

The following overview to 'set the scene' was delivered by Jim Wigan at the first meeting of the Tarvin Environment Group on 11/09/08

We face a challenge that if risen to will shape the future - and there is a role all of us here in Tarvin can play.

Setting the scene

- World Population

It is estimated that the world population will rise to 9 Billion by 2050 then start to fall; the rising number of people is already putting extra strain on the world resources.

- World Carbon levels

Scientists agree that the maximum safe level of carbon in the atmosphere is 550 ppm by 2050 if we are to keep temperature rise within manageable levels, we are now at 384 ppm, we are too late to stop the level reaching 550ppm so we need to reduce our carbon footprint enough to bring the level down again. Scientists agree that we have ten years at the most to make far-reaching changes if we are to avoid serious consequences.

- World Oil Reserves

If world oil has not already peaked it will soon do so, this along with worldwide demand is responsible for today's high prices, Oil is partly responsible for the high levels of carbon in the atmosphere that lead to climate change.

So what can we do and what needs to be done??

There are at least four lines of action to be considered.

1. To discover and implement changes that can make an immediate difference, changes that can in many cases save money.
2. Research into further changes that will take longer to implement.
3. Consider what we can do to encourage the decision makers to make the changes required at government level.
4. To plan for a change of attitude that can pave the way for the change.

We all know of the simple changes like installing energy efficient light bulbs, loft and cavity insulation etc. There are also many promising things round the corner that need to be investigated.

It is the intention that the Group will act as a forum to discuss these environmental concerns, raise awareness of sustainability issues and encourage community initiatives to help create a sustainable Tarvin.