To: media covering Oxfordshire

From: Extinction Rebellion Oxford

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 1ST August 2023

**ALL OXFORDSHIRE MPs must write to the Prime Minister on Climate policy immediately**

Climate campaigner calls for MPs to respond quickly to Rishi Sunak’s extraordinary U-turn on over 30 years of policy on Climate Change in the UK.

Steve Dawe says:

“I have taught about Climate and environment policies in a number of universities(1) and I am astonished by what our Prime Minister has just done. It is essential that everyone who can should urge their MPs to write to the Prime Minister about his aim to radically expand fossil fuel exploration in the North Sea, ignoring Government promises of a Net Zero carbon UK by 2050, and about Climate and environmental policy failings more generally.”

Steve Dawe adds:

“Examples of what people may write to MPs can include:

* The Committee on Climate Change, the Government’s Climate advisers, has said the Government has no credible path towards its claimed Climate goals(2).
* There is a large and credible literature demonstrating a serious problem with carbon capture and storage technology, whilst nature-based solutions like tree-planting, rewilding and conserving and extending peatlands are far more effective(3).
* Since transport is the largest carbon-emitting sector in the UK, the Prime Minister’s aversion to cutting flights, especially his own, and for challenging both 20 mph speed limits and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, shows his misunderstanding of basic environmental and Climate policies(4).
* Local councils lack the resources and staff to deliver the Climate and environment policies overwhelmingly supported by the public(5).
* Environmental organisations with 20 million UK members have promised to challenge the Government if it continues to backslide on Climate and environment (6).”

ends

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Steve Dawe**  Extinction Rebellion Oxford on 07747 71083 Contact address for this release: c/o 53 Bulan Road, Oxford OX3 7HU. XR Oxford website: <https://www.xroxford.org/> XR Oxford Facebook group with over 3000 supporters: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/XROxford>

Notes:

1. Steve Dawe taught environmental policy for the Open University for 6 years 2000-2006 and has taught about Climate Change and the environment in other universities, in the context of courses about European Studies and International Development particularly. Now retired, he is the Media Coordinator of Extinction Rebellion Oxford.
2. Committee on Climate Change rejects idea that Government Net Zero plans as outlined so far will work: SEE: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/29/government-policy-failures-are-obstacle-to-uk-net-zero-target-advisers-warn>
3. Claims about carbon capture and storage as a way of dealing with fossil fuels expansion have been widely criticised by scientists eg. <https://climateuncensored.com/prime-ministers-ccs-announcement-indicates-a-government-disinterested-in-addressing-climate-change/> & <https://pure.manchester.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/184755890/CCS_REPORT_FINAL_v2_UPLOAD.pdf> & <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/01/carbon-capture-is-not-a-solution-to-net-zero-emissions-plans-report-says>
4. The Prime Minister is being repeatedly criticised for taking short-distance flights in the UK. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods eg. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/mps-prime-minister-rishi-sunak-khan-keir-starmer-b1097548.html#:~:text=ishi%20Sunak%20has%20ordered%20a%20review%20of%20the,for%20Transport%20to%20review%20low-traffic%20neighbourhoods%20%28LTNs%29%20policies>. On 20 mph limits: eg. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-20mph-speed-limit-ulez-b2384711.html#:~:text=While%20Mr%20Sunak%20has%20ordered%20the%20review%20into,insisting%20he%20was%20on%20the%20side%20of%20drivers>.
5. <https://www.cse.org.uk/news/our-ccc-report-shows-local-climate-action-hampered-by-whitehall/> & see public opinion survey assessments such as: <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/do-brits-think-the-threat-of-climate-change-is-over-exaggerated> & also: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/24/huge-uk-public-support-for-direct-action-to-protect-environment-poll> & <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/18/uk-government-failing-to-help-local-leaders-achieve-net-zero>
6. See: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/29/nature-groups-prepared-to-mobilise-members-over-uk-climate-policy>