ZERO CARBON CUMBRIA PARTNERSHIP

Zero Carbon Cumbria Summit

Building a low-carbon future

SP Electricity North West

Westmorland & Furness Council

COMMUNITY FUND

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Summary

150 people came together on 12th March in Penrith to discuss **how to build momentum towards a low-carbon future in Cumbria**. The day's agenda started completely open, like an empty marketplace. Participants soon built an agenda of the issues they could contribute most to: topics they had the passion, knowledge and responsibility to host conversations around. Everyone signed up to what interested them most, and the day was rolling… a self-managed example of progress by de-centralisation, governed only by the **law of two feet**. Three time slots and over 10 meeting spaces then saw the marketplace of conversations unfold.

Overall, 32 discussion sessions were held. The notes that follow are the product of these diverse conversations, including **actions agreed**.

Programme

	Helvellyn	Blencathra	Martindale	Hartside	Main room (Front)	Foyer by registration	Bar	Restaurant	Main (back)	Reception	Main (back right)	Main (front right)
Slot 1 1100	1. What are we not doing - that we should?	2. A permanent citizens' assembly for climate decisions?	3. Journey to becoming a B Corp	4. Community food growing: the bigger picture	5. Re-use of existing building stock	6.	7. Triple-win formula for a low-C future business	8. Responsible Food	9. De-carbonising distribution fleets	10. Children's book made from recycled coffee cups	11. How do we get a low C +ve Mayor?/ influencing Mayoral candidates	12. How to get the average person to realise the scale of the problem
Slot 2 1300	13. Retrofit case study and modelling	14. How can the Nat. Lottery Community Fund support ZCCP's ambitions?	15. What happens to household waste in Cumbria?	16. Protecting & restoring carbon-rich landscapes	17.Making projects investor- ready	18. Identifying the landscape impacts of climate change	19. Engaging young people in traditional building & repair skills	20.	21. Are we demanding system change or managing comms?	22. Building a Cumbrian economy with captured Carbon	23.	24.
Slot 3 1420	25. What does the future of sustainable transport look like for young people?	26. What could a Zero C Cumbria look like?	27. How can we join the dots?/ Telling positive stories/ changing narrative	28. Energy-community/ Trad building/ Social DSO	29. Biomass with Biodiversity	30. How to keep going beyond hope? Climate psychology	31. Lake District wild deer management strategy	32. Motivating the next generation	33. LDNPA Partnership Management Plan	34. What happens to household waste in Cumbria?	35. How do we better engage all groups?	36. How do we accelerate urban greening?

How can we build momentum towards a low-carbon future in Cumbria?
ZERO CARBON CUMBRIA PARTNERSHIP

1. What are we not doing that we should be doing?

Host: Futureproof Cumbria - Tracey Hart

Note-taker: David

Action areas:

- *Focus on the areas of largest emissions (eg transport)- All - we need to deliver change by looking for opportunities with other organisations.*
- *Not defining the economic impact not linked to cost of living*
- *Defining what services and infrastructure need to be developed.*
- *Data is not the best way to communicate with communities. Better coms.*

Key Discussion points:

- Stuck in a bubble need to move
- All of us have a valid contribution
- Gaps in terms of ownership of key areas
- What are the opportunities we need to taken up
- Futureproof- Funding strategy needs rethinking
- Not reliant on one funding source
- Commercial arm needs considering
- Partnership working important
- Not everything is financial
- Schools being able to deliver with little support
- Cumberland schools have lost funding to deliver infrastructure and topics
- People need to know where to seek support
- We are not in the media (local media) to educate the population
- People are not involved in how central money is spent
- Where does finance come from, is it ethical?
- Is ZCC doing good?
- How do you get the messages to people,who are not in the loop
- We need to focus on the bigger picture nature health money bills
- Next Government may be not focused on climate change
- What do people in cumbria do. We need to control our own future
- A good strategy needs to very focused
- Futureproof strategy needs to be more radical
- Focus on the people who engage already
- We cannot wait for everyone to come onboard
- Transport emissions is key- no one is taking responsibility for it, need to focus on it
- The full impact of tourism has not been considered

2. A permanent citizens' assembly for climate decisions?

Host: Pete Bryant, CCA members Philip, Suan & Jen

Note-taker: David F Murphy, Co-Chair ZCCP

Actions agreed:

- *Action 1: Contact leader of Cumberland and W&F leaders to convince them that a PCA is needed by making links between climate, health and other social issues. After the design workshop, Cumbria Climate Assembly (CCA) members to arrange follow up meetings with them clarifying what a PCA is going to look like.*
- *Action 2: Clarify the current status of the MCA constitution.* ***Who? When?***
- *Action 3: Erica Lewis to draft an email to the Cumberland & W&F Council's Democratic Services/Legal Team(s) to request an amendment to the draft MCA constitution. Email to be to be sent by Giles and Bob.* ***When?***

Key Discussion points:

- Key recommendation from CCA (no. 9) is establishment of a permanent citizens' assembly as part of new Cumbria Combined Mayoral Authority (CMA) which has a draft constitution which we hope to influence by enshrining a Permanent Citizens Assembly (PCA). Importance of contacting and influencing Legal & Democratic Services teams in two local authorities to propose a constitutional change for the CMA.
- Meetings have been held by CCA members with **Jonathan Brooks** and **Mark Fryer** to seek their support for the PCA.
- Social Determinants of Health approach could provide a strong case for the PCA. Health & Wellbeing is a way to 'sell it' to everybody and politicians. Enhancing nature is a way to make it real. The SDGs wedding cake concept also provide a framework for making the case.
- Another key is to focus on responsibility for decision-making on a range of cross-cutting community engagement issues.
- Young people's engagement and participation is powerful and fundamental. There is a need to ensure that a youth component is integrated into the PCA process as per CCA Recommendation 9.
- A PCA has the potential to respond to widespread dissatisfaction with the political process and politicians. Selling it as an apolitical mechanism is key.
- 30 CCA members are still engaged. Need to follow up with political party candidates for the MCA, as well as current and former local councillors.

