

A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Public Inquiry

Programme Officer - Jayne Hallam of Persona Associates

Dear Jayne

Herewith a copy of my oral statement made this morning to the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Public Inquiry (Tuesday 30th September):

My name is Chris Eldridge and I am a long standing Coordinator of Stockport Friends of the Earth and served on the Stockport Environment Partnership with Stockport Council until it was discontinued.

On behalf of Stockport Friends of the Earth, I think it is despicable the way this Public Inquiry process has been truncated.

Instead of Getting Serious about Climate Change, the Coalition Government and Stockport Council have Got Devious about Climate Change.

The Semmms Report was issued long before the Climate Change Act came into force and has been used to justify this road. Yet no evidence has been provided to show how increased carbon emissions resulting from this road will stay within national or local carbon budgets.

I urge you to discontinue this exercise in Rubber Stamping and demand a full and proper Public Inquiry to examine all aspects of the road project and whether it should be built at all.

During my brief exchange with the Inquiry Inspector, David Wildsmith, I referenced the evidence on Climate Change submitted by myself and Stockport Friends of the Earth to the Mottram Tintwhistle Public Inquiry (circa. 2008), which is equally relevant today to the above, if he wished to reference that.

Here is a copy . . .

Climate Change is the greatest challenge facing our generation.

Climate change will affect everyone on Earth. Extreme weather, which is expected to be more frequent, can have catastrophic outcomes. e.g. European heatwave July 2003, floods etc..

Limiting global temperature to a rise 2°C above pre-industrial levels is thought to prevent dangerous climate change.

It is imperative that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions of 80-90% by 2050 according to recent research with a 70% cut by 2030.

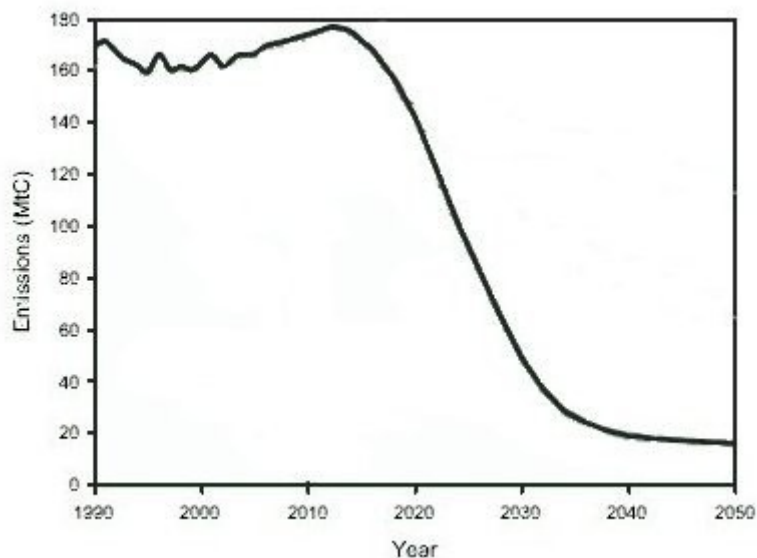
UK reductions required

At the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee in May 2007 evidence was presented by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research showing that when aviation and shipping are taken into account there is a 92-100% chance of global temperatures exceeding 2°C and a 50% chance of global temperatures exceeding 4°C.

[Download full Environmental Audit Committee report \(pdf 2.1mb\)](#)

Unprecedented emissions reductions of 9%p.a. will be required between 2014 and 2030 to achieve Government Targets on a 2°C global temperature rise above pre-industrial levels.

This is a graph showing the forecast carbon emissions reduction required:



NB. the area under the curve denotes cumulative emissions (i.e. what really matters).

The clock is ticking. It is time to get serious about reducing our carbon emissions.

Please thank the Inspector for allowing me to make this statement today and add the above to the Inquiry record.

yours sincerely

Chris Eldridge
Coordinator
Stockport Friends of the Earth