



Bollington

TOWN COUNCIL

Bollington Town Council

Climate Action Group Meeting

31st August 2019

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August 31st 2019

In June 2019 Bollington Town Council declared a climate emergency. To help us frame our action plan for tackling the climate emergency Bollington Town Council, in collaboration with Transition Bollington, invited town councillors, and members of Transition from neighbouring towns and boroughs to a workshop. The aim was to discuss ways, and identify means, in which Bollington could address the different elements which contribute to a climate emergency. The results of this workshop may be found in this presentation and have also been used as a guiding principle in developing both the draft Action Plan and the Bollington 2030 questionnaire.

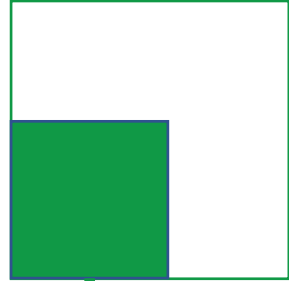
Bollington Town Council would like to thank Transition Bollington, and the attendees at the workshop for their help, support and intellectual rigour.



Techno-fix?
Solar, wind...

Energy touches everything

Factor 4 reduction



Give people a stake over decisions that affect their lives

Creating local employment

Improving local schools – manage demand for education

Positive aspects of a shift

ENERGY CONSUMPTION HABITS

School bus

Walking bus

Personal behaviour (no control)
Council strategy (transport)

Making local environment more liveable

Citizens' assembly

- Finance
- - localisation
- Schools
- Employment
- Food
- Shopping
- Restaurants – fun!

How do we effectively undertake engagement with the education system?

Local

- Involve the children
- Assemblies
- Fundraising for orchards/community gardens
- Fridays for the future (1/2 day)
 - Secondary children going into primaries
 - Talks
 - School garden
 - Food chains
- Student development day
- Drop down days (lesson starter)
- Inspirational teachers
- Head teachers meeting agenda or special meetings
- Competitions (awareness)
- Terracycle
- No plastic lunch days
- Own water bottles – fountains
- Stop selling single use!

Central

- Money/fundraising/grants
- Fridays for the future (permission to change the curriculum)
- Policies
- Awareness/TV campaigns (children and adult campaigns)
- Prominent speakers – owning the problem & taking action
- Truth! (educate)
- Oil/fracking – tackle this (education) STEM
 - Projects in uni/schools/competitions

Local authority engagement

- Find out the rules
 - Attend surgeries
 - Budget cycle
 - Motions – petitions – attend council
 - Share process – supporters?
 - Current policy – add to agenda – follow up
 - Offer to help – who to approach – focus
 - Break the rules
 - Speak up
 - Social media – alternative outreach
-
- You have experts/professionals – quote them
 - Cost savings
 - Innovative solutions
 - How to work with
 - Other councils
 - NHS
 - 3rd sector
 - business

Effective public engagement

Opportunities

- Everybody is already doing stuff along these lines
 - Community gardens
 - Grow your own
- Volunteers are free – eg schools happy – get free resource
- Social media raises awareness of problems and what's happening in the community – connections
- Baby boomers are retiring so fresh volunteer workforce – incentive + grandchildren

Ideas/learning

- Use language that connects with audience
- Articulate vision for future in terms they can relate to
 - Clean water
 - Clean canals
 - Birdlife
 - Nature
- Detour around pushback from confronting people with climate emergency
- Ask people what they want their world to be like, a community has its own framework, set of needs/wants special to it
- Talk to (male) baby boomers on their terms eg brought up in “make do and mend” culture – is meaningful and appeals to them
- Social media can be great way to communicate to broad range of people
- Do not depend on social media totally
- Make people feel they're part of a community – celebrate their successes and help them feel involved

Challenges

- Hard to get issues that transition teams recognise, eg permaculture, to be part of community culture
- Baby boomers are difficult to engage – their historic measures of success include bigger, better and their idea of progress is being challenged
 - Eg: repair cafes include “men in sheds”, how to engage them
- Face to face engagement can be challenging
- Need to make people feel part of something larger than just them

