

By **Tony Whitfield**

REDUCING plastic waste and recycling more are the top pledges made by Britain's older generations in their fight against climate change, a survey has found.

More than three-quarters of people over 60 polled said they were prepared to buy less food and other goods wrapped in plastic, while 67 per cent aimed to recycle more of their household rubbish.

Fifty-seven per cent said they would also avoid air-freighted fresh food and 56 per cent would make their homes more energy efficient if they could afford it.

But only a quarter would change from gas-fired central heating, suggesting many still see alternatives including heat pumps as too expensive.

And while 41 per cent would reduce their long-distance travel, just 16 per cent would live without a car and use public transport, and a little under a quarter would convert to an electric car.

Just over third also said they would eat less meat, while 18 per cent would go vegetarian or vegan.

The poll of nearly 1,000 members of the pressure group SilverVoices dispels the myth that older people don't take climate change seriously because they will no longer be around when the worst impact kicks in over the next decades.

Almost three-quarters, or 72 per cent of those quizzed, felt they had a responsibility to future generations to take part in climate change campaigns and accepted there was a climate emergency caused by human activity.

Seventy-six per cent said they were prepared to do more as an individual to reduce their carbon footprint, provided there were clear Government guidelines and financial support to help them make the switch.

They said the top five Government priorities should be to reduce plastic used in retail, named by 74 per cent, followed by making housing more energy efficient, identified by 66 per cent. Another 65 per cent thought improving public transport was a priority and 55 per cent were concerned about protecting and expanding our green spaces. Investing more in green energy was chosen by 53 per cent.

More than a third of those polled said the priorities should focus on climate-friendly central heating and cooking, banning new oil and gas drilling, reducing long-haul flights or investing in green shipping. A

Keeper Peter put on spot over Red Devils behaviour

By **Jaymi McCann**

FORMER Manchester United star Peter Schmeichel has revealed he feels "uncomfortable" and regrets the way he behaved as a younger player.

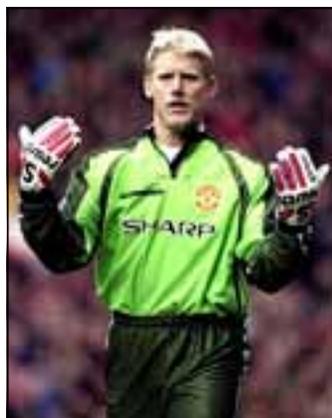
The 57-year-old was goalkeeper for the Red Devils from 1991 to 1999 and also played for Denmark for 14 years.

He began thinking about his career when he was writing an autobiography during lockdown, and told today's Desert Island Discs: "It's been uncomfortable looking at some of the behaviours of the younger me."

Without going into detail, Schmeichel added: "Looking at them now, the person I am in mature age, you wish there was another way of being, with certain things."

When asked how he coped when he lost a

NET PAIN: Peter has regrets about his days at Man Utd



game, the father of Leicester City keeper Kasper said: "I'm not sure you want to know" but added Sir Alex Ferguson was "brilliant" at managing him.

"I needed permission to be that way. If you take successful teams you will always find that most people are different, they have different ways of reacting and dealing with being at that level.

"The people who are like that, they are the people who get to the top as well."

● *Desert Island Discs, Radio 4, 11am*

Silver goes green ...climate change fight for over 60s

Picture (posed by models): GETTY



EMERGENCY: None of us wants to see our grandchildren grow up in a ravaged world, says campaigner Dennis Reed, left

quarter called for more electric cars and charging points to be rolled out but just a sixth said there should be incentives for people to go meat-free.

Silver Voices director Dennis Reed said: "Our poll shows that older people are just as committed to the fight against climate change and environmental damage as the young.

"We are prepared to make major

changes to our lifestyles but we need better guidance and support from the Government on the priorities.

"For example, we hate having to buy plastic-wrapped goods and air-freighted food in shops, but where are the cheap alternatives?"

Mr Reed added: "The Government should also publicise how individual households

can reduce their carbon footprints, and by how much.

"Simple changes in individual behaviour by millions of older people can add up to a major contribution to future generations.

"None of us wants to see our grandchildren grow up in a world ravaged by climate change and dead oceans clogged up with plastic."

Singer Malik's fears custody battle after harassment case

By **James Desborough**

POP star Zayn Malik is "deeply concerned" and will "fight" any custody battle over his daughter Khai after pleading no contest to harassing his ex and her mother.

The former One Direction singer and supermodel Gigi Hadid, 26, are caught in an "unsettling" situation in the wake of a row with her mother Yolanda at the couple's Pennsylvania home.

Malik, 28, pleaded no contest to four counts of harassment against Yolanda and Gigi following the September 29 dispute but denied claims he shoved the older woman into a dresser.

The no-contest plea does not admit guilt but does

FAMILY WORRIES: Pop star Zayn Malik



accept the conviction. A judge ordered Malik to complete 360 days' probation, an anger management class and a domestic violence programme.

After the accusations from ex-Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star Yolanda, 57, the Bradford born-singer could face legal issues if there is a custody battle with Gigi.

Last night a business associate of Malik said: "Zayn is worried about what may happen with Khai. Gigi and he co-parent their 13-month-old child, but any suggestion he has aggression issues or cannot be trusted to care for her is something he will fight against with every ounce of his body."