

Panel Discussion Item from Councillor Gidney

Climate Change and Future Development

Against the background of climate change, whether man made or some say a natural process, the records indicate there's a big change in our climate.

Dry periods, forest fires and flooding are amongst the indicators as well as the ice melting of the polar regions.

Extrapolating this, it seems that in order to prevent catastrophic warming, resulting in loss of land, sustainable agriculture and many other things, the way forward is to reduce carbon emissions to prevent further warming of our atmosphere.

From the development point of view housing is one if not the biggest contributor to carbon emissions, along with transport etc.

Looking at housing in particular, most, in fact over 80 percent of our housing stock now exists - it is relatively old, new more efficient housing is a smaller group but for the most part still lacking depending on what is considered to be 'efficient'.

Future housing has to be 'future proofed', and existing housing stocks need to be upgraded. The debate begins, for planning authorities, developers and everyone, how do we tackle this very urgent issue?

With a scheme like West Winch, we should consider 'future proofing' the development at the outset in all sorts of ways.

Councillor Peter Gidney