

Mrs Marion Malcher

Mr. Chris Banks  
C/O Banks Solutions  
64 Lavinia Way  
East Preston  
West Sussex  
BN16 1EF

14th November 2019

Dear Mr. Banks,

Re: Woking Site Allocations DPD Examination

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me this morning.

I attach a Statement in relation to Matter 1, via email. I will also supply two printed copies to you in the post.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Marion Malcher

# Examination of Woking Site Allocations Development Plan Document

## Statement from Mrs Marion Malcher in Relation to Matter 1

***Matter 1: Is the SADPD legally compliant, have the relevant procedural requirements been met, and has the Duty to Co-operate (DtC) been discharged?***

Life on Earth is in crisis: scientists agree we have entered a period of abrupt climate breakdown, and we are in the midst of a mass extinction of our own making. The science is clear and has been known for decades. We are facing an unprecedented global emergency.

Within Woking, the facts have long been recognised and documented in Council policies. Unfortunately, the world has changed and the actions required to mitigate and adapt to climate and ecological breakdown are more urgent than ever before.

*“Climate change is accelerating more rapidly and dangerously than most of us in the scientific community had expected or that the IPCC in its 2007 Report presented.”*

Sir John Haughton, Former Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Former Director General of the UK Met Office

On 25th July 2019 Woking Borough Council recognised and **twice** agreed a Declaration of Emergency be made. viz:

### **It was RESOLVED**

That (i) the Council’s Woking 2050 and Natural Woking Strategies recognise that there is a Climate and Ecological Emergency and that the Council formally declares a Climate Emergency; and

(ii) as requested by the Leader of the Council, the Climate Change Working Group be requested to bring forward proposals to accelerate the delivery of the Woking 2050 and Natural Woking Strategies

### **It was RESOLVED**

That (i) the [following] motion be supported;

(ii) this Council recognises that:-The consequences of global temperatures rising above 1.5degree Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity’s number one priority.

That the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible, but only with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, and local communities;- All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of an increasingly erratic climate and biodiversity loss. Local authorities that recognise this should not wait for the national government to change its policies;-

Woking Borough Council has a good history on environmental issues and has already begun to assess a realistic timescale to make the Council carbon neutral.

(iii) Council therefore resolves to:- Declare a Climate Emergency;- Pledge to make Woking Borough Council, its wholly-owned companies and contractors carbon neutral by 2030;-

Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

(iv) Ask the Climate Change Working Group to oversee a plan to deliver the 2030 target and report to Full Council in 6 months on immediate and longer term actions to be taken.

Unfortunately these important Resolutions are not reflected in the documents relating to Climate Change in the Core Documents listed for this Examination. These documents are out of date, in respect to the Council's own Resolutions made in July and to UK Government legislation. viz:

**A. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019  
Statutory Instruments 2019 No. 1056**

"The Secretary of State considers that since the Act was passed, there have been significant developments in scientific knowledge about climate change that make it appropriate to amend the percentage specified in section 1(1) of the Act."

**Amendment of the target for 2050**

**2.—(1) Section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008 is amended as follows.**

**(2) In subsection (1), for "80%" substitute "100%**

Chris Skidmore, Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 26th June 2019

**B. SI 1056 impacts the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) February 2019 Section 14. 148**

"The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience..."

(Footnote : In line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008)" [Refer to A. above]

**C. Woking Core Strategy October 2012**

References to Climate Change in this document include:

1.3 "Woking Borough is nationally recognised for its work and commitment to environmental improvement and mitigation of the adverse impacts of climate change"

2.34 Cross cutting issues "The following issues cut across many topic areas.:"

2.35 "The Council has long been committed to protecting the environment and to tackling the adverse impacts of climate change."

Table 1 SWOT Analysis of the Borough acknowledges the "Increasing threats of the impacts of climate change"

5.212 refers to the

"Council's Climate Change Strategy (2008) which was first adopted in 2002. This comprehensive strategy recognises the contribution that all council services can make towards climate change mitigation and adaptation and aligns with the target reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions set out in the UK Climate Change Act (of at least 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, both against a 1990 baseline)"

[Now inconsistent with legislation. Refer to A. above]

5.229 "The Core Strategy has strong links with the Climate Change Strategy and each document supports the delivery of the other..."

Site Allocations Development Plan Document must clearly be reappraised and viewed through the lens of the current Emergency. Unless and until the Council updates the Core Strategy, Climate Change Strategy and any other related documents, I contend that the Site Allocation Development Plan Document is not legally compliant.

***"This is an emergency and for emergency situations we need emergency action."***

Ban Ki-Moon, former UN Secretary General