3. The journey to becoming a B corp business

Host: The Cumberland Building Society. Ross & Tim

Note-taker:

Action area:

- *To build a B-corp community in Cumbria*

Key Discussion points:

- B corp is not the only environmental focus for sustainability
- A framework helps companies grapple with sustainability complexity and removes ambiguity.
- It is a holistic framework and shows that everything has to work together - environment, workers, governance
- B-corp standards measure 5 areas with a target score of 80 and the Cumberland Building Society scored 104.6 - the best in our sector, helped by our mutual nature and Board being very supportive.
- Standards are changing to 7 areas.
- There are 5 other B-corp certified businesses in Cumbria
- B-corp pricing is based on revenue.
- The Cumberland used Burnetts in Carlisle as a case study
- Suggestion of holding a Cumbrian B-corp day to drive awareness, BEC to host?
- In the marketing space, B-corp can be a benefit - there is more work to be done on the business benefit, this could be a driver in the commercial space.
- Suggestion of a structure for SMEs to access a free-to-use tool

4. Community Food Growing : the bigger picture

Host: Wendy Aldred, Food Cumberland Partnership; Chair Community Food Growing workstream

Note-taker: Helen Attewell

Actions agreed:

- *Corentin (W&F Council) to explore option to reduced/ zero rates for shops selling local produce / plastic free dry goods*
- *Val Ayre (Food Cumberland) to talk to Enterprising Cumbria (Brian White) re biochar / heat / CO2 offer about mutual support*
- *Val Ayre - to chat to Maryport food growing group (Kimberley Brough)*
- *Licence to Grow - building case studies e.g. Drigg - need to promote best practice examples (Food Cumberland Partnership). New website has been developed + learning documents*
- *W&F council to review position on long-term lease for growing spaces*
- *Sign up for Community Food Growing group event at Gosling Sike on 18th March https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2026-03-18-carlisle-community-food-growing-network-day*
- *Contact helen.attewell@futureproofcumbria.org.uk if you would like to screen the National Emergency Briefing film in your community, or would like to sign up to the Cumbria Sustainability Network newsletter for notice of funding opportunities and future events*

Key Discussion points:

- Partnership seeks to support community food growing - from a few raised beds to a few acres
- Right to good quality food
- Edible landscaping - need to change culture to support more community growing
- Cumberland Council - supporting Licence to Grow (supported by Incredible Edible)
- Resilience; importance of education; understanding agricultural sector
- Community cohesion - address social isolation
- National Emergency Briefing - report highlighting the seriousness of the climate crisis; hope to influence decision-makers - need to think about future food sustainability
- ?? How do we get the community more involved - need to make it fun; explain the benefits; what needed to learn more (link to LANSS)
- Westmorland and Furness - supporting 'place to plate' initiative and supporting community orchards (+biochar feasibility study)
- Cumbria Master Composters available to support local groups
- Challenge to councils : subsidise local greengrocers with local veg / produce; no plastic; build farmers markets / veg bag schemes like Home Grown Here
- ?? Need to promote cooperatives / partnerships - support food pantries (e.g via Growing Well)
- Option for community food link with industrial by-products with Holman (Enterprising Cumbria)
- Derwent Forest - option for research project on adaptation (Enterprising Cumbria
- W Cumbria producers - Charlotte's - veg bags, jam, chutney, flowers
- CWT - planting for pollinators
- Herb beds in raised beds - e.g. Rotary in Cockermouth including 'help yourself' message
- Anne-Marie seeking to develop food growing space / orchard next to local school
- Barrow - Art Gene have sustained Allotment Soup growing space for 10 years; currently planting coronation orchard
- Seed swaps / tools sharpening
- Allotments - crucial for urban areas. Currently not joined up in W&F, but Cumberland Food Partnership have curated list

5. Re-use of existing building stock

Host: Paul Crosby with Sarika Jhawar & Rose Lord

Note-taker: Felicity Scott

Action areas:

- *Establish community entity to do feasibility study to engage owners or to confirm viability for interested others, housing associations, etc*
- *Communication of good stories (especially local!) – eg National Trust; Story new pilot (under discussion - derelict bldg working with local college for trades to practise; Whitehaven – retrofit of derelict building and give back to care); Rebuild; Kendal united unitarian – bought by benefactor – volunteers did it up – now sustainable complete refurb; Tim Heatley (Sheffield – on Instagram) - car park refurbs - inspiring – investment from city redevelopment*
- *Friends of Lake District report and campaigns coming out 23 March – 'Fairer Housing Stronger Communities' - see FLD website*
- *Community led initiatives usually much more successful*
- *Some planning, some interpretation, some investment in community*
- *Need to think about community differently*
- *Free up legislation so don't lose community/heritage assets - can we be brave?*
- *Properties back into use – it's not a planning barrier – its landlords/owners- LAs don't have resources to use powers they've got to do anything about it – using upper floors, changing some of the shop stock (but ensure some retained eg in villages where needed)*
- *Incentivise landlords? How?*

Key Discussion points:

