

Dear Mr Jenrick (MP for Newark) and Mr Shapps (Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero),

(cc Newark Advertiser, Southwell Bramley.)

We, the undersigned, note with concern the recent statement by the World Meteorological Organisation that “global temperatures are now more likely than not to breach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming within the next five years”.

We regard this as evidence that we are in a climate emergency, and that measures promised by governments at the Paris COP summit in 2015 have proved to be inadequate or failed to be implemented.

We humbly acknowledge our country’s considerable contribution to greenhouse gas production since the Industrial Revolution, and that we have benefitted from this production.

We therefore call on the UK government to do everything in its power to minimise this country’s further contribution to global warming, including abandoning immediately all investment in fossil fuel development. We believe that failure to do this would be contrary to God’s plan for the world.”

Specifically we implore our government to:

- Stick to the commitments it has made to cut carbon emissionsⁱ
- Divert money planned for fossil fuel excavation development subsidiesⁱⁱ into:
 - renewable energy generation
 - increasing our capacity for energy storage
 - investing in battery production facilities in the UK to support the UK car industry in its pivot to electric vehicles
- Say no to any further exploitation of Rosebankⁱ oil and gas fields

We also commit to playing our part individually and collectively in ways that are inconvenient/sacrificial and significant such as:

- Reducing food related carbon emissions through decreased food waste and meat consumption
- Reducing our use of fossil fuel powered vehicles (including car sharing)
- Modifying our buildings to reduce our carbon footprint
- Organising our activities to reduce our energy consumption

We would like a specific response to our communication, from both the addressees (or jointly), attending to all its concerns and a commitment from Mr Jenrick (MP for our constituency) and also (if appropriate) Mr Shapps to meet with representatives of our groups to further discuss what he and our government are and will do to tackle the issues raised.

For and on behalf of:

Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit

Comprising of Long Bennington Methodist Church
Hope Community Methodist Church Newark
North End Methodist Church

North Muskham Methodist Church
Sutton on Trent Methodist Church
Southwell Methodist Church
Balderton Methodist Church
Collingham Methodist Church
Charles Street Methodist Church
Southwell Methodist Church

Churches Together in Southwell, representing

Southwell Methodist Church
Holy Trinity Parish Church
Southwell Minster
Riverside Church
Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church

Newark Quakers (Religious Society of Friends)

Individual Signatories:

Rev Dr Richard Frith
Rev Andrew Porter
Rev Peter Hibberts
Angela Ashwin
Ian Baird-Smith
Glennis Hobbs
Frank McKenzie
Councillor Dr Peter Harris

iFurther information on Rosebank:

Rosebank is an oil and gas field that lies west of Shetland and is governed by the UK Government. Many believe that, compared with the exploitation of Rosebank, everything we as individuals do is a drop in the ocean. We therefore need Government to take this seriously our hope of arresting the temperature rise becomes even harder. Many are concerned that the government is considering allowing the further exploitation of Rosebank which underlines existing concerns that the UK is not fully committed to delivering on their own commitment to deliver net zero by 2050. If agreed, Rosebank would still be producing oil in 2051. Less than a year ago the High Court ruled that the UK government was in breach of its commitments under the Climate Change Act as its plans to cut carbon fell well short of the commitments made.

iiFurther information on government investment:

iiiThe £500m projected investment that the UK government would spend on subsidising the profits of the Canadian, Norwegian and Israeli-owned businesses, who would make all the profits, would be better spent reducing our nation's dependence on price-volatile oil-based energy and contributing to a more robust carbon plan.