



## Press Release

26 November 2014

### **Julian Huppert MP to discuss energy issues with Transition Cambridge**

Transition Cambridge's meeting on 4 December at 7.30 at the Friends Meeting House in Jesus Lane will be addressed by Julian Huppert MP. The meeting will discuss the question: "How can we keep Climate Change and Peak Oil high on the political agenda?"

Dr Huppert is a strong proponent of the importance of tackling climate change, writing in September 2013, "And then there's the pressing risk of climate change. I take this incredibly seriously – it is the biggest threat we face as a species. We have to decarbonise our fuel, and we have to do it quickly."

Huppert has won accolades in the past for taking a lead in pushing for clear targets for clean energy, notably from the environmental charity Greenpeace. He has put his weight behind moves such as Conservative Tim Yeo's amendment to the 2013 Energy Bill aimed at setting a clean electricity target, but failed to persuade a majority of Liberal Democrat MPs to vote for the measure.

The success of fracking in enabling America to keep its cheap energy policy has been seen by many as undermining the argument for moving to renewable energy. "The focus of the environmental debate on energy has shifted from the main issue of the catastrophic effect of carbon release on our climate to the question of whether fracking threatens the purity of our underground fresh water," says Roly Beevor, event organiser for Transition Cambridge. "There is a real danger that big business interests will successfully argue the case that the pollution risk of fracking can be minimised, and the main objection, that burning more gas adds to atmospheric carbon and therefore to climate change, will be ignored."

Transition Cambridge is an umbrella organisation which promotes a positive attitude and practical responses to the inevitable changes that will stem from climate change and increasing fuel prices. "We don't want our grandchildren to be saying; 'Why didn't you do something about climate change while you knew it was happening and there was a chance that you could have made a difference?'" says Anna McIvor, chair of Transition Cambridge. "We hope to demonstrate to Julian Huppert the strength of feeling about these issues in a very large community of Cambridge people who put their concern for the future of the planet ahead of the short-term gains from destructive exploitation of energy, such as fracking."

Everyone is invited to come and join the discussion on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm at the Friends Meeting House on Jesus Lane in Cambridge. Tickets are available here:  
<http://www.transitioncambridge.org/mpquestiontime>. The event is free and open to all.

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For more information, please contact Roly Beevor, [rolybeevor@googlemail.com](mailto:rolybeevor@googlemail.com), 01223 357412 or

Anna McIvor, [anna.mcivor@gmail.com](mailto:anna.mcivor@gmail.com), 07811 069561.

More info here: <http://www.transitioncambridge.org/mpquestiontime>

Notes: Transition Cambridge is a local community group that aims to help Cambridge face the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. The group organises a variety of activities that help people create new ways of living that are less dependent on fossil fuel energy, and that have less impact on our climate. Through these activities, the group aims to show that low-energy lifestyles can result in a better quality of life and can strengthen local communities.

[www.transitioncambridge.org](http://www.transitioncambridge.org)