- How do we move forward townscapes/existing housing stock & how we re-think community
- Need to plan for suitable housing for aging population and young people working in hospitality
- Increasing empty properties and shops (high streets changing) – eg 1000s of homes – 77.1% hollowed out in Martindale
- Future flooding – flooding will get worse 35% increase in rainfall 47 49% – housing needs to withstand and prevent damage. Resilience rather than resistance.
- High costs -> reverse gentrification – those who can afford make more from holiday lets
- New housing stock is constrained by highway building regs for smaller occupancy properties
- Absent landlords/owners – no financial incentive to improve/sell
- Councils have powers to buy back through compulsory purchase but lack funding to do so.
- People in need/affected most don't fill in surveys/engage – how to make sure their views shape change?
- Need for multigenerational housing too for old and young people – student type housing in rural areas that is managed.
- Classification order (for commercial) has been freed up – councils will defend this if needed in smaller communities for towns recognise the need to free up failed shops for other uses.
- Buying v renting houses – cultural issue

7. Mitigation of climate change for businesses - to reduce carbon emissions, save money, improve their bottom line

Host: Jeff Obbard (find on linked-in)

Note-taker: Julia Massey

Action areas:

- *In-depth and on-going support for SMEs to go green and save money - in-depth support via internships in HE; Enterprising Cumbria, key private sector funder,*
- *Develop a co-funded, co-designed programme of support for SMEs involving students (future workforce / talent pipeline)*
- *Jeff is going to start to talking to people across Cumbria to see if there is appetite for the triple win SME model of Singapore in Cumbria*

Key Discussion points:

- Singapore triple-win methodology of HE students trained to carry out carbon audits with SMEs to provide eco solutions to the small business to reduce carbon, save money, improve the bottom line,
- Importance of educating and upskilling young people in college, FE and HE to carry out carbon audits for SMEs (model used in Singapore - to reduce carbon emissions and save money)
- Council's role in using renewables with public leisure centres
- Methodology for the triple win piloted in Singapore - reduce carbon emissions; save money; educate and enable young people to be trained in completing carbon audits in SMEs; measuring carbon emissions that have a carbon tax)In Singapore)
- Students are trained to complete scope 1 & 2 auditing
- Council procurement policy request suppliers to provide evidence of their green credentials; environmental policies; carbon footprint
- Carbon audits and eco solutions provided to SMEs - funded by HSBC in Singapore; National Youth Council; particular focus on waste for small manufacturers; savings monitored in carbon emissions and costs
- Numerous examples for individual SMEs that could be scaled up, shared and implemented sector by sector (Singapore)
- How to motivate businesses to think green when motivator is money
- Green Enterprise Hub - led by FPC ran a similar offer to SMEs
- Singapore funding - £1500 funding per SME - in 4 years x 150 SMEs supported
- Micros are important - not just SMEs

8. Food systems – how can we influence and support sustainable food places – particularly within businesses and hospitality

Host: Kathryn Jenkins (kathj43@hotmail.com)

Note-taker: Laura Blake

Actions agreed:

- *Action 1: Cumberland food consumption and waste subgroup will develop top 10 'wins' that also have cost benefits and pick this conversation up to see how we can take it forward*
- *Action 2… come up with a consistent emissions value for wild venison – LB with KJ*
- *Action 3: discuss if could fund someone to go into food businesses and advise – BH to follow up*

Key Discussion points:

- Knowledge around where emissions come from is really important
- Where is food coming from? USP is really important. Numbers around wild game
- People see the waste front and centre – reuse materials? Go into the business (not out of to train somewhere else)
- Example within industry: Don't want watermelon flown in – don't realise it's not! We need to educate on that but simple messages could be very effective (e.g. robust = shipped, delicate = flown)
- Few companies supply everyone.
- Make things easy to be sustainable
- What are the barriers for the smaller businesses? Can they afford it? Who are the experts that could actually help? Lot's of B&bs and really small businesses – don't get checked in the same way as large organisations. Need more bespoke solutions.
- Should it be in-built in education? (e.g. can't teach seasonality in school terms). Sustainability is not part of curriculum – it needs to be!
- Clearer definitions of origins and regulations – UK Government policy need to change but who's going to police it? Everyone needs to know the rules.
- How do we get good veggie options on the menu: restaurants doing it feel like they have to retrain their customers. Makes life easier if you have options that cater for everyone. Lower worry food. Some universities offering only plant-based options unless you ask otherwise!
- Meat should be the garnish not the other way round. Meat is energy efficient throughout all of history. Need to reframe narrative to see it as a treat. Consider ethical standards – higher animal welfare, better nutrition etc.
- Farmers keen to be better and more sustainable but need to make it financially viable and communicate that
- We need to VALUE our food. Also need to help lower income groups. Market is saturated because everything has become so cheap – the wrong food is the cheap food e.g. ultra-processed – will they price out people trying to do better? Redistribute profits from lower quality foods? Time and convenience is a big factor! Put onus on producer not consumer – stricter laws!!
- Redesign system – like in France! - How do we get back to that?
- Home delivery options more convenient? Change system of how food is provided so supplying the right food at the right time. E.g. wholesaler with a localised arm?

