

**MOTION FOR HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL:
DECLARING A CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY**

Sustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV) is making this request of Harberton Parish Council (HPC) in the midst of the UN Climate Change Conference, [COP26](#); currently taking place in Glasgow under a UK presidency. This crucial conference will determine the direction that the world will take over the next five years in meeting the implications and demands of the global climate and biodiversity emergency. The publication of the [sixth climate change report](#) by the UN IPCC (United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) makes the use of the term ‘emergency’ in this context unequivocally clear – there can no longer be any doubt as to its seriousness or its impact on every aspect of life.

For there to be any sort of adequate response, all levels of authority – as well as individuals – need to make and then act on formal climate and biodiversity emergency declarations. The authorities with a bearing in this part of Devon that have so far agreed declarations of this sort include the UK Parliament, [Devon County Council](#) and [South Hams District Council](#).

SHV came into existence in answer to HPC’s call for a group to undertake practical action to mitigate the climate and biodiversity emergency within the parish. SHV now asks HPC to support the motion that it formally declare a climate and biodiversity emergency in order to both demonstrate its support for our work and guide its own decision-making into the future.

If HPC were to declare a ‘Climate and Biodiversity Emergency’, then the diverse projects which SHV is busy developing within our parish community would be seen by all to be fully supported by the HPC and an integral part of collective responsibility for taking mitigating action within a democratic system.

SHV trusts that council members understand the critical predicament that faces us all. We would really welcome your support for this motion, and in turn undertake to make available any relevant expertise we have amongst our members as the need arises.

Regards,

SHV Trustees