. Reactions of participants in film- 'can't grasp this increase' 'you can't deny or ignore this'. Reaction is don't have the time to consume this information- busy trying to live their lives and cope with personal challenges. Clear that it is physics not politics.

3) Tipping points

Professor Tim Lenton (university of Exeter) identified the risks we are running-risks for the UK as a nation- The Atlantic ocean gulf stream is affected by cold water sink-AMOC

which gives us our mild equable climate. The deep water circulation/tipping point where these currents will change This will make our country practically uninhabitable- 3 months of -20 degrees and summer of over 40 degrees will be normal. We wont be able to grow crops. Ther wont be enough water in the south east of England (largest population) Cleaner tech- phase out fossil fuels- need to bring in clean tech- losing control will be catastrophic for our country. Participants stated no one is listening to this, use power to vote to elect the right people to do something. Food supply – health safety impacts.

4) Food security

Stable reliable harvests have gone-failures once every other year of crops-3 out of 5 cereal harvests in last 10 years have failed. Farming water not soil- flooding major issue/amount of water in short periods. Price of food risen by a third just because of extreme weather events. Farming families cant feed their children- leads to illegal crops and local unrest and instability. Need a food transformation- plant rich, reduce food waste, increase food production, change in diets. Eat less meat and dairy- still can have it but less of it. Farmers starting environmental schemes -allies to improving soil health. 85% UK land produces crops for animal products-need to change land use to grow more food in the UK. Food systems collapse- creates political and civil unrest. Food shortages experienced during COVID pandemic- respondents aware and found this scary- don't want to return to that. Food waste- need to be less wasteful and demand plant-based crops- farmers can provide plant-based food to feed nation. Need to lobby MP.

5) Health

Hugh Montgomery- UCL- job is to deal with emergencies- 7/7, pandemic, knows how to respond-need to take action-socio economic impacts the collapse of the economy, can't run a health service there will be no health. Active transport and plant-based diet-very healthy-help prevent £126bn expenditure a year. Scared for my son-(Age 63) wants to say he really tried. People's responses to extreme heat-participants- buying an air conditioner-issues of difficulty breathing due to humidity. The result of climate change impacts- complete breakdown of human health.

6) National security

Security of the world will change- the threat picture is shifting quicker than expected- farmers cant make a living/ISIS/Afghanistan/Arctic. Arctic- international shipping routes and rights-instability at home-growing need for military help/chinooks required to repair dam-more reliance on army/armed forces. Collapse of infrastructure; 'insidious threat' to society. Need to become safe and more resilient. -less reliance on oil- face threat in front of you. TODAY- a security threat-not tomorrow-cascade of crisis to come-be aware of the threat and make a push for change.

7) Nature

Is our life support system- we live in the most nature depleted country on earth and we think ourselves a nature loving country. Only 50% of our biodiversity remains -. We need a living healthy biosphere and be aware of nature related risks-major crises- what works. Need critical infrastructure-create national resilience planning-restoration. Measure what matters. Wildlife impact gets to people. Jennifer Saunders- 'we can AI but cant process our own shit- what has the world come to?' We need better systems -it underpins our existence- soil health imperative. It affects all aspects of life. Current view-its too expensive/too difficult to do.

8) Economics

Angela Francis- Leaps in technology create winners and losers- Producers and consumers- does not respect the planet. Profit rules don't work- market failures. Quote 'We can't afford net zero' - £4billion cost to 2041- equates to 0.2% of GDP. Delaying will only cost more-won't be cheaper later. 7% lower decarbonised. 7 fold increase climate change policy in the past 10 years. 20% market hit in 2025- 73% cheaper. There are real solutions the economics are clear-the investment will pay back. Losers have the loudest voice- lobbying-have the most to lose. Wasting taxpayers money. China now runs 50% on renewable energy- are taking responsibility. 50% of cars are electric- more R&D than anyone else. They are selling it to the rest of the world. Spread positive messages to inspire people to act.

9) Energy transition

Tessa Khan- Cost of living- energy prices- economic advantages to decarbonise. Sun and wind are free! Costs have steeply declined 50% reductions in wind tech, 70% reduction in price for solar tech. Battery prices have dropped by 80%. More efficient. Car petrol diesel only 25% energy is used driving the wheels, 75% lost through heat.(combustion and friction). Needs an upfront investment – a political choice. Need to upgrade the grid or switch to heat pumps-local sourced heat. Rewards will be enormous. Respondents to the film stated- Fossil fuels harm environment. Solar bills for homeowners reduce bills by 50%. Potential for great change-hope for the better. There is something that can be done-everyone sees this-listen to the presenters- they know their stuff.

