Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth

Letter writing campaign to Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP. Berwick-on-Tweed constituency

With the COP26 meeting being hosted by the UK Government in Glasgow now only a few weeks away, we are asking you to write to our MP, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, to let her know your concern for urgent and ambitious action with respect to the Climate and Nature Crisis.

Our local MP has a very important role in relation to COP26, not only as former Minister of State (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) (Energy and Clean Growth), now Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, but also as the UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency. She thus has some opportunity to influence government policy and practice on climate issues at national and international levels.

As a minister A-M T is unlikely to publicly dissent from government's stated policy positions or criticise its record, but her strong majority means that she does have more freedom to pursue topics that she is interested in.

Some general points to consider when writing:

- Try to find a mutual point of interest and build relationship from there
- Try to pose some questions to her and look for responses in her reply
- It can be constructive to ask her to ask questions or seek answers from another minister: be clear about which other minister you are expecting a reply from
- If you get a formatted reply evading your questions you may want to write again.
- Be sure to give your full postal address - she needs to know that you are a constituent

Methods of contacting Anne-Marie Trevelyan:

- By mail to: Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, House of Commons, London SW1A OAA
- By email to: annemarie.trevelyan.mp@parliament.uk
- She should be addressed as *Anne-Marie Trevelyan*

Keep a copy of your letter(s) and reply (-ies), and please send us a brief summary of the content. We are collecting a file of letters and responses, which should help us in future campaigns.

Some topics you may want to take up with A-M T:

[Advisable to focus on one topic per letter]

Climate Justice

- Holding governments to the Paris Agreement (2015), providing $100 billion per year for countries in global south most affected
- Preventing poorer countries from sinking into debt to finance necessary adaptations to changing climate, especially in the light of UK govt.'s reduction in Overseas Aid budget - i.e.cancelling debt of climate-vulnerable nations
- Double the promise of $100 billion per year
- Re-instate the UK Aid budget to pre-COVID levels
- Ensure finance for climate induced loss and damage

Tree planting

- A-M T has been Vice-Chair of APPG for Forestry and has been passionate about tree planting in the past, but not ostensibly since 2019. Could tell her about our tree planting campaign The Hope Project, and the challenges in finding appropriate land

- The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has said the UK needs to plant 50,000 hectares of trees per year to be on track for the UK's legally binding commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However, the government so far has only committed to planting 30,000 hectares per year by 2025, and has fallen short of achieving that figure, according to Unearthed and Carbonbrief

- National FoE's campaign to double UK tree cover including 'right trees in the right place'. Government targets are unambitious (raise England's woodland cover by 12% by midcentury). Much more ambitious targets are required and need to be acted upon

Fossil fuels

- Coal, oil, gas: non-renewable and currently c. 80% of the world's energy supply
- When burned, they release CO2 which traps heat in our atmosphere, leading to global warming. Already the average global temperature has increased by 1C. Warming above 1.5°C risks further sea level rise, extreme weather, biodiversity loss and species extinction, as well as food scarcity, worsening health and poverty for millions of people worldwide. The IPCC warns that fossil fuel emissions must be halved within 11 years if global warming is to be limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels
- Coal is the dirtiest, responsible for over 0.3C of the 1C increase in global average temperatures – making it the single largest source of global temperature rise. Coal use must be phased out very quickly and no new mines established

- Oil releases a huge amount of carbon when burned - c.1/3 of the world's total carbon emissions

- Natural gas accounts for 1/5 of world's total carbon emissions

- Fossil fuel companies remain huge polluters, producing and selling fossil fuel products while scientists say we need a mass switch to renewable energy and efficiency

- In 2015, the world's governments signed up to the Paris Agreement committing to reduce carbon emissions. However, a recent report by the UN Environment Programme shows that globally, we are on track to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than we can burn if we are to limit global warming by 1.5C. Much more needs to be done

Climate Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- When climate change and global heating combine with political or other conflicts there will be mass movements of people. According to the UN and there is evidence of this already happening.

- Investing in overseas development will alleviate and prevent conflict and reduce the environmental pressures which force people to move. The government has reduced the budget for this so it would be pertinent to reduce this cut

- Asylum seekers and Refugees are already in Northumberland and for the most part welcomed by their communities which is to be welcomed and highlighted

- We need to continue to welcome those refugees who will inevitably move and deal with issues that existing communities face so that there can be a compassionate integration of these groups to Northumberland

- We need to stop the vilification and racism of refugees by media and politicians to prepare existing communities to deal with the inevitable arrival of other cultures

Insulation standards/Energy efficient buildings

- Introduce higher insulation/energy standards to all new-builds - through planning condition
- Invest in affordable ways of de-carbonising home energy consumption
- Invest in training for performing Retrofit on existing housing stock - to improve the building fabric and achieve major reduction in space heat demand.