

## OPINION

# Climate Action

Harborough Climate Action

## Warm homes needn't cost the Earth

**W**ith the early September heatwave, how to keep our homes warm will not have been uppermost in our thoughts.

Even so, winter is not far away and although energy prices have fallen, the average home energy bill will still be £600 a year more than it was in 2020.

At the same time, the way we currently heat our homes is pumping billions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, worsening the climate crisis, the effects of which we are now seeing almost every day in the form of more frequent and severe heatwaves, droughts, floods and wildfires and the chaos and misery they cause. We cannot continue in

this way.

We must stop burning fossil fuels and switch to clean energy as a matter of utmost urgency. This will require us to make some big changes and we can't do it alone.

With this in mind, we launched the Harborough United for Warm Homes campaign early this year as part of a wider national campaign that is trying to persuade MPs of all parties to act immediately to:

Help those worst affected by high home energy prices

Launch a national programme of home insulation improvements, starting with the least energy-efficient homes

Support a much faster transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy.

In growing our campaign

### We're United for Warm Homes



we have gained the support of many local voluntary associations and charities and become a community-wide movement. You may have seen or helped with our 'house cosy' project and you may have signed our petition to MPs asking them to take the actions listed above.

As well as petitioning and lobbying our MP, we have also been trying to provide practical help and advice to people

finding it hard to keep warm over winter and also to those who would like to move to clean energy but who are unsure of what might best suit their circumstances.

To this end, we are organizing two events at the end of September and early in October. On 30th September we will have a stall at the Sainsburys end of St Mary's Place shopping centre. We'll be giving information about keeping warm this winter, collecting petition signatures and giving away hand-crafted draught excluders!

On the evening of October 4, we are holding a public meeting at the Methodist Church Hall in Market Harborough. Speakers will be offering expert advice on how to save energy in the home, what to consider when

thinking about installing additional home insulation, solar panels or heat pumps, what grants might be available to help with the costs of installation, and how to get help and advice if you find it difficult to keep up with your bills.

The United for Warm Homes campaign will run until just before the next General Election. If you would like to support us by signing our petition, you can do so by following this link <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/ask-leicester-mps-for-warm-homes-action>. Or you can come to our stall on September 30 and sign a paper version. If you would like to get more involved and help with the campaign, contact us at [www.sustainableharborough-community.co.uk/ufwh](http://www.sustainableharborough-community.co.uk/ufwh).