

Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update 6th May 2020



We hope you're staying well in these difficult and uncertain times. We also hope that what has been described as 'a dry run for climate change' will equip us in our communities to be stronger and more resilient together. Whilst there have been devastating consequences for many people and we mustn't forget that, we would like to gather stories highlighting the positives such as how it is so much more pleasant to have less cars on the road and to see more people cycling and walking.

Here is a flavour of what has happened recently and what is planned. Whilst we can't meet face-to-face, we are holding online meetings – our next is on **Tuesday 19th May, starting at 7:30pm.**

Vision for 2030

Thank you to those who took part in our first online meeting on the 21st April to 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? Thirteen people joined in the discussion and there were an additional seven contributions sent in by email. We have collated the [notes](#) from the meeting and the email contributions. The next stage in creating our vision will be to add to/amend the ideas suggested so far, before voting on what to include.

Climate Conversation

Buy Local

Helen Herring spotted this new Buy Local web directory. NYCC have said, "We will continue to develop the functionality of the website over time and it is intended that this website will stay live after COVID19 restrictions are lifted to encourage local people to 'Buy Local' supporting the local economy. Businesses registered on the site are able to update their information themselves at any time."



'Climate Change and the Nation State' by Anatol Lieven

Thank you to Malcolm Davison for sending the following which we have added to our website in our [Review](#) section. In the Review section you can read the review and then share your thoughts.

Anatol Lieven's new book 'Climate Change and the Nation State' gives a much needed new approach to dealing with climate change. Lieven shows how in this emergency our crucial building block is the nation state. Drastic action required both to change our habits and to protect ourselves can be carried out not through some vague globalism but through maintaining social cohesion and through our current governmental, fiscal and military structures. This replaces global protest with a national policy. The book aims to provoke discussions.

Political parties pay far too much attention to localism, voluntarism and corporate responsibility. All are valuable, none are adequate. I particularly liked the quote from Theodore Roosevelt, '*Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the nation.*' The current task must be to mobilise patriotism by convincing the people living in this country that global heating is a threat, not just to humanity and the planet but to the interests and future survival of Britain; and that society as a whole must pull together, alleviate suffering and make sacrifices as part of a common effort.

If we can't manage this Lieven doubts that liberal democracy will survive what is coming at us down the line. See also the article in The Guardian 14 Mar 2020, Patriotism could be the unlikely answer to solving the climate crisis."

Food behaviours and attitudes



Thanks to Robert Campbell for spotting the following:

The Food, Farming and Countryside Commission "conducted UK-wide polling with the Food Foundation and YouGov to understand the impact of Covid-19 on food behaviours and attitudes. The poll finds a majority (85%) want to see some of the personal or social changes they have experienced continue afterwards, whilst just 9% want everything to go back to how it was before the pandemic.

It also identifies significant changes to our relationship with food, family and the environment:

- Social bonds are stronger, with 40% feeling a stronger sense of local community and 39% more in touch with friends and family
- 42% say the outbreak has changed how they value food as an essential, and one in ten have shared something like food or shopping with a neighbour for the first time
- More than 19 million of us (38%) say they are cooking more from scratch and 17 million are throwing away less food (33%). 6% (and 9% of Londoners), 3 million people, have tried a veg box scheme or ordered food from a local farm for the very first time
- 51% say they have noticed cleaner air, and 27% more wildlife since the outbreak began
- Although 9% feel fitter and 27% are getting more exercise, more people (36%) say they are getting less exercise than before."

To find out more go to <https://roadtorenewal.co.uk/research/>

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th May – Group meeting (online)

Our next whole group meeting will have a focus on further developing our vision. Details nearer the time.

Sunday 5th 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 22nd - Stokesley Food Fest

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

Keep well and look after yourselves and each other.

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