9. Decarbonising the distribution fleet

Host: Danielle and Ben - Mclures

Note-taker: Bex

Actions areas:

- *If anyone is thinking about requiring access to the grid for charging - then get in touch with SP Electricity North West (SPENW) as early as possible in the process.*

Key Discussion points:

- Lack of charging points for larger vehicles is still one of the biggest challenges
- Co- sharing with other businesses and community for commercial solutions
- Hub of charging points at designated locations - large organisations supporting smaller businesses where they have the infrastructure in place
- Gov grants for HGV's charging points available
- Co-sharing a charge point which is sponsored within a community whích gives business charging discounts.
- LDNPA - feeling that LEZ might come in - trying to prepare but challenges above a barrier
- Soft approaches to meeting contractual demands in terms of emissions from transport, but might become more challenging as clients demand more
- Cost of EV/Bio-diesel vehicles still prohibitive - but circular economy with local bio suppliers.
- Solar panels - carport charging is a solution for smaller vehicles
- Vehicle batteries becoming storage which can then feed back to the grid SPENW - financial incentives to do that. Flexibility services Hub on the SPENW website.
- Borderlands successful bid - linked to above flexible services style of thinking.
- Gap in being able to share distribution services within larger scale delivery but discussion lead to consideration about how it could work - more thinking to be doone!

10. Coffee cups recycled into books

Host: Hayley Slack hello@littlecoffeecup.com

Note-taker: Laura G

Actions agreed:

- *Books to go into local businesses (Hayley)*
- *Get people to sign up to cup recycling schemes (all of us!)*
- *Buy via waterstones and website: www.littlecoffeecup.com*
- *Karen (early years Cumberland) taking book to share with team for ideas generation*

Key Discussion points:

- Background to role and Biffa contracts
- Raising awareness of waste- contracts, disinformation
- Wanted to look into why books (children's) are no longer 'made in britain
    - Came across James Cropper and their expertise in recycling high quality paper from coffee cups
    - Croppers strip out the fibre from the cups to use: high quality food grade
- Issue with 'recyclable' cups due to reduced quality
- Story book written about the coffee cup process
    - Primary focus: 5-7 year olds
- Next edition: available April, with a behind the scenes section added in
- Cups can become books
- How people can recycle their cups: take back to where you bought it- check out the national cup recycling scheme website to find out who recycles

11. How do we get a low carbon positive mayor for Cumbria?

Host: Steve Curl (stephen.curl@btinternet.com)

Note-taker: Patrin Watanatada

Action areas:

- **Engage candidates to develop Cumbria-relevant climate policy.**

  Ask for climate to be reflected in manifestos: jobs, transport, community development, conservation. What will the MCA do in its own sphere (procurement, staff engagement)? Are candidates committed to the green jobs agenda (draw on the CAfS report)
  Assess the manifestos: convene a group (e.g. MP Watch) to rate candidates on climate effectiveness - Steve C agreed to do this
  Organise climate-focused hustings — who better than ZCCP?
  Create a pithy statement that organisations, businesses and individuals can sign up to.

- **Inform and engage voters on why climate matters for their votes, and what the candidates are saying.**

  Regular ZCCP mailing list updates: what are candidates saying - or not saying - on climate? Encourage forwarding to ZCCP members' large Cumbrian networks
  Comms must be short, snappy, social-media savvy (esp. TikTok). Lead with: why should I care / what's in it for me / what can I do?
  Identify ambassadors, train them as spokespeople: local BBC, TV, radio
  Open up youth channels: find youth champions to lead engagement, e.g. via CDEC youth summit, universities

- **Key question: who will coordinate all this?**

Key discussion points:

- **Know the mayoral powers for climate and nature.** MCA is responsible for economic development, climate and nature recovery strategy, and transport. Frame climate action as economic: green jobs, retrofitting, sustainable tourism; draw on the FC/CAfS green jobs report.
- **Candidates need to be supported, and feet held to the fire.** Encourage them to take a leadership stance. Press them to be transparent and ambitious about where climate and nature sit in their agendas.
- **Language matters.** How can we talk about 'net zero' without using this phrase? it's politically charged and leaves people cold. 'Community resilience', 'warm homes', 'green jobs', instead. Positive, local, specific.
- **Make it Cumbrian.** Connect climate and nature to things people already care about: flooding, rising heating costs, skills development and jobs, tourism, farming, landscape. Tell the truth about what happens to Cumbria if we get this wrong: loss of land, Lyme disease.
- **Different constituencies' needs must be understood and addressed.** Single female-headed households face a double/triple burden from rising energy costs. Youth, older voters, rural communities all need tailored attention and outreach. We need to reach beyond the already-converted
- **Getting out the vote is key - and young people's votes are critical.** 30% county-wide turnout currently; huge room to grow. 16-17 year olds will be eligible to vote; young people are naturally more likely to prioritise climate. But many young people are going to Reform, so climate framing needs to reach them on their channels (TikTok etc)
- **Remember we have just 15 months to do this.** Mobilising action to getting the right candidate will be absolutely central to the Cumbrian climate and nature agenda. We must act now.

12. How to get the average person to realise the scale of the problem?

Host: Charlotte Mason-Curl & Ali

Note-taker: Rosie

Actions agreed:

- *Action 1: Karen Bentley-Brown and Charlotte Mason-Curl (and Barbara Berry) to get in touch about NEB screenings in South Lakes*
- *Action 2: Councillor Helen Davison to focus on "meeting people where they are at" and engaging with Climate Outreach research*

Key Discussion points:

