



## Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

I hope you're staying well in these difficult and uncertain times. Welcome if you are new to the group. Here is a flavour of what has happened recently and what is planned. Whilst we can't meet face-to-face, we are looking at different ways in which we can all keep in touch, e.g. by having an online meeting planned for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, starting at 7:30pm.

### Environment



Bridget, Rebecca, Scott and Max, plus their dogs, worked hard to plant 130 saplings recently at Stokesley Primary School to create a new hedge. The remaining saplings from The Woodland Trust will be planted, when possible, to extend the existing copse of trees in the school grounds. Thanks to Anne for putting together a suggested planting plan.

Several members of the group are exploring adopting sections of the verges along the A172 between Treebridge roundabout and Ingleby Arncliffe to increase the wildflowers. The first step is to undertake a survey of wildflowers to see what is there already. If you know of any patches of wildflowers that are worth investigating, please can you email [Bridget Holmstrom](mailto:Bridget.Holmstrom) so that when the current restrictions are lifted they can be explored further.

### Energy

Several group members recently took part in a webinar to hear about the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership's plans for creating a competitive, carbon-neutral economy in York And North Yorkshire. [www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/circular-yorkshire/](http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/circular-yorkshire/)

The LEP are developing a case study about the actions that Malton and Norton are taking including seeking funding for a community anaerobic digester to use food and bio waste to fuel their own energy, heating and transport. [www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/circularMaltonNorton](http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/circularMaltonNorton) We hope to be able to share the slides and recording of the webinar with the group and local councils.

### Food

#### Free seed stall

Wendy and Jenny, from the Food group, ran a small stall in the March Stokesley Farmers' Market giving away small packets of home-grown seed to encourage people to do Grow Your Own. There was a lot of interest leading hopefully to more seeds being sown this year and several new members for the group. Donations on the stall of just over £30 will help fund future projects.



### Transport

The group supported Great Ayton Parish Council and Stokesley Town Council in applying for funding to support bus services in the area. We are waiting to hear the outcome of the applications and also the application for funding, on behalf of the group, to the Northern Community and Customer Fund for creating a multi-user route on Station Road in Great Ayton.

Information has been prepared by the Transport group to help make the case for funding the planned cycleway between Stokesley and Great Ayton and details of a Lift Sharing App will be added to our website when lift sharing becomes possible again.

On a positive note, the footpath on Station Road in Great Ayton is due to be re-surfaced following the group highlighting the poor state of the path to Great Ayton Parish Council who then raised the issue with North Yorkshire County Council.

The UK Govt. Policy paper on 'Creating the transport decarbonisation plan' - stating the current challenges and steps to be taken when developing the transport decarbonisation plan' is now out: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan) The BBC story sets the scene: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52064509](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52064509)

## Waste

Unfortunately, due to the temporary closure of local collection points and cafes/pubs our work on promoting recycling and water bottle refilling will have to be put on hold. At least we now have the structures in place to pick up again when we can.

In the meantime, Hambleton District Council has an online survey on recycling, which is open until 26<sup>th</sup> April [www.hambleton.gov.uk/survey/recycling](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk/survey/recycling) . Please have a look.

