



## Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update January 2022

Happy New year to everyone.

Given the current rising Covid-19 rates in the area, we have decided to hold our next whole group meeting online on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, starting at 7:30pm**, will have a focus planning of the year to come.

Here is the link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89084516240?pwd=S1EvSFRjSDQvZVdULzZVeGRWaUo0dz09>

or phone

0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240 / 0203 901 7895 / 0208 080 6591 / 0208 080 6592 / 0330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 890 8451 6240

Passcode: 030177

An update below on a few of things that have been going on recently:

### **Future of Climate Action Stokesley and Villages group**

In the December update we put forward two proposals to the whole group. At our December whole group meeting we discussed the two options. Bridget Holmstrom proposed that we go for option A and that we formally become an unincorporated association as part of the [Climate Action network](#) supported by Friends of the Earth so that we are covered by their public liability insurance and can open a Co-op Bank account through the network. This was seconded by Helen Herring and unanimously approved by all those present at the meeting.

Therefore, we are now in the process of formally become an unincorporated association as part of the Climate Action network supported by Friends of the Earth.

### **Energy**

We have joined [Community Energy England](#) so that we can learn from other groups working on both helping people reduce their energy usage and also increase the number of community run renewable energy projects.

### **Small Modular Reactors**

Stokesley Engineers have a presentation entitled 'Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) – how could they be used to help achieve carbon zero electrical generation' in Stokesley Town Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.

The presentation is by George Carter who was the engineer in charge of a research SMR. The talk will suggest how CO<sub>2</sub> producing generators can be eliminated and the role SMRs might play. In addition, the technology behind SMRs will be explained as well as the advantages and problems associate with their use.

### **Food and Nature**

At our last meeting several people recommended a book by James Rebanks. Thank you to Helen for the following review.

### **English Pastoral: An Inheritance, by James Rebanks**

James Rebanks is a shepherd and hill farmer who lives and works in Cumbria. English Pastoral is his second book and in it he tells his story of his family's two farms, how they changed over three generations and how he became a passionate guardian of his land.

The book also explores the relationship between farmers and consumers, the lost link. The power of the big supermarkets and their influence on both what we eat, how farmers farm and the impact of that on biodiversity, soil health, climate change. It's powerful stuff with plenty of food for thought. He writes well and the book is easy to read. There are plenty of statistics given to back up what he talks about but he also speaks from the heart with passion and personal experience of course and ultimately he does make you believe that change is possible. Although it is just one man's story it provides a valuable insight into the changes that have been made to our landscape, our wildlife, our food and our attitudes to our food over the last seventy years and for many people who have lost their connection with the land and farming it will shed some light.

English Pastoral won the 2021 Wainwright prize for Nature Writing UK.

[Read the full review.](#)

### **Transport**

We heard just before Christmas that we had been successful in a joint application with Friends of Great Ayton Station for funding for a cycle shelter at Great Ayton Station.

### **Waste**

The Waste Group had planned to hold their January meeting at Allerton Waste Recovery Park but this doesn't seem sensible now, so the visit has been postponed to later in 2022.

### **Zero Carbon**

#### **Meeting with MP**

Here are the [notes](#) from the meeting that members of the steering group had with our MP Rishi Sunak on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and a follow up [letter](#) we have received.

#### **Hambleton District Council declare climate emergency**

To finish with, in case you haven't heard the good news, on 14th December 2021, Hambleton District Council declared a climate emergency and passed the following motion.

*"Acknowledging the steps taken by the UK government and other world leaders at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, the huge scale of the challenge we face to keep the rise in average global temperature below 1.5°, the key role of local authorities in meeting the UK's climate targets and, above all, our responsibility towards future generations, we believe the time has now come for Hambleton District Council to join other institutions and organisations throughout the country in declaring a climate emergency. We invite the people of Hambleton to join us in our efforts to rapidly cut emissions across the District and accelerate the progress we have already made as an Authority towards building a cleaner, greener, high-skills economy."*

We look forward to working with the Council and are due to have a meeting with Paul Staines, Director of Environment, Hambleton District Council and representatives of other groups working on climate action in the district in the near future.

Caryn Loftus, on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group

(Steering group: Bridget Holmstrom, Caryn Loftus, Jack Turton, Ron Kirk and Simon Gibbon)