Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council has overwhelmingly passed a declaration of Climate & Ecological Emergency, proposed by our area’s Green councillors Simon Bull and Chris Rigby in fulfilment of an election pledge.

As a first step towards BCP Council’s operations becoming net zero carbon by 2030, on 1st October all council buildings across our conurbation switched to being powered by 100% renewable electricity.

Councillor Chris Rigby said: “I’m really pleased to see BCP Council make this switch, as a first step to reducing the carbon emissions of the Council. We have got what we think are really achievable targets to meet by 2030. We’ve got plans already in place where we can manage and quantify what we’re going to be doing each year, and we’re going to be monitoring this until we do hit net zero carbon. We want to take the local businesses and residents with us as well, until we can achieve complete carbon neutrality throughout Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.”

Councillor Simon Bull said: “Over 100 councils up and down the country have declared a climate emergency, and it is brilliant that BCP Council has joined that list and that we’re already seeing real action.”

BCP COUNCIL NOW POWERED BY 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY AFTER CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY DECLARED

- BCP councillors overwhelmingly pass Climate & Ecological Emergency declaration
- Council’s switch to 100% renewable electricity the first of many planned actions

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Climate & Ecological Emergency in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole: take action

- The local Green Party is holding a series of People’s Assemblies, open to all, to collaborate on what we as concerned citizens can contribute to local Climate & Ecological Emergency action. Follow Bournemouth Green Party for details

WATER FOUNTAIN FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS INSTALLED AT WINTON REC

A new water fountain for people and dogs has been installed at Winton Recreation Ground. Green Councillor Simon Bull helped to secure funding for the fountain with the last of the former Bournemouth Local Improvement Fund.

The new drinking fountain dispenses water at three points – one for people, one for their furry friends, and one to refill water bottles.

Simon said: “I am really pleased to see the water fountain installed at Winton Recreation Ground, especially as it is being so well used by park users and their dogs. It is a great way to encourage people to get active and to reduce their use of plastic.”

SIMON & CHRIS: WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND FOR WINTON AND GETTING THINGS DONE
Diverse range of parties and groups come together to end Conservative rule in our conurbation

Following the council election in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) on 2nd May in which the Conservatives lost their majority, a broad range of councillors from non-Conservative parties and groups have come together to take control of BCP Council and form a ‘Unity Alliance’.

Our area’s two Green councillors are participating in loose ‘confidence-and-supply’ arrangements with councillors from the Liberal Democrats, Labour, Poole People Party, Christchurch Independents, Alliance for Local Living, and other independents. Simon Bull has become Chair of Planning Committee.

The political picture varies sharply across the three towns of our conurbation. Here in Bournemouth, most councillors remain Conservative; the First Past the Post system gave the Conservatives 78% of Bournemouth seats on just 33% of votes cast. Standing up for Bournemouth’s interests on the new ‘super-council’, Chris Rigby leads ‘the Bournemouth Group’ of Greens teamed up with progressive independent councillors Kieron Wilson and Lisa Northover.

However the Conservatives lost a string of seats in Poole, while in Christchurch where the council merger is unpopular, they collapsed almost completely.

The Unity Alliance’s priorities include the climate and ecological emergency, equity across the conurbation, transparency and accountability, housing and homelessness, and protecting and enhancing the unique identities of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Councillor Simon Bull commented: “The Unity Alliance marks a change in local politics. It is an administration that wants to listen to the residents and to have a positive impact on their lives.”

Makeup of BCP Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bournemouth</th>
<th>Poole</th>
<th>Christchurch</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
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Total 76 seats

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