## Communication

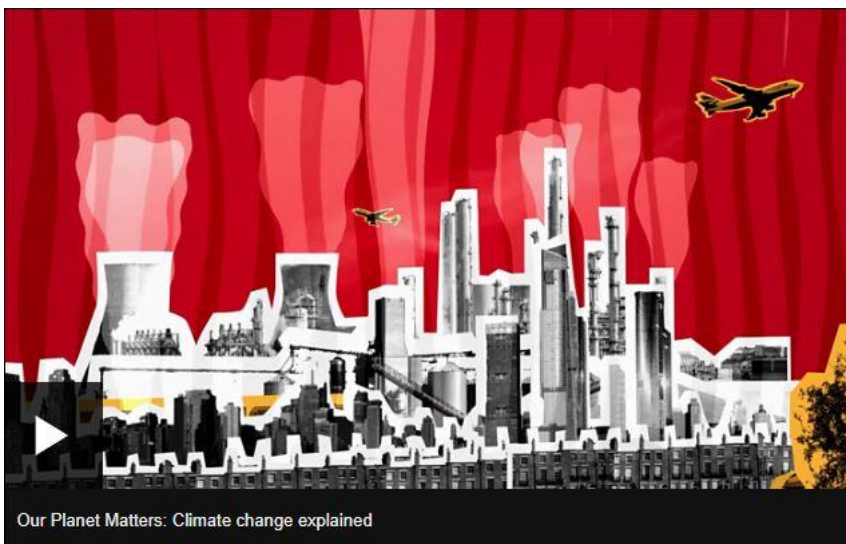
### Letter to MP

Writing a letter on behalf of our very diverse group was always going to be a difficult task but the steering group sent a [letter](#) to Rishi Sunak MP on behalf of the group in early March and given the how busy our MP has been in the last few weeks we're pleased to have had a quick [reply](#).

### Group leaflet

We have been successful in our application for funding from Hambleton Council's Making a Difference grant and also for funding from Rudby Parish Council. We will be using the funding to produce a range of materials to promote the activity of the group and to support events.

### NetZero:2030



The NetZero2030 meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March in Stokesley Parish Church was well attended and it was good opportunity to let a different audience know about the work of our group. As a result, our mailing list has increased again and we now have over 130 on the list.

During the meeting a short introduction to climate change video, produced by BBC News, was shown 'Our Planet Matters: Climate change explained'. This provides a useful overview.

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24021772](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24021772)

BBC News has also gathered together a series of charts highlighting the science of climate change: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46384067](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46384067)

## Dates for your diary

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Stokesley and Villages Go Green event

Please keep this date in your diary and we will confirm nearer the time if we can go-ahead. A sub-group have met to start the planning for the event, and should we be able to all mingle again freely by then it would be great to showcase actions we have already undertaken and attract a wider audience with the aim of highlighting we are facing a climate emergency – what can you do?

## **August 22<sup>nd</sup> - Stokesley Food Fest**

We are working with Stokesley Town Council to see how the group can be involved in the Food Fest this year.

## **International Climate Change Conference (COP26)**

9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November in Glasgow has been postponed until next year.

## **Climate Conversation**

In the last update, I suggested that it would be great to share reviews of books/articles or videos that you have come across. Thank you to Barry and Malcolm for sending the following which we have added to our website in our new [Review](#) section. In the Review section you can read the review and then share your thoughts.

### **'The Uninhabitable Earth - a Story of the Future' by David Wallace Wells**

"You asked for details on books that might be of interest. I have just finished reading 'The Uninhabitable Earth - a Story of the Future' by David Wallace Wells

It is an extremely well researched book that draws its material from a wider range of scientific material on climate change - almost 60 pages of notes and references - but it does it in a way which is accessible. I feel I can't do any better in terms of a review than to refer to the assessment by Mark O'Connell of the Guardian *'Enough to induce an honest to god panic attack ....a brutal portrait of climate change and our future lives on earth... extremely effective in shaking the reader out of complacency ..... To read the Uninhabitable Earth is to understand the collapse of the distinction between alarmism and plain realism.'*

Barry Warrington

### **'Feeding Britain, Our Food Problems and How to Fix Them' by Tim Lang**

"We currently do not have a national food policy. This book is a call for British Food Democracy. Lang says it is time we stopped telling others how to improve their food systems when we are not doing this for our own. Major challenges are known to be facing the UK food system: climate change and ecosystems stress, public ill-health caused by diet, food poverty caused by social inequality, leading millions to depend on food handouts, and more. We have no political response getting a grip.

The National Food Strategy Review led by Henry Dimbleby has been set up to investigate the intensive farming practices that have caused serious damage to the environment, and the food related disease costing the NHS billions and drastically harming the lives of millions. (further details on the very interesting web site [nationalfoodstrategy.org](http://nationalfoodstrategy.org))"

Malcolm Davison

Read the [full review](#) on our website.

## **Next action planning meeting**

We hope to arrange an online meeting on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, starting at 7:30pm**, during which we can start our visioning process looking at what we want the Climate Action Group to have achieved in 10 years' time, what would success look like? This will help us prioritise our actions. Details to come.

It's more important than ever that we take time to look out for each other and work together, for everyone's benefit and for the planet's benefit. It is this attitude of kindness, resilience and ability to adapt, that we should use to inform all global crises.

Keep well and look after yourselves and each other

On behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group: Caryn Loftus, Co-ordinator