



NEWS RELEASE ~ for immediate publication

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County Network Calls on Dorset MPs to “be more conservative” on the Environment

Dorset Climate Action Network has sent an open letter to Dorset’s four Conservative MPs, urging them “to be more conservative” in their approach to the environment. Following widespread recent coverage of threats to the countryside, wildlife and our rivers and beaches, DorsetCAN called on the county’s MPs to keep in place environmental regulations and controls that the new Government is promising to scrap.

The letter says that “...significant changes are being proposed by the Government which threaten serious harm to the environment and the future of our beautiful county”, adding “We are writing to ask for your help in three different areas where the most vital protections we have against pollution, degradation of the environmental and the loss of our county’s precious and diminishing wildlife have suddenly come under threat:”.

DorsetCAN identifies three threats. The first is a new Bill that will scrap “many of the regulations that currently protect the environment”.

Secondly, they welcome the homes and jobs offered by the Government’s new Investment Zones but point out that the zones unnecessarily sweep away planning and environmental controls. “These regulations, which Developers dislike, are there to protect our countryside from short-term exploitation and erosion of valuable habitats”, the letter says.

Finally, they welcome Government assurances this week that its ELMS scheme (which replaces the unpopular Common Agricultural Policy) will not be scrapped altogether. But they say that current review of ELMS “... increases uncertainty, threatens to water down the scheme and delays a vital part of our country’s plans to regenerate wildlife and the countryside”.

The letter closes by urging the MPs to call on Government ministers and fellow MPs to “**be more conservative** ... and keep essential controls and reforms that stand between us and reckless erosion of wildlife habitats and destruction of wildlife.”

DorsetCAN is a network of community groups, local organisations and individuals working for a clean, green, sustainable Dorset. DorsetCAN seeks to support Dorset Council to achieve their Climate and Ecological Strategy aims, including net zero by 2040.

You can read the full text of the letter at www.dorsetcan.org/mpletter

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More information:

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