- **Problems and challenges:** Mass media minimises the problem, exaggerates costs and inaction from other countries (China); positive stories and achievements can create a false sense of security and people think it's been done; "emergency" framing can put people off; Unlike a few decades ago, most people now grasp bits and pieces of the crisis, just not the whole picture and what they can actually do about it.
- **Effective ways to reach people:** No Crap Parties is a " trojan horse" to reach parents and get them engaged; repair & repair cafes attract a good range of people, often sentimentally attached to getting something repaired; the arts
- **Language, storytelling and angles:** avoid talking about "net zero", and talk about "more secure, home-gown, cleaner energy" instead; talk about lives that have already been saved from .e.g. Moving away from coal; talking about an "emergency" is not always helpful; we need to meet people where they are: Cost is a big barrier for individuals, and also the main thing that cuts through with business.
- We need to sell the benefits of climate action in a way that resonates with people and taps into things they already care about. We need to convey what a zero carbon future actually looks like - talking about an invisible gas doesn't resonate with people.
- Why is a connection not made between people's children (the thing they care about most) and the scale of the crists? Is there a crawl, walk, run approach to get people to understand how it will affect their children?
- **Business:** Businesses largely don't understand the scale of the problem; Carbon Literacy rollouts can be effective but initial momentum is sometimes lost once pledge forms are submitted. Climate awareness doesn't trickle through organisations but tends to sit with one Sustainability lead. Businesses don't always know how much they can do beyond energy use .e.g. supply chains, procurement.
- **Ideas:** A petition to demand Carbon Literacy training for politicians; creating supportive networks where people can come and discuss what they're worried about
- The National Emergency Briefing came up repeatedly; it's scary but hopeful. Psychological safety of running briefings needs to be considered.
- Cate Woodcock from Westmorland & Furness was keen to discuss what the council can do to as a trusted voice. W&F is a professional mouthpiece, could show more what people are doing on the ground as well?
- Climate Lab Pendle - a programme business, council, arts is brought together with Climate Fresk (relate things directly to people's lived experience .e.g. equality), working with arts and talkeoke (game show format) to get people talking.

13. Retrofit Case Study and landscape level modelling

Host: Morland Carling + Morgan Neilson (morgan@sw-consulting.co.uk)

Note-taker: Helen Attewell

Actions agreed:

- *Fran (ACT) to speak to Karen (Roland Hill - family retrofit business)*
- *SWC have data to share on the cost benefit analysis of implementing retrofit schemes*
- *Take messages from this conference back to businesses and ensure sustainability is mainstreamed (all)*
- *Cumberland Building Society to explore mechanism to provide mortgages for home upgrade*
- *Find out more about the ZCC building sector group and read about the Emission Reduction Action Plans: https://zerocarboncumbria.co.uk/leading-change/sector-groups/buildings/*

Key Discussion points:

- Student project looking at benefit of retrofit (Futureproof placement) in old building
- Discussion of benefits of solar panels; insulation; lime plastering; air source heat pump etc …
- Expensive to install but will pay back within 25 years
- Can import cheap electricity overnight to store in batteries - massive savings from tariff
- Use green supplier i.e. no emissions from electricity
- Concern in Cumbria = use of oil for domestic heating. Problem with the cost of living crisis
- Comfort = big issue. Central heating is very comfortable!
- Government target for EPCs is C. Over half of homes in Cumbria are not at this standard … (we are not sure that EPCs in themselves are a clear standard; database is flawed)
- This means that 25 years pay back is not a great incentive and more grants near to be provided to ensure people can afford to do this
- Problem re tariffs / smart meter readings as over radio signals used rather than 4G networks i.e. Q how to get better connectivity in north of England
- Government promoting heat pumps for efficiency etc.
- How do we get people the skills, knowledge and confidence to take on this sort of project? Where does it work and how does it work? Long term cost savings are a great incentive.
- Lakes College - promoting green skills courses - but limited interest from local businesses. Only a minority are adopting new technologies
- Many skilled engineers are incentivised to go into businesses like BAE systems … need alternative pathways
- Housing Associations may be in a better position than private landlords to ensuring good standards
- Small World Consulting research - modelling cost benefit for retrofitting homes, using EPC data and creating Cumbrian archetypes (using data from Futureproof surveys)… conclusion: not economical for all buildings, but many will pay back within 20 years. Costs go up the more complicated the building.
- ??? What is the strategy to upscale? Ensure homeowners know that they will save money in the long term, and ensure that capital is available to invest. Dilemma re home ownership / landlords … conflict of interest between tenant (who wants secure and energy efficient home) and landlord (who can evict!). Need for more education for landlords + policy change to ensure security for tenants
- New Builds = easier to get mortgages. How incentivise mortgage lenders to support retrofit investment?

14. How can the Lottery support ZCC ambition for a zero carbon Cumbria?

Host: Mark Wear - Lottery

Note-taker: Caroline T

Actions agreed:

- *Shared Future Climate Assembly - Futureproof and Shared Future to discuss.*
- *Erica to disseminate about Health determinants.*
- *Speak to Citizens Assemblies about what a hub means and looks like.*

Key Discussion points:

- Fund change in priorities to drive environ sustainability across UK. £4bill to invest
- Approach - Make sure environ is embedded in other projects. Grass roots, community led/voice. Systems change, equity & inclusion. Partnerships.
- ZCC is a national exemplar within Lottery CAF fund.
- Reaching Comms - helps scale up work. Awards for All - smaller projects.
- Repeat funding ok for A4A.
- Networks for sharing. E.g. materials from Rebuild. Lottery provide over and above money.
- How do general public find out about climate - where do they go? Is Futureproof/ZCC not meeting aims there. Is it reasonable expectation people do want to access these things? Better by stealth - via people seeking materials etc.
- Only 1.5% needed for revolutionary change.
- Link between mental health & environ - public health dept.
- Funding for permanent Climate Assembly - what is the blocker/mistep?
- Erica —Capturing learning. ….
- Connected Communities new project with young people being community researchers, supporting community wealth building.
- Shared learning network - can we build on current structure of Cumbria Sustainability Network?
- Social determinants of health as hooks for funding?