Climate resilience

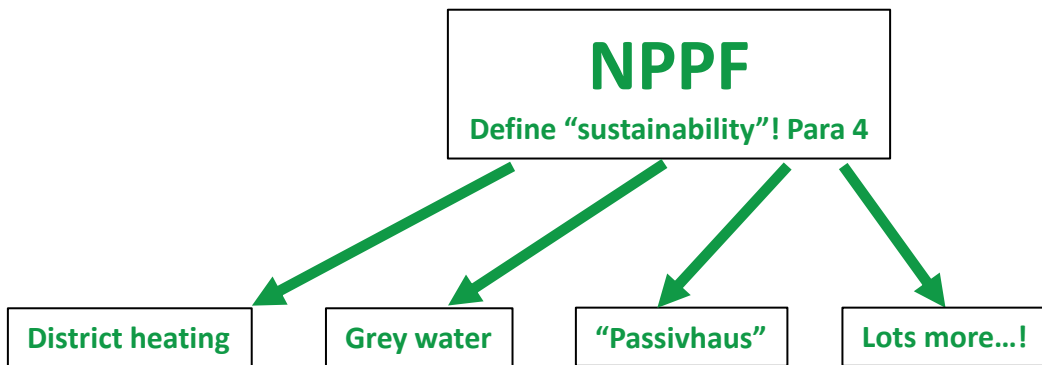
Reduce emmisions

- Electric cars – too far ahead
- Reduce car use
 - Cut distances
 - Flying
- Heating – no gas boilers after 2023 in new houses
- Need alternative heating
- PV should be planning regs
- Air source heat pumps, powered by renewables, noisy?
- CE housing plan – state zero carbon?
- Local jobs for local people - HP to recruit from local if possible
- Local companies to engage and train
- Carbon budgets

Increasing

- Climate tolerance
- Floods, drought, cold, wind
- Educate children – all society
- Small, slow diverse. Lots
- Tell people how to make a difference – no pain
- Drought – planting to hold water
- Cold – house sharing

Change at government level



- Locally – neighbourhood plans, local development plans, etc – but top level needed
- We need to revalue place, spaces and wellbeing
- All about retrofit – 90% of homes in 2050 are already here!
- Long term – not 5 year electoral cycles!
- Regeneration
- Planning for the future – infrastructure in place for new tech
- Location location location
- Affecting planning does involve politics
 - Local
 - National

Local veg and fruit growing

- Composting schemes
- Share shelf in shops
 - Locally grown food
 - Crafts
 - Produce
- Information to growers about agroecological approaches
- More allotments
- Tools and knowledge sharing
- Planters in town with herbs & soft fruit for people to pick
- Local shops stocking food from local producers
- Fruit & nut orchards or planting
- Other edibles
- Rewilding
 - Changing subsidies
 - Tourism
 - Diversity of livestock
 - Less compacted soils
 - Water absorption at height
 - Less flooding
 - Sale of strategic land for flood defence
 - Reverting land to marshland
- Potentially more wildlife corridors
- Work with HLS, Natural England, Woodland Trust, Wildlife Trust, etc & local land owners to help generate income
- Recruit local groups to help (tree planting) of all ages, existing groups or a new network of volunteers
- Education re regenerative agriculture via?
 - NFO
 - Sympathetic farmers
- Can the town provide grants to prevent flooding this way – also lobby govt via its agencies to support

How do we develop sustainable transportation systems & behaviours?

