



# Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update December 2021

Hello

Welcome, if you have recently signed up to receive our updates. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month but this month that would be in the week running up to Christmas. Therefore, we are meeting a week earlier than usual on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 7:30pm, in Stokesley Town Hall**. It has been a busy few months, so we thought this month we would reflect on what has been achieved and some ideas for next year along with hot drinks, including mulled wine, and mince pies.

## Options for consideration

During the December meeting, we will also discuss two options for taking the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages group forward in the short term. Currently we are a sub-group of the Stokesley and Villages Community Partnership and any funds we have received have gone through their bank account. The Partnership is now folding partly due to local government re-organisation. We therefore need to consider how we arrange banking. It is difficult, at the moment, for standalone unincorporated organisations to open a bank account that doesn't incur charges and we don't want to go down the route of setting up a [social enterprise](#) such as a community interest company (CIC) with its associated costs at the moment as we are uncertain which type of social enterprise might meet our future needs best.

The steering group, therefore, would like to propose two options for discussion:

- Option A: We are currently a member of the [Climate Action network](#), supported by Friends of the Earth. As part of the network, we can open a Co-op Bank community account (with no charges) and are also covered by public liability insurance. Our status would be that of an [unincorporated association](#) as it currently is. Individual members are personally responsible for any debts and contractual obligations.
- Option B: [Moor Sustainable CIC](#), the local [community interest company](#) that helped set up the Climate Action group, are looking for a partner to help share their running costs e.g. public liability insurance and accountancy fees. Running costs are currently approx. £1,000 per year. A CIC provides, among other things, limited liability for members.

If you are not able to come on the 14<sup>th</sup> December but have any preference please [get in touch](#).

## Meeting Rishi Sunak MP

At our last meeting we prepared for a possible meeting with our MP Rishi Sunak on the afternoon of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Due to a change in his plans, members of our steering group met him in the morning as part of his surgery. We had to submit [questions](#) in advance which proved a useful way to use the 20 minutes we had allocated as Rishi could respond to our questions and then we could follow up with further points. We will share the notes from the meeting in due course.

## Energy

### Solar for Schools progress

Several schools in the area are starting to explore whether they will work with [Solar for Schools](#) to have PV panels fitted to their roofs.

### Retrofitting – learning for North Yorkshire

It was great to see those of you who were able to come to Swainby on Friday 19th November, when Jonathan Atkinson gave us an insight into the work of [Carbon Coop](#) in Manchester.

Jonathan showed that improving the quality of all our homes is both necessary and possible, not only will this help drive the UK to net zero, but it will also give us non-polluting / cosy homes. Simon, who organised the meeting said, "I don't think Jonathan pulled any punches, the scale of the work is considerable and so the costs are not that different to putting a room in the loft or replacing a kitchen. Unfortunately, the media messaging has been confusing, either you can save £1000 a year by spending £100 or that retrofitting is too expensive or that you don't need to do anything as government grants will cover all the costs. Something that resonated with me was recently, as part of the [Yorkshire and Humber Climate Summit](#), Prof Piers Morgan said he thought we need "*culture change not climate change*" the importance of this came out in Jonathan's presentation, individually people need to start to value the invisible quality of our homes not just how big it is or how it looks, and people need to start to imagine how nice a cosy retrofitted house is. Nationally, we need to share the cost, so those who can't afford need to be helped by government grants and those who could need to have access to ways to spread the cost."

Here are links to [Jonathan's presentation](#) and the [introductory presentation](#), and you can listen to a recording of the meeting on [YouTube](#) whilst you watch the presentations.

This meeting concentrated on what has been achieved in Manchester at scale, retrofitting has been going on locally over the last decade or more by individuals and by at least one group. A number of years ago the Esk Valley Community Energy project looked at improving the energy efficiency of local properties and the [Moor Sustainable website](#) has information on the work done and some of the homes improved. Please get in touch if you want to go further or want to see local retrofitted homes.

## Nature

### Tree planting

Derek shared the following that was received by Rudby Parish Council from Eforests.

"We work with lots of wildlife trusts, community woodlands and community farms around the UK, supplying them with free trees for their nature reserves, rewilding projects, etc. Would you like free trees from us for any of your tree planting projects? We generally supply a minimum of 150 trees for projects but we can be fairly flexible. The trees are all UK native species, grown from UK seed and can be supplied with free shelters, stakes, weed mats, etc.