15. What happens to household waste

Host: Hayley Slack
hayley.slack@biffa.co.uk

Note-taker: Laura Blake

Actions agreed:

Actions:

If anyone wants a tour please contact Hayley.

Key Discussion points:

Biffa largest waste manufacturer company in the UK (11,500 people). Have a contract with the council. Very little goes into landfill (2009 contract to build mechanical biological treatment (MBT) processing plants. Contain waste in Cumbria. State of the art when built! (council owed). They have a contract until 2034.

Process: crane – 2 tonnes into a primary shredder, bio drying hall (18-21 days depending on moisture levels), secondary shredder, then sorted – (classed as manufacturer as it's used as substitute for coal (plastics)). But they have to pay for company to take that so incentive to reduce is still there! Supply greater than what they can take. Vibrating plates and magnetics etc used to separate waste.

Soft plastics easier to burn so more desirable. 51% of waste – plastic, paster and textiles

Metals: they get paid for this! Magnetic and non (ferris) 5% of HH = mainly cans. Heavily contaminated so not that valuable (low quality). Can recycled becomes a can again. Biffa's process have to combine with other metals (contracted out to others)

Glass and stone: 4-5% (broken plates and cups). Repurposed to aggregate industry into roads etc (but better to recycle back to glass

Organic matter 8% of waste – mainly food waste. Around 4,500 tonnes per year.. Microbes help to dry out – removes 35% of weight of waste which helps them make money. Current levels work very well so they wouldn't want to see a reduction. Current situation depends on food waste being in the rubbish!

Devon and Wales for example produce about half the waste we do – why are we so high? Education: people don't think about it/have an interest. Smaller bins, reducing collection frequency. Consumers need to be more sustainable and less consumerist in the 1st place – need to change throw away culture. A.I. solutions in the future so should be simpler for consumer.

Better to put things in general waste bin if you don't know what to do with them. Can contaminate recycling but MBT can deal with it.

Playing catch up with what comes up on the market – e.g. compostables. Tetrapack – confusion around whether or not it's recyclable.

What's the emissions related to the burning of waste? Is it better or worse than coal, would it be better in landfill from an emissions POV

If people knew it's being burnt would that change behaviours? But UK needs cement so how do you balance that!

Can reduce carbon footprint by capturing/managing methane. – MBT have anaerobic digester but methane is just release into atmosphere!!! Methane considered emergency break to give us time to capture more carbon. It's cost revenue positive too. Conversion of organic waste into power.

Contracts: what's the plan going forward? 8 years away is a long way off!! But they are in talks. Big value contracts but complicated process to make changes.

Deposit Return Scheme – starting in 2027: e.g. refilling bottles, using tupperware. Plans for soft plastic to be recycled kurb side will be offered in 2027.

16. Restoring and protecting carbon rich landscapes

Host: Aila Taylor aila.taylor@fld.org.uk

Naomi Walker naomi.walker@fld.org.uk

Note-taker: Felicity Scott

3 top highlights

- Community action
- Maximising multi benefits of what we have
- Better access to funding/information

What we should focus on in next 20-30 years

- Chip the brash
- Improve advice given
- Collaboration
- Make most of existing grasslands
- Community action and involvement – we need to lobby for more grassroots funding & work together using existing actions
- Maximise use of trees and woodlands (multiple benefits incl. carbon)
- Hedgerow management education (not just planting)
- Cumbria portal for funding applications
- Love the mess!
- Rewetting

Key Discussion points:

Barriers to maximising carbon storage

- Land ownership – LDNPA owns 4%
- Financing
- Understanding where to access guidance/information
- Social barriers – social isolation
- Carbon cost of reusing land
- Lack of cohesive stats

Opportunities/case studies

- Carbon sequestration on farms
- Rewetting - LNRS opportunity mapping
- Peat partnerships – e.g. Pendle Hedgerows
- Cross-org collaboration
- NT – re-wiggling of river – farmers either side seen benefits and want to do more
- Biochar – Newton Rigg – from hedgerow brash

Playing to strengths/holistic view to restoration – we're in a temperate rainforest zone – incl moss, ferns – so naturally focussing on woodlands gives greater carbon storage per area of land – RSPB at Ullswater arevdoing studies on this – restoring fungi networks on woodlands.

- Projects relating to Cumbrian identity
- DEFRA Natural Flood Management money
- Urban development that's nature friendly

17. Making projects investor ready

Host: Ciara Shannon, Green Finance Lead, North West Net Zero Hub

Note-taker: David F Murphy

Participants: 15

Action areas:

- *Action 1: Create an investor ready portal to provide information about grant funding and financing opportunities.*
- *Action 2: Undertake stakeholder mapping to identify funding needs and opportunities*
- *Action 3: Develop a simple funding portal for the Cumbrian context. Information Hub co-hosted by CMA and/or CCF with case studies of successful project financing initiatives.*
- *Action 4. Influencing Cumbrian businesses to identify and share best practice.*
- *Action 5: Consolidation and streamlining of KPIs to reduce complexity of the funding landscape.*
- *Action 6: Think about how the CMA will provide support and opportunities for investment and funding, For example, Enterprising Cumbria's links to National Wealth Fund and GB Energy Local can provide opportunities.*
- *Action 7: Build capacity to enable businesses, charities and communities to build capacity on investor readiness.*
- *Action 8: Create a single point of access which includes credible green financing specialists to prepare for risk management and identify viable opportunities.*

Key Discussion points:

