A LETTER FROM GREEN & ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN HORSHAM DISTRICT

This email is sent to all Horsham District Councillors

5 December 2025

Dear

On 27 November 2025, 10 of the UK's leading experts presented the latest evidence at the **Climate & Nature National Emergency Briefing** in Westminster, to an audience of over 1,200 people. The aim was direct: to present clear, expert-led facts about the risks facing the UK, and, by doing that, to reset the national conversation.

The resounding message was clear: impacts are accelerating, and action at every level of government, including councils, is essential.

Critical Points from the Briefing

The climate and nature crisis is now affecting every part of British life - including food security, public health, infrastructure, and national resilience. A snapshot of some of the comments is shown below.

1) **Prof Paul Behrens, University of Oxford (Food Security):**
   Our current food system is eroding the very foundations of our security, destroying biodiversity habitats, and species decline. 80% of UK farmers already report climate-related impacts, and one-third of UK food price inflation is climate-driven. Changes to diet and food-systems could lower emissions and reduce NHS costs.

2) **Prof Hugh Montgomery OBE, University College London (National Health Impacts):**
   Climate change is already a health emergency. "The risk is certain; the hazard is catastrophic - this crisis is about survival, not of future generations, but of my son who was 20 last Thursday."

3) **Lt Gen Richard Nugee CBE, (National Security):**
   Climate change is a threat multiplier, increasing instability, resource conflicts and people displacement. Tackling it is central to our national resilience. UK institutions risk being overwhelmed unless we act at the scale of the threat.

A Call to Local Leadership

District councils sit at the frontline of resilience, planning, transport, nature recovery and community wellbeing. A summary at the end of the briefing included these recommendations:

1. Do not return to business as usual.
2. Recognise the shared threat and act with courage.
3. Lead with honesty and purpose.

None of this is, or will be, easy. As district councillors, you obviously have a role to play in local preparedness, resilience, and the wellbeing of residents across Horsham and beyond.

We do commend the variety of action already taken by Horsham District Council, including aspiring to become a Net Zero Organisation by 2030.

We will email you soon, with video links to each of the fact-based presentations, so that you have all the up-to-date information, which we hope will support you in responding with both urgency and the discipline of hope. Please get in touch if you need any further information about the National Emergency Briefing.

Thank you for reading this.

Elle Runton, Sussex Green Living

Alison Marshall, Transition Horsham

Karen Park, Horsham Eco Churches

Morag Warrack, MP Watch Horsham

Geoff Barnard, Greening Steyning

Mark Francis, Community Energy Horsham