

Tory MPs break promise to tackle climate emergency
Press Release, Totnes Constituency Labour Party, 11 February 2020

Last week Anthony Mangnall, MP for Totnes, voted against taking action to address the climate emergency.

Labour's early day motion would have committed the Government to cutting almost all vehicle emissions by 2030. The plan would decarbonise the UK's buses, cut fares, improve facilities for cyclists and walkers, and fund a massive electric car charging network. It would tackle air pollution and bring aviation emissions to within the UK's climate targets.

Instead, Conservative MPs spoke up for more roads and runways. All eight Devon Conservative MPs voted against the motion.

It's a far cry from the promises made to Totnes residents during the election campaign. At a Green Party hustings, Anthony Mangnall called for more action on climate change and "to kick start the green revolution". But now he's in power, he is doing nothing to deliver it.

As Storm Ciara battered Devon this weekend, **Luke Pollard, MP for Plymouth and Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**, said: *"the reality of the climate crisis is that more extreme weather will happen more often and with devastating consequences"*. Commenting on the Transport Bill, he condemned the Government's lack of action on air quality and insisted: *"this Bill does not come close to the urgent and decisive action the UK needs to show real global leadership."*

David Matthews, a Labour member of Totnes Town Council, said: *"we await genuine, concerted action on climate change. Simplistic slogans and hollow promises are no substitutes for genuine engagement with real issues at the grass roots level."*

Colin Luker, Labour Town Councillor, called on residents to take action locally despite our MP's complacency. *"After a year of public consultations, the Council is ready to act. Everyone can get involved in the Climate Emergency Working Group. And the Transport & Traffic Forum meets every month"*.

Louise Webberley, Town Councillor and Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Totnes in 2019, said: *"Anthony Mangnall's promises during the election campaign have proved to be nothing more than hollow promises in an attempt to persuade environmentally aware voters to loan him their vote!"*

"The Labour party are closely monitoring his voting record on many issues, including climate where he is prioritising profit before people and planet!"

"We need to join together and act now! Swamp Anthony Mangnall's office/email/Twitter account with letters of protest, join the Labour Party and/or campaign groups and meetings including XR, the Town Council Climate Action working group, and unite to hold him and his uncaring government to account!"

Notes for editors

Anthony Mangnall was speaking at a hustings in Totnes on 7 December 2019. In a tweet he repeated his view that “Collective engagement and action is required to combat climate change and to kick start the Green Revolution.”

<https://twitter.com/AnthonyMangnal1/status/1203455915544006656>

All eight of Devon’s Conservative MPs voted against Labour’s amendment to the Transport bill on 5 February 2020.

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2020-02-05a.377.0>

The UK’s carbon emissions from transport have increased since 2010. At the same time, rail fares have increased by 40%, hundreds of bus services have been cut, and the Government has missed all their targets to increase active travel (walking and cycling).

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2020-02-05a.377.0>

Former Conservative rail and environment Minister, Claire O’Neill, has said that the government have failed to provide leadership on climate change. She also said that the government are “miles off track” in the setting of a positive agenda for the COP26 United Nations summit in Glasgow, and that “promises” of action were “not close to being met.”

<https://www.ft.com/content/951c30fc-46a8-11ea-aeb3-955839e06441>

Totnes Town Council declared a Climate Emergency at the end of 2018, with the support of Labour members. After a year of public consultations, a policy has been prepared for Councillors to vote on at next month’s Council meeting. Labour Councillors are active in the monthly Climate Emergency Working Group and the Transport & Traffic Forum:

<http://www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/>.