



# Report for the AGM

21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

## Our journey so far

July 2019 – June 2022

Climate Action Stokesley and Villages group was formed in July 2019, following the AGM of the Stokesley and Villages Community Partnership, to support the work of the Partnership in helping the area tackle the climate emergency we are all facing. At the meeting there was a decision to adopt a commitment to take action in a changing climate. It was also decided to form a group bringing together local councillors at Parish, Town and District and County level with residents who want to take action to mitigate and adapt for the climate and ecological emergency we all face.

Following an initial ideas gathering meeting, the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages group has been working on a vision, and actions to realise that vision, for a net-zero carbon area by 2030 where we will have:

- reduced the use of energy in the area and increased the use of renewable energy
- saved the unique natural environment that is local to the area and planted more trees
- increased the availability of sustainable food
- reduced the use of petrol/diesel vehicles
- minimised waste

We have five sub-groups to undertake activities related to the following themes:

- Energy
- Food
- Nature (originally named Environment)
- Transport
- Waste

The group has met monthly and kept going during the various Covid-19 lockdowns by meeting online during which we developed a mind map to help us identify priorities for action.



## Grants

To help us with our work we have so far received grants from:

- Hambleton District Council's Making a Difference fund;
- Great Ayton and Rudby Parish Councils and
- Stokesley Town Council; and
- Northern's Customer and Community Investment Fund.

## Since 2019 we have:

### Publicity

- Developed a [website](#) with over 800 visitors
- Built up a mailing list of over 200
- Set up a [Facebook group](#) with over 300 followers
- Started an Instagram account with 88 followers
- Written a variety of press releases and provided copy for a monthly Climate Column for the Darlington and Stockton Times

### Lobbying

- Met and written to our local MP, Rishi Sunak on a range of climate related issues, including a joint letter signed by nearly 100 residents from our area.
- Written and met with local Councillors
- Undertaken joint campaigning with other climate related groups in North Yorkshire.

### Achievements

- Held meetings/stalls/events/visits/open houses/ and attended online seminars to educate ourselves and others on energy efficiency and retrofitting; food farming and the environment; growing and managing trees; waste disposal and recycling and have a transport themed event planned for 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- Helped organise the planting of 2,500 trees.
- Set up and run a Food Share scheme taking food surplus from the local Coops to those who are in need.
- Set up a Refill Scheme and attracted 10 new venues that are happy to accept reusable cups for hot drinks and refill water bottles.
- Held seed stalls and an open garden to encourage people to grow their own food.
- Contacted all local schools re the Solar for Schools project.
- Run 3 Repair Cafes, with a fourth planned, leading to nearly 150 items repaired.
- Run 4 wildflower walks and 2 bug hunts for children.
- Received funding for a cycle shelter at Great Ayton station.
- Liaised with local businesses, councils and organisations working on climate change and nature emergency e.g.:  
Rounton Coffee and Labman;  
Great Ayton Parish Council's and Brighten Up Great Ayton's pollinator plan;  
Rudby Parish Council's Trees for Tomorrow campaign and their Climate Change survey;  
Stokesley Town Council – No Mow May and Let it Bloom in June;  
Stokesley School's green group;  
Christ Church – an eco church, Great Ayton;  
The Globe and Discovery Centre- supporting recycling.  
Yatton House developing a community garden.

### Structure

In 2021, the Stokesley and Villages Community Partnership was dissolved leaving us without a bank account or formal structure to link to. Therefore, we agreed to become an unincorporated organisation, supported by Friends of the Earth Climate Action network. We adopted our constitution in February 2022 and now have a formal membership for those interested in taking an active part in CASaV.