- Started by focusing on what investors want. Key merits: incentivising via grants and match funding from banks to enable business decision-making towards net zero. Owners can then move forward from a positive starting point.
- Businesses that employ young people and provide training are better positioned to attract investors. Also adopting new technology to enhance efficiency and reduce Co2 emissions has potential to bring investment.
- Think about aggregating? Return on investment RoI) also important to investors.
- Important to understand what kinds of technologies and projects that investors are interested in supporting.
- Repositioning philanthropic approaches to more business-focused., cross-cutting strategic offers beyond CSR or ESG towards core business/management functions.
- Securing grants can help to build the project concept (e.g., feasibility study) and can help to leverage other funding, If a grant application has been scrutinised and approved, it also passes an investor's test.
- What is the payback period? What does the FD look like? Green energy projects need to be seen as a longer-term investment (beyond 5 years?). For example, solar panels have a 40 year time horizon.
- Importance of being flexible and having various options from the outset (e.g., co-operatives; community owned; mixed ownership model, etc.).
- Projects need to be viable and demonstrate a RoI, and be inclusive so that other interested actors can join community projects.
- Do the people involved have the right skill set to ensure project sustainability?
- Clarifying who will own the assets.
- Blended finance (grant funding, capital investment, etc.). Learning by doing.
- GB Energy has various options: GBE Local focusing on capacity building, resilience and community leadership and ownership.
- How do we ensure that local community projects are able to respond to the diverse criteria of funders? Where do community projects find information about what is available?
- Importance of integrating a gender dimension into investment decisions
- Exploring export opportunities for Cumbrian businesses
- Stakeholder mapping could help business owners

18. Identifying the landscape impacts of climate change in Cumbria

Host: Dave Kennedy -EA

Note-taker: David

Actions areas:

- *Who has data?*
- *Who has a budget?*
- *Who would like to be involved?*
- *What are the research gaps from your organisations that the report could address?*

Key Discussion points:

- Working on Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience study has 30k to spend on it. Timescale to complete 1 year.
- Evidence is required
- How is landscape is going to change due to climate change
- What actions and works are taking place. Good practice and data.
- What has the EA study found.
- Data is held by the LDNPA on landscape change.
- What are the biggest risk/ what is fundable.
- Can we backcast to learn from the past.
- Baseline
- We know that our soils /peat and water are degraded so why don't we just repair them
- We need to ensure that we future proof our actions , so greater understanding is required.
- Evidence to leverage funding and bring multiple benefit
- Landscape character documents need updating
- We need to search for good practice and data, examples
- What can work in a Cultural Landscape
- Rothamsted research data
- Westmorland and Furness have data.
- Why is this separate to local nature recovery document documents.
- The National Land Use Framework
- We needs to understand which species and breeds will prevail
- We cannot wait for the perfect we need to act.
- What are the timescale that we are working in.
- We need scientific input and a data repository.
- Are you looking for academic partners
- How will agriculture react to the decoupling of government grants- what impact will thea have.
- Creating a vision for the future. Get artist involved
- Empower local people to make decisions.
- Making short term and long term decisions when required
- The report needs to deliver multiple benefits not just climate resilience.

19. Engaging young people in traditional and repair skills

Host: Rose Lord, Lake District National Park Authority (rose.lord@lakedistrict.gov.uk)

Note-taker: Patrin Watanatada

Actions agreed:

- *Nicola Woolley of Centre for Leadership Performance and Rose Lord of LDNP are going to meet to discuss and take the apprenticeship matchmaking week idea further*

Key Discussion points:

- **Improving skills development:** We need to train the next generation of skilled contractors. Need for succession plan & upskilling in retrofit skills for all archetypes of building stock. We have good colleges but the curriculum isn't teaching these skills. Lakes College has a huge construction department but its focus is mainly modern construction.
- **Making manual labour appealing:** Project management can seem like the “best” option - whereas manual labour is outside, hard work, constant. Important to make manual labour visible and appealing, starting in primary school.
- **Making green building and repair skills visible:** Show young people who want to do manual work that there is another path besides the big local employers. Special attention to kids who may not be well networked; young people on the peninsula or coastal areas who are just googling "construction jobs." Make it lower-commitment and fun. Encourage tradespeople to speak to secondary schools.
- **Showing that this is a long-term career path:** Many young people go to the big local well-known employers because it feels better for their CVs, and many young people can't afford low or unpaid apprenticeships.
- **Supporting young people whose families may not have the time or money to support them on the job search:** E.g. financially to take or travel to apprenticeships, or with knowledge to navigate career options
- **Supporting smaller and solo craftspeople to take on apprentices:** Safeguarding concerns are putting smaller potential employers off. Solo craftspeople can’t take a day off work to present at a career fair or do outreach: a fund to enable craftspeople to showcase their opportunities at career fairs would help. The pitch: it will increase your social value and get the word out about what you do.
- **Could there be an apprenticeship matchmaking week**? builders take on students, we fund it, and it builds confidence on both sides. Need to think about transport funding too, e.g. getting young people from around the county to where the opportunities are.
- **Skills and Development Levy** — could this be drawn on here for funding

21. Are we demanding system change or simply managing change?

Host: Henry

Note-taker: Julia Massey

Actions agreed:

- ***National Emergency Briefing - a short film will be available to showcase across communities*** *- Cumbria Sustainability Network (CSN) (Helen Attwell) is going to promote and encourage communities to show locally; opportunity to combine with the 'big lunch' funding to bring people together to watch the film; need the support of local communities to bring in new audiences; film being released April 2026…..could be linked to GBGW (before & after)*
- ***Hold politicians to account*** *- write to them about issues; we could all take action as individuals (all)*
- ***CSN*** *to draft a letter for local Sustainability groups to* ***Lobby Cumberland Council*** *to appoint a portfolio holder for food emergency (by end June 26)*

