

## **District 1070 Environment Update**

We cannot go on abusing Nature as we are doing as Nature will kick back. Here is some recent research evidence to show what is happening.

### **Climate Change.**

2014 was England's wettest year on record. Most of us will remember the pictures of houses, fields and even complete villages immobilised because the rain was so heavy that the ground water level became so high that nothing could drain away. Annual rainfall is increasing by 5% each year. In the Maldives which is threatened by rising sea levels, their President said recently that you cannot negotiate with the laws of physics. It is interesting to note that the 200 largest cities in the world are all located on the coast.

### **Pesticides**

Billions of dollars' worth of potent and long-lasting neurotoxin pesticides are sold every year but Regulations have failed to prevent the poisoning of almost all habitats. This is the conclusion of an international team of scientists in the most detailed study yet. "Far from protecting food production, the use of neonicotinoids insecticides is threatening the very infrastructure which enables it." Chemicals imperil food supplies by harming bees and other pollinators which fertilise about three quarters of the world's crops and the organisms which create the healthy soils which the world's food requires in order to grow.

### **Cars**

Cars don't just choke our children, they tear a hole in our Communities. I don't deny the freedom and convenience that cars offer but we must recognise the downsides. W.H.O. describes air pollution caused by cars as a public health emergency. It is linked to an increase in strokes, lung and bladder cancers, poor memory, early onset of dementia and even lower IQs. In the U.K. It causes 45,000 premature deaths a year.

### **The Future**

George Mombiot recently said "Humanity is no longer split between Conservatives and Liberals, Reactionaries and Progressives, but between Expanders and Restrainers. "Desmond Tutu recently said "The taste of success in our modern World gone mad is measured in dollars and francs, rupees, and yen". Our desire to consume everything of conceivable value, to extract every precious stone, every ounce of metal, every drop of oil, every tuna in the ocean, and every rhinoceros in the bush - this desire knows no bounds.

We live in a World dominated by greed. We have allowed the interests of capital to outweigh the interest of our Earth. We cannot buy ourselves out of trouble.

We are all responsible and we can all take positive action.

David George  
District Environmental Officer