1. Town centre movements

- Reduce vehicle speeds
- Improve cycling infrastructure
- Connectivity
- HGVs to go on main roads mainly

2. Schools

- Exclusion zone around schools
- Walking buses
- No active travel plans at schools
- No support from CE to help

3. Cycling to school

- Potholes – dangerous
- Prioritise tarmac 1.5m from edge
- Pilot one school to be active
- Prioritise active travel

4. Ride sharing/car sharing

- Technology apps

5. Walking

- Publicise alternative routes
- Signposting 10 min walk
- Take spaces from roads for cycling/mobility
- No entry except cyclists/walkers

6. Borough wide change

- 20mph
- One way streets
- Pavement parking ban

7. Reduce cars

- Railways – cheaper tickets
- Buses – more journeys
- Ebikes, scooters at stations

8. Pedestrian priorities

- Prioritise over vehicles
- Change mindset
- Make it more difficult to drive

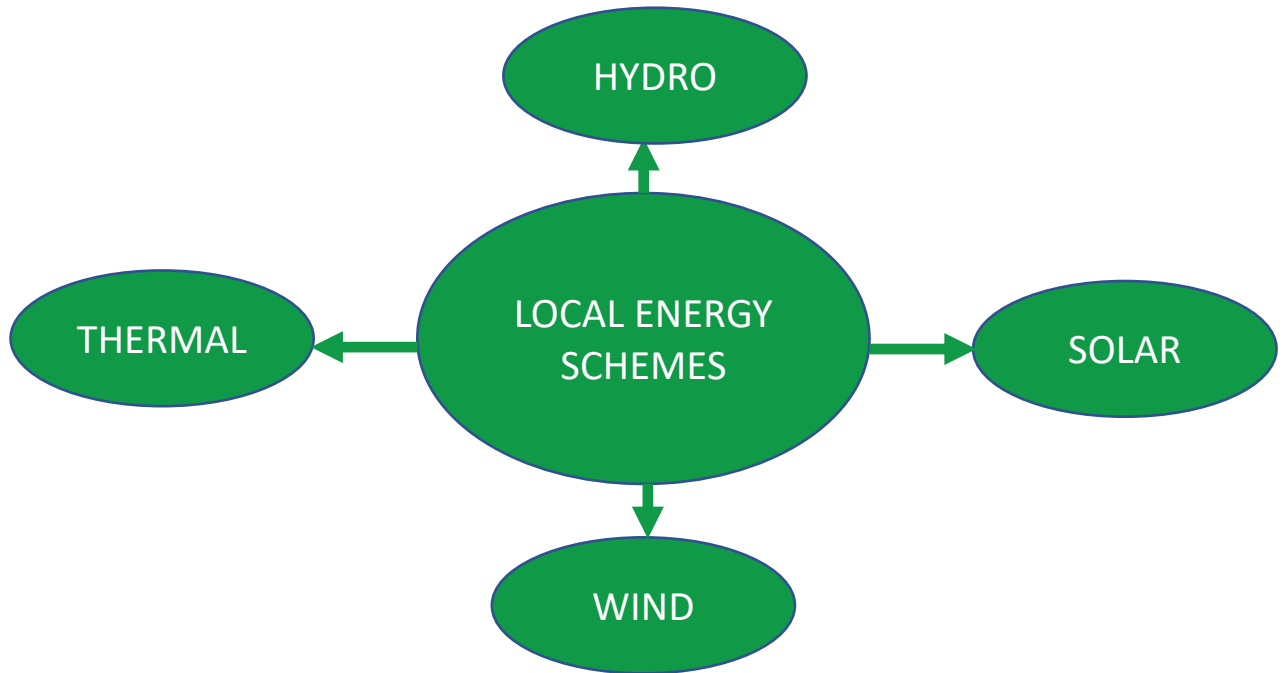
9. Buy local

- Reduce transport food miles

10. Public transport

- Joined up thinking
- Connectivity
- Timings, etc

How do we develop sustainable transportation systems & behaviours?



OPPORTUNITIES

- Local pride/enthusiasm
- Reduce energy costs
- Investment (return?)
- Community involvement
- Education
- Actively doing something
- Climate change
- Planning mandated
- Local plans

BARRIERS

- Institutions
- Education
- Organisational structure
- Money/geography
- Planning and governance
- Knowledge and management
- Lethargy