Action areas:

- ***The Big Conversation*** *- make climate action tangible for our communities - who, what, when? OnTV - normalise the conversation*
- ***Support a permanent Climate Assembly*** *to ensure that there is a grassroots voice within the system . … who, what, when by*

Key Discussion points:

- The starting point for ZCC was to develop a **radical programme for action** - are we achieving this or are we now serving the power of the authorities?
- Has ZCC lost its way - do we still feel connected to the key issues? Do we have sufficient funding supporting community cohesion and community organisations
- Are we doing enough to challenge system change?
- Could there be more investment from fossil fuel producers to invest in climate action solutions?
- How do we get the right funding to support the right action for a greener, equitable society?
- Partnership working is critical to lever system change.
- Global capitalism - is this suppressing the truth? Polluters should pay
- National Emergency Briefing - short film (see action)
- Individual change can drive systemic change
- Grassroots community groups and actions can lever change and shape/ influence systemic change
- Food Waste - Government did not print full report; however, grass roots requests has levered publication
- Loads of great activity going on across the county - need a better way to share
- Its taken 5 years for ZCCP to develop Action Plans - however, will this legacy actually be realised; who will take ownership of the plans?
- 4 things ruling us - greed; war; male domination; stupidity
- How do we get an inclusive message to all? Decision-makers; corporate leaders; politicians; as well as communities etc Generate the big conversation and tangible examples through TV / SOAP eg: Coronation Street
- How do we reach new audiences - are people feeling alienated - how do we build resilience now eg: growing food
- Need direct challenge - however, is that a conversation that ZCC can have?
- Farming - critical part of the jigsaw
- Be honest
- Hold politicians to account
- No portfolio holder at Cumberland Council for food

25. What does the future of sustainable travel look like for young people?

Host: Honey Barker honey_barker@outlook.com

Note-taker: Laura Goad

Actions agreed:

- *Janet B to connect Honey with the council team leading on home-school transport consultation*
- *All to consider the bigger picture of zero carbon and health benefits from sustainable transport: amplify young people's voices and activism to better prepare them for an independent adulthood: how can we support more young people to contribute to system change?*
- *PACT: setting up a community consultation on the issues (talk to Beth: bethanysavannah@gmail.com*

Key Discussion points:

- The slides that Honey put together to summarise the findings
  - Similar 'asks' by young people across Cumbria
  - Young people do want to travel sustainably

What is the best model for sustainable transport?

- Trains: but connectivity of train services
- Hub and spoke- make a better integrated system and to incorporate active travel (train-bus-walk)

Demand responsive transport (buses can take a detour on an existing route)- pilots in Cumberland. 6 people on a bus = a net reduction in carbon

Need safe storage of bikes/ folding bikes/ shared bikes: need more at stations

Other blockers: anxiety of young people to travel by bus/ older people worried about traveling by bus

Schools needs to support young people who choose to walk/cycle and may arrive wet/ tired, etc or having to adhere to 'rules' about safe cycling equipment (helmets, hi-viz, etc)

Impacts of sustainable travel: independence- widen the spheres of independence which have been shrinking. Can have safety and independence- cultural shift. Significant benefits for active travel

How to get the voices of those travelling actively heard (safety, accidents, etc caused by vehicle drivers?

PEAT research: findings include safe walking routes to school (but difficulties in finding a route that is wholly safe). YP also don't want to get buses they perceive to be 'for old people'.

Friends of the Lake District: focus on sustainable transport in the Lake District: funding for better/more buses, park and ride

27. Climate Story Telling - the positives & the truth

Host: Harriet Fraser

Note-taker: Julia Massey

Actions agreed:

- ***Sign up to Tell Your Green Story: Media and Storytelling*** *- March 25th, 7pm - 8.30pm on Zoom* Events - Futureproof Cumbria *(all - individuals & community groups)*

Calls to Action:

- *Everyone and every organisation needs to be sharing and showcasing local positive stories about grass roots individuals, communities and businesses taking action that makes a difference through different mediums to different audiences -*
- *CSN to keep people in touch to share positive stories*
- *For ZCCP to identify an audience or geography that we could focus on to collate stories*

Key Discussion points:

- Could we normalise the messages through TV SOAPs eg: BBC Climate Conversations
- Finding the right people and medium to connect with different audiences - developing trusted messages, delivered by trusted sources
- Just centre - we need to deliver positive story telling in human, tangible messages,
- We need more positive human stories about climate action - little wins; small actions that can make a difference
- Storying
- How do we empower people to share their stories eg: farmer's who might be adopting new ways of working;
- The balance between communicating 'the truths' of climate change as well as 'stories of hope'
- Living, working and visiting Cumbria in an Eco-friendly way - mapping a directory
- Use of visual mediums
- Importance of sharing stories of 'people like me' who have done something that made a difference eg: actions that are tangible about everyday life

28. Community Renewable Energy

Host: Corentin, Richard Lambeth richard.lambeth@cumberland.gov.uk, Katherine Horne (DSO ENW) katherine.horne@enwl.co.uk

Note-taker: Helen Attewell

Actions agreed:

- *Richard Lambeth (Enterprising Cumbria) offering support for communities interested in taking schemes forward*
- *https://electricitynorthwest.opendatasoft.com/pages/homepage*

Key Discussion points:

- Social DSO fund available to support clean energy schemes - but is is enough? Does there need to be more support available? Do groups know how to access? Funding is to supply and install technology, also training and awareness e.g. energy champions. Scope of funding is changing as needs of communities are better understood. Most projects = solar / solar + batteries
- W&F council has conducted feasibility studies in 7 x rural communