



Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update 6th October 2020

Hello

Welcome to all those who recently signed up to receive our updates. Our next online meeting will be on **Tuesday 20th October**, starting at 7:30pm to review our Build Back Better event and plan our next steps. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

Build Back Better

Over 40 people, of all ages, attended our Build Back Better event in Stokesley Town Hall on Saturday 19th September. Lots of ideas of action that can be taken by individuals were shared around the themes of Energy, Environment, Food, Transport and Waste.

If you weren't able to visit the event, due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, watch this [video](#) put together by Richard Bradshaw. Richard not only put stall holders on the spot but has also provided the background to the event. We will be also be adding ideas to the website over the next month or so.



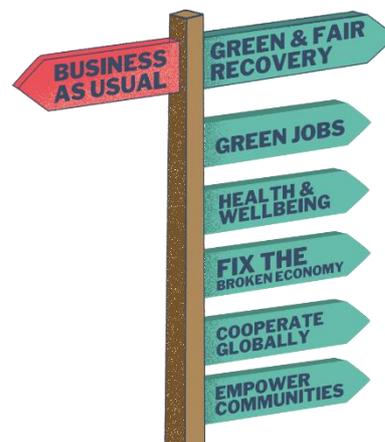
One of the attendees, Jack Turton, from the Stokesley School Green Group said, *“As young people, going through school, we are continually working to improve our future. However, I think it is also important for us, as well as older generations, to strive to improve the future of our planet and the environment we live in. I think now, as society is having to adapt and change anyway, is the ideal time to think about what we can do to improve the future and build back better.”*

Letter to our MP

Thank you to all those who have signed our letter to Rishi Sunak MP. If you haven't already done so, **today is the last chance to sign the group's letter to the group's local MP, Rishi Sunak, [online](#)** or by adding your name and postcode (to show you live in the constituency) to a [PDF](#) of the letter and returning to info@climateactionstokesleyandvillages.org. The letter along with the list of signatories will be sent tomorrow during this national week of action for a green and fair recovery.

Energy

Remember to share information about the recently launched Green Homes grant. Simple Energy Advice are managing [Green Homes Grant](#).



Environment

Leaders' pledge for Nature

Political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 76 countries from all regions and the European Union have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030. Boris Johnson is one of the leaders who has signed.

*"We, political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, representing 64 * countries from all regions and the European Union, have come together today, on 28 September 2020, ahead of the Summit to send a united signal to step up global ambition for biodiversity and to commit to matching our collective ambition for nature, climate and people with the scale of the crisis at hand. We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism, based on unity, solidarity and trust among countries, peoples and generations, as the only way for the world to effectively respond to current and future global environmental crises."*

Find out more and read the pledge [here](#). We will be reminding our MP of the pledge that has been signed when we submit our letter to him.

Food

Food survey

For the Build Back Better event, the Food sub-group put together a [survey](#) to help us build up a picture of dietary habits and wishes regarding plant-based food. If you haven't already completed it, please do so.

Food and farming online discussion

In July 2020, Robert Campbell, a local farmer, provide input to start a conversation about food, farming and climate change. He provided a 'thinkpiece' in advance which led to questions to help frame the discussion. The 'thinkpiece', questions and summary of points that came up in the discussion can be found [here](#).

Transport

Endeavour Way

Members of the Climate Action group along with local Councillors have recently met with the Senior Transport Planning Officer for North Yorkshire County Council to up-date and exchange information in relation to the Endeavour Way to agree a way forward to progress the route. We will keep you updated on progress.

Waste



Litter picking

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Great Ayton Parish Council were unable to arrange a litter picking day in September as part of Keep Britain Tidy's [Great British September Clean](#). Instead they have on offer litter picking equipment available to borrow.

Several members of the group tried out the equipment along the planned Endeavour Way route. They were pleasantly pleased at how little litter they came across. So, thank you if you already pick up litter along that route. The best litter pickers are the everyday litter pickers.

If you would like to borrow the equipment then [email](#) Cllr Angela Taylor.

Climate Conversation

Hambleton District Council

Bridget Holmstrom has been working on behalf of the group, in conjunction with Thirsk Friends of the Earth group, to put together a submission to Hambleton District Council's Local Plan Hearing and is hoping to attend sessions in October and November to ensure that climate change is addressed in the Local Plan.

Hambleton District Council is also currently consulting on its budget and the services it provides for the next financial year, 2021-2022. To help shape the budget proposals the council is inviting residents and local businesses to have their say. Please take part in this [consultation](#).

Please note: the deadline for submitting a response is Friday 30th October 2020.

Book review

"**How bad are bananas?**" by Mike Berners-Lee - - new edition - updated and expanded - 2020

Thanks to Simon for the following review. See the [full review](#) on our website.

"I suspect as you are reading this review, you would like to do the right thing for the climate or at least wanted to be armed with the facts so you know how to really reduce your carbon footprint, then this is definitely the book for you.

Firstly, this book is about understanding "the carbon footprint of everything", so it is not about saving the rain forests or stopping using plastic or increasing biodiversity or reducing waste or being vegan, unless the numbers prove that by doing these things they will reduce your carbon footprint. So by reading the book you will learn that stopping using plastics or even reducing your waste or even increasing biodiversity are not necessary, but stopping burning the rain forests and becoming vegan will definitely reduce your carbon footprint. Obviously, there are other good reasons why you would want to stop using plastics, reduce waste and increase biodiversity. These were some of the areas that climate deniers have tried to use to change the conversation and distract from the existential threat to the planet of ever increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

The new edition of the book published in September 2020 now contains 20 pages of advice on "What we can do", it puts things into perspective, showing how you can address your own carbon footprint, but also what you can do to lobby the government to play their part as well. Combined with the detailed information on carbon footprints of everything the new additions really help to allow everyone to work towards net zero.

I would recommend reading it and keeping it for reference, but don't take my word - Bill Bryson was happy to add his recommendation "*I can't remember the last time I read a book that was more fascinating and useful and enjoyable*". There is also a very simple [personal carbon calculator](#) from Mike - which helps you to see where changes in your carbon footprint could have the biggest effect.

Positive action

Eileen spotted the following [free online course](#) on turning climate anxiety into positive action. Overcome climate anxiety, learn how technology can unlock activism in everyone, and drive positive change in your community.

The course runs for 2hrs for 2 weeks:

Take care of yourself, each other and the planet.

Caryn Loftus

On behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group