

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**8th June 2019**

### **Labour Candidate and Councillor Listen to Climate Concerns**

Demands for urgent action to tackle the climate emergency were listened to sympathetically by Labour Party candidate, Marc Tierney, and County Councillor Vic Dennis at a recent meeting, organised by Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, at Narberth's Queens Hall.

The lively public meeting, which was held to discuss the recent declaration of a Climate Emergency by Pembrokeshire County Council, made numerous policy recommendations for the politicians to consider.

Eleanor Clegg, Coordinator of Pembrokeshire FoE, said:

"It was felt that the climate crisis is now so severe that a plan needed to be drafted to make the whole of Pembrokeshire, rather than just the County Council, achieve net zero emissions of climate heating gases by 2030.

In order to achieve this, there would have to be a big improvement in energy efficiency in homes and buildings, which would lower people's fuel bills and create jobs locally. There would have to be a similar increase in renewable energy systems, such as solar and onshore and offshore wind, that could make the county an energy exporter, rather than an energy importer, bringing income into the county.

There were numerous criticisms of the planning process for being too slow and inflexible to react to the rapidly changing climate and suggestions as to how this could be speeded up.

Many other recommendations were made, such as widespread tree-planting and habitat restoration, more frequent and affordable buses, the setting up of community energy projects and the formation of a Citizens Assembly.

The meeting welcomed the County Council's resolutions and congratulated it on many of its achievements to date, as highlighted in the initial feedback to the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny. But, as a representative of Extinction Rebellion emphasised, the scientific evidence shows that we are in a proper emergency that required a similar response to wartime."