

Campaign!

The NPC's monthly bulletin for activists in the pensioners' movement

NPC supports mass climate lobby

The NPC will join tens of thousands of campaigners on 26th June in Westminster, to call on politicians to set the foundations for a brighter, greener and safer world.

Campaigners argue that people across the globe are suffering from the effects of climate change and our wildlife populations are being wiped out.

The lobby will call on the UK government to pass ambitious laws that create a healthier environment for nature and people.

On the day, the organisers are planning to create a noise that cannot be ignored, when at 2pm, they will set off as

many alarm clocks as possible.

By doing so, they hope to send a message to Parliament that they need to wake up and respond to the challenges our world is facing.

Ron Douglas, NPC president said: "We have recognised that air pollution in the UK is a public health emergency with over 40,000 people dying each year from the air that they breathe."

"Climate change is an issue that particularly affects older people who may find it more difficult to cope with the results of severe weather."

To find out more visit: www.thetimeisnowmap.co.uk.



At its recent policy conference, the NPC agreed to join the campaign against climate change, and saw it as an important area where the generations could unite

Care crisis deepens because of Brexit delay

As the latest shocking Panorama programme looking at the crisis in social care is shown on TV, the scale of the problem deepens, the NPC has warned.

Government ministers have admitted that the long awaited Green Paper on the future fund-

ing of social care in England has been delayed because of Brexit discussions.

Meanwhile, a report from the County Councils Network (CCN) has predicted that English councils risk insolvency if government does not move rapidly to fill a £50bn funding black hole opening up in local

authority budgets.

Without extra funding, the CCN said rising demand for social care will see council finances plunged into disarray and services cut to legal minimum levels.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, spending on adult social care has already fallen by 5% in real

terms between 2009-2018.

What is clear, is that as things get worse and the number of people excluded from the system grows, the support for some form of tax-funded, free at the point of delivery care service is growing.

This would be the fairest solution to the crisis.



National Pensioners Convention

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Campaign Dates

Pensioners' Parliament 2019
Tuesday-Thursday 11-13 June, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Cost £10 or £5 for one day - tickets on the door. Sessions include intergenerational fairness, living without children, housing and fuel poverty, the future of social care, transport and digital exclusion. Ticket price includes social evening.

Mass Climate Lobby of MPs
Wednesday 26 June, House of Commons, 2pm. Details at www.thetimeisnowmap.co.uk

NPC Transport Conference
Wednesday 18 September, St Aloysius Hall, Phoenix Road, Somers Town, London. More details to follow

Only a third get full pension

Only a third of individuals that have recently retired are receiving the full new state pension, according to a freedom of information request from pension provider, Canada Life.

Figures from the Department for Work and Pensions showed that almost two in five pensioners - 365,290 people (38%) - received less than £150 a week, while only 282,447 pensioners (29%) are receiving more.

Under the new system, introduced in April 2016, pensioners with 35 years' worth of National Insurance contributions are entitled to receive £168.90 a week, but those with an occupational pension may then have a deduction made to take account of the lower

amount of National Insurance they paid during their working lives.

Conversely, some can also receive more if they have a 'protected payment', as benefits built up over the old system are worth more than the new flat rate, Canada Life stated.

A recent National Audit Office report also found that 76% of people reaching retirement in 2060 will be worse off under the new state pension than if they had been on the old pre-April 2016 system.

Jan Shortt, NPC general secretary said: "The UK's state pension is still at the bottom of the OECD league table, and the new arrangements offer little hope of changing that situation for future pensioners."

Campaign for public toilets

New research from the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) has found that the decline in public toilets is a threat to health, mobility and equality.

In their report entitled, *Taking the p****, the charity found that the lack of public toilets disproportionately affects people with ill health or disability, older people, women, outdoor workers and the homeless.

Three in four of the UK public think there are not enough public toilets in their area - with one in five people saying they avoid going out as often as they would like, in case there are no public toilets available.

Over half of all respondents also said they restricted their fluid intake because they were concerned over the lack of facilities.

This deliberate dehydration can seriously affect health and exacerbate existing medical problems.

At the NPC's recent policy conference, delegates agreed to press for more public toilets to be put into bus and train stations - a call echoed in the RSPH report.

Greater toilet provision for women is also highlighted, with a ratio of 2:1 needed to address demand.

Peter Rayner, NPC vice president said: "The government needs to reverse the cuts to local council funding and invest in our civic infrastructure, otherwise the closure of public toilets will have a significant impact on the quality of life for many older people."

Further information on the campaign can be found at www.rsph.org.uk.

Blackpool is around the corner

Dave Ward, CWU general secretary, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Eddie Lynch, Older People's Commissioner for N Ireland and Zita Holbourne from PCS are among the range of speakers lined up for this year's NPC Pensioners' Parliament in Blackpool, that runs from 11-13 June.

This year the event takes place amid almost unprecedented turmoil in British politics, and a

lack of positive government action on urgent issues such as social care reform, housing and environmental challenges.

Dot Gibson, NPC deputy general secretary said: "The annual Pensioners' Parliament gives us an almost unique opportunity to take the temperature of the pensioner movement on some of the key issues of the day."

"There's always something that you learn and take away from the experience."

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