While we prefer to work with nature reserves / community woodlands / community farms, we can possibly supply trees for private landowners that you work with that have public access to their land. You'll find lots more info, our criteria and our tree request form here <https://eforests.co.uk/freetrees>"

Tees Rivers Trust will be looking for volunteers to help plant trees in the upper reaches of the River Leven. Once we have the details, we will let you know.

## Food

### Food Share

The Food Share scheme is going well. The Wednesday volunteer is unable to continue, so if anyone would like to deliver and collect food and equally if you know how to reach local families or organisations that would like to receive food please let [Jenny](#) know.

### Climatarian diet

Eileen shared an article on [eating a climatarian diet](#).

## Waste

### Stokesley Toy Bank

We've had a message from George -Elf the Elder that on **Saturday 11th December from 9am til' 2pm, at Stokesley Town Hall** you can come and meet Father Christmas. We have already collected a mass of good toys but further donations can be handed in at the Town Hall. Toys for collection are absolutely free - mulled wine will be available with a donation to Zoe's Place

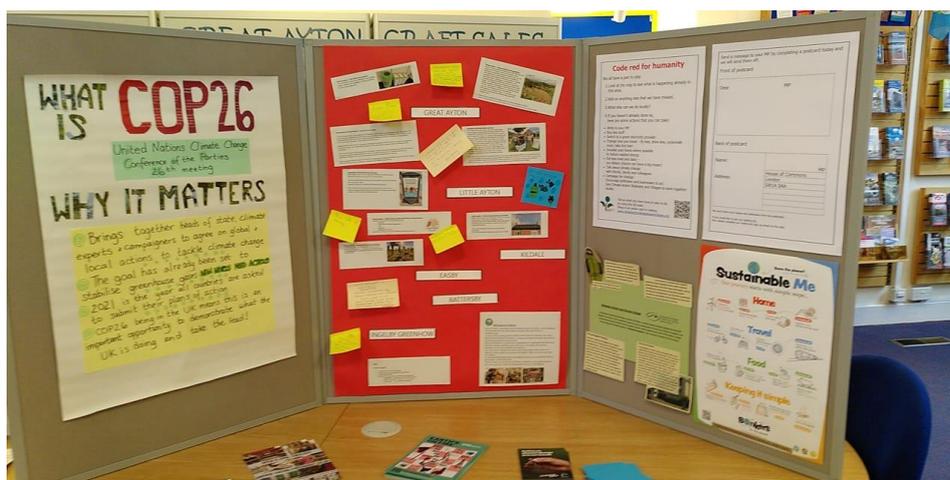
The toys are primarily intended for families who have free school meals and use food banks but all are most welcome to select a toy (good news for the environment).

As in previous years toys that do not find a new home, will go to local charities including the Women's Refuge and Zoe's place.

## Zero carbon

### COP26

Thank you to all those who provided information on activity related to mitigation and adaptation for climate change in the local area and/or visited our stalls during the Global Day of Action for COP26 on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November. We sent 27 postcards along with a covering letter to Rishi Sunak and received a reply. We also had an [article](#) in the Darlington and Stockton Times in the run up to the event.



We are now working on putting together a map using the information that everyone provided.

Following on from COP26, Geoff spotted that a new [award for young people](#) is due to be launched.

### Radio interview

Recently Richard Bradshaw from Leven Online interviewed Simon Gibbon, a member of our steering group and leader our Waste group. Richard said, "A huge thanks to Simon for his excellent interview. I was going to use it in a live show last week: there were reasons why that didn't happen, beyond my control. Instead, and finding I couldn't do a live show this afternoon, I packaged the interview into a 60 minute programme, now available on the [Leven Online website](#) (it's the one on the right when you bring up the page)."

If you can't make our face-to-face meetings, then how about joining either our Food or Waste groups which are meeting monthly online? Contact [Wendy](#) for details of the Food group and [Simon](#) for details of the Waste group.

Caryn Loftus on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group  
(The steering group consists of: Bridget Holmstrom, Caryn Loftus, Jack Turton, Ron Kirk and Simon Gibbon)