Conclusion

Respondents in the film had general discussions about what their reactions were to it- 'do something about it', solutions to make life better, spread the word, join others near you, local action, it's not moving fast enough, MP/Government lobbying-unlocking the right level of action. Need this on prime-time television- release on TV. Need to rise to the occasion-83% want more climate action. MP's underestimate the move to act. Write to your MP/lobby/visit-parliamentary call- all must act.

END OF FILM

Comfort break with refreshments and reconvened to discuss first reactions to the film- overseen by Emma Leaf Grimshaw

Individuals asked to express reactions

Shocking

Close to tears the first half- concern about what future there is for the children

CO2- so many more people living on the planet- complexity of all the issues

Depressing- ELG hope people don't become depressed, breathe and consider mental health- need to do small positive things

Things people can do

Heat pumps- respondents house runs just on electric—runs a diesel car -electric car costs prohibitive... Energy crisis- why prices linked to gas market-electricity prices artificially high- not reflecting the actual cost.

Economic arguments-anxiety/angry – the narrative needs to shift helpful and hopeful- need to latch on to transition to zero carbon.

Kids at school – what is taught and do they speak to parents /communicate about lifestyle choices-subjects at school-personal point of view.

Discussed houses with heat pumps and solar- flats and newbuilds without solar- roasting in summer.

ELG- One thing to take away-thoughts

-How quick it is happening-scary

Gulf stream and current circulation-scale of change

Pictures of flooding memorable

Thames barrier- unable to keep London from flooding

Homes -don't build on fields

Put solar on car parks and rooves

Use less land for supporting meat production/size of Scotland.

Importance understanding the tipping point- putting solar on fields easier and cheaper but need to grow field

Shefford- need to put solar on rooves to start with/EV battery- social housing. Changing the grid will be a huge cost.

Soil is so degraded/solar on poor soil.

Domestic consumption – high

Data- huge data centres huge consumption outstripping domestic energy use- unsustainable- will use all energy generated in near future.

Need to change the way people live-and have to live on a more basic level-data limits, clean water needed to cool data centres- water supply shortage. Presentation in November- data centres recently in press.

Discussed Electric vehicles size and weight-over consumption /garage sizes to existing properties.

Call to televise film-contact local MP's- South Cambs MP Pippa Heylings already signed up.

ELG- Action as a Local Community

Teaching kids to ride bikes

Active travel walking and cycling

Issues outside GVP/ crossing patrols and use of Eco Hub car park

EV Charging- don't have public charging in Gamlingay- lobby Eco Hub trustees, Co Charge- can register your charger for other users- also Zapp map- find a charger near you.

Teaching in Shefford/Biggleswade - sustainability lead- Geography and science cover climate change ½ term extreme weather Causes of storm Catriona,-how to mitigate to help as individuals. Talking helps.

Snowball effect- sharing information-staff what can do. Film for adults only- version for teachers-central Beds Eco forums- nature strategy

ELG- Gamlingay actions- Food project on waste, Repair café, Eco Hub, community wind turbine, methodist chapel refit, wild gardens Gamlingay, biodiversity.

Nationally- QR code -responses after the session

Locally Climate action group meets-6pm 27th May – how to take positive action

ELG- 5 words

To hell with it

MP- watch U tube clips of speeches

Powers that be need to make electricity prices reflect the cost- cost to generate- don't link to gas and oil price

Reform system and upgrade distribution network

Mire plant-based diet

Small steps

Positive joining in more talking to people feel better all doing something

New houses with low standards need better insulation and solar and rainwater harvesting

New homes Local Plan KR to publish summary of new policies for new dwellings/development on parish council website- climate Action group

KR – involved with great Collaboration- providing information to Town and Parish Councils on the actions they can take- working in East Anglia and hoping to go nationally- 10 minute film available for councils to watch.

Put minutes of this meeting on website too

Cows producing methane- if we eat plants we will produce methane? Issue is amount of land taken up to feed them. -Slurry goes into rivers.

People planet pint- go down the pub and get talking- can start one up.

Sustainability conference- speakers- its not about one other thing- its everything we do-i.e take a reusable cup out with you-sharing and doing the small things.

ELG Thanked everyone for attending

Welcome to next session on 27 May 6pm.

Closed at 8.50pm