

Notes from meeting of High Peak MP Ruth George and Transition Buxton – 3rd January 2018

Present – Ruth George MP (RG) and some 15 members of Transition Buxton (TB)

As Chair, Charles Jolly welcomed Ruth and outlined some current TB projects –

Working on major Solar Energy Project at disused quarry at Waterswallows – 4 or 5 MW capacity.
Smaller project at Buxton Rugby Club – 100 to 200 KW capacity
Home energy saving survey team
Community Orchard scheme.
Serpentine Farm project – now self-supporting

Ruth responded

Emphasised need for sustainability. Power generation important with quarries being heavy electricity users. Labour accepts need for nuclear energy and supported Hinckley Point. Important that the UK meets Paris Climate Change targets.

Labour opposes fracking although the planning process is stacked in favour of applicants. RG to meet with the Minister on 16th January to discuss current Ineos application.

As MP she supports road improvements in High Peak as part of the transport system and is due to travel on a Northern Train service with NT executives to discuss the service provided. Keen to see Chapel Station re-located and hopes to see rolling stock investment going ahead.

RG said the franchising of rail services does not work and Labour policy is to bring services back into the Public Sector as franchises expire – quoted earlier success on East Coast Line. Condemned current government policy to bail out the Virgin/Stagecoach franchise.

Welcomed Tarmac Tunstead bid for supply of materials for Heathrow expansion.

Welcomed John Cridland's work on rail infrastructure for Northern England.

Described traffic survey project carried out in Whaley Bridge last year highlighting the volume.

Mentioned the possible roundabout project in Fairfield to facilitate development with a feasibility study in hand by DCC/HPBC hoping for funding from developers, D2N2 and DCC

Discussion

Members questioned the need for a steady state economy instead of ever more growth

RG said the UK has an unbalanced economy with the effect of Universal Credit and cuts creating areas of third world economy in the country. Labour supports a British Investment Bank free of shareholder interest priorities. The UK needs to invest to grow. Resource/Energy heavy growth is not what is required.

Members said that on-shore wind farms are now viable without subsidy but off-shore is not yet so, mentioned that China has started to demand higher quality in material presented for recycling and that we need to get used to managing with less physical goods.

RG said that by 2020, many more people in the UK would be living in poverty, that we need more sustainable local economies and that Transition groups need to work together.

RG asked to be added to the Transition Buxton Mailing list and Charles thanked Ruth on behalf of Transition Buxton.

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Notes by Martin Willey