A LETTER FROM GREEN & ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN HORSHAM DISTRICT (NEB2)

This email is sent to all Horsham District Councillors

11 December 2025

Dear Councillor

On 5 December we sent you our first communication about the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster. In that email we promised to send you links to the individual expert-led talks. You will find these below, along with a few key bullet points/quotes from those talks.

One of the asks from the event was that we disseminate the information which will, hopefully, reset the national conversation. Obviously one set of key people who need to "in the loop" for this reset is District Councillors.

Below you will find a YouTube link to each of the 10-12min talks. Watch them all or choose the 3 or 4 that appeal to you.

Chris Packham opened the event, Professor Mike Berners-Lee chaired it, and 9 experts spoke. Details about the speakers can be found here Climate & Nature National Briefing.

SUMMARY

Chris Packham: "Earth is our only home. We either learn to live in harmony with it, or we destroy ourselves" Political leaders must heed the warnings of the scientists and give people real reasons for hope.

Quote "We must set aside all of our divisions. We are one species on one planet with one big problem and one chance to sort it out."

Prof Mike Berners-Lee (Chair):

Quote: "James Baldwin famously said that 'Nothing can be changed until it is faced'. 30 COPs have failed to even reduce the rate at which we are putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. At COP30 fossil fuels were taken out of the final text – our response couldn't be more inadequate. This event is about resetting the national conversation … creating a social tipping point".

Prof Nathalie Seddon (Nature): nature is "critical national infrastructure". Our economy is undermining its own foundations; we need "an economy that values nature, not as a resource to extract, but as a partner in prosperity".

Video-link Nature - Professor Nathalie Seddon | National Emergency Briefing

Prof Kevin Anderson (Climate/Energy): 1.5°C is effectively gone. We risk a world "far beyond the safe zone for nurturing civilisation". The time for non-radical solutions has passed; we need rapid rollout of proven solutions and "a future of private sufficiency and public luxury".

Quote: "Cutting fossil fuel use doesn't help – we need to eliminate it…there is a small but real risk of reaching 4 degrees by end of the century."

Video-link Climate - Prof Kevin Anderson | National Emergency Briefing

Prof Hayley Fowler (Weather Extremes): climate change is supercharging extreme weather faster than the models expected. A European-style mega-flood in the UK is "unbelievable and unimaginable – until it happens".

Video-link Extreme Weather - Professor Hayley Fowler | National Emergency Briefing

Prof Tim Lenton (Tipping Points): key tipping points, including breakdown of the AMOC (that underpins our mild UK climate), could be crossed even at 2°C, resulting in sea ice down to the Lincolnshire coast, and winter temperatures down to -20°C in London. Government mandates and taxation must trigger positive tipping points in transport, heat and energy.

Video-link Tipping Points - Professor Tim Lenton | National Emergency Briefing

Prof Paul Behrens (Food Security): the system that feeds us is eroding the very foundations it relies on. Shifting diets and food systems brings overlapping benefits – from emissions cuts to lower NHS costs. 80% of UK farmers are already seeing problems from climate change and ⅓ of food price inflation is due to climate.

Quote: "Our food system itself is destroying the very foundations of our food security…moving to plant rich diets gives us wins across every dimension."

Video-link Food Security - Professor Paul Behrens | National Emergency Briefing

Prof Hugh Montgomery (Health Impacts): as with many health issues, people struggle to act on "indeterminate medium-term risks". We must treat climate as a health emergency – "the risk is certain; the hazard is catastrophic".

Quote: "this crisis is about survival, not of future generations, but of my son who was 20 last Thursday."

Video-link Health - Prof Hugh Montgomery OBE | National Emergency Briefing

Lt Gen Richard Nugee (National Security): climate change is a security threat multiplier – driving instability, resource conflict and displacement – tackling it is central to our national resilience. Our institutions risk being overwhelmed if we do not act at the scale of the threat.

Quote: "In the army we say we have to face the threat that is in front of you not the one you would wish it to be."

Video-link National Security - Lt General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE | National Emergency Briefing

Angela Francis (Economics): the market is currently rigged against climate action. She debunked the myths of "We can't afford Net Zero" (a faster transition is much cheaper), and "UK can't do this alone" (others are acting, leaders drive innovation, and inspire others to follow, and create positive tipping points). What we do has to work for lower and middle-income households – this is key to its acceptance.

Quote: "Our rules aren't working. Government needs to change the rules."

Video-link Economics - Angela Francis | National Emergency Briefing

Tessa Khan (Energy Transition): the economics of the transition are in our favour. Renewables have free inputs forever, falling technology costs and huge efficiency gains. We have done big energy transitions before; we can do it again, more fairly.

Video-link Energy Transition - Tessa Khan | National Emergency Briefing

Mike Berners-Lee wrapped up with this call to the MPs and leaders present:

- Don't leave this room and carry on business as usual
- If we really understand what the threat is, we will come together because we see a common threat. We can all support each other.
- We are asking for a WWII level of leadership as if the survival of our society depends on it, because it does.
- Hope is a discipline. It relies on endeavour.

One thing you can do now is sign the letter (National Emergency Briefing) asking the Government and all public service broadcasters to hold an urgent televised national emergency briefing for the public.

By March 2026 a professional 45min "Briefing Film" will exist based around the content of the briefing in Westminster. You may want to consider ways in which you support the screening of this film in the district.

Thank you for reading this, and please get in touch if you need any further information about the National Emergency Briefing.

Let's all act with the discipline of hope.

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