



News Release

MP criticises over-regulation on environment matters

Newbury, October 16, 2009

Newbury MP Richard Benyon has hit out at excessive government regulation of businesses on the environment, and signalled significant change under a Tory government.

"British business is groaning under the weight of excessive regulation," he said, "And we must reduce the burden of red tape."

Addressing business leaders at a forum entitled "Business as Usual in the Low Carbon Economy", hosted recently by Bayer in Newbury, Mr Benyon criticised the Government's approach as "more focused on the process of regulation than its outcome." adding, "A collaborative approach at an international level has achieved more on climate change and the environment than governments acting alone."

His remarks also included the promise of fresh new thinking, as outlined in the Conservative Green Paper "The Low Carbon Economy" which focuses on transport, energy and international regulation. Low carbon buildings, transport and commerce would be enabled by such ideas as a smart grid for intelligent management of energy demand and supply, grants for energy efficiency improvement, recovered through fuel bills, a new high-speed rail network, and the aim to become a world leader in enabling more hybrid and other low-carbon

vehicles, for businesses and individuals.

Mr Benyon, himself the head of a farming business, also acknowledged feedback from local businessmen that, given the financial climate, survival was currently a higher priority than sustainability, but added that what is good for climate change is also good for business. The business community would, he said, be "a major engine" for sustainability in the future.

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Caption: Speakers at the climate forum held at Bayer House in Newbury - Bayer CEO, Martin Dawkins; Richard Benyon MP; Colin Pedley, Bayer Green Manager and Caroline Billington from a-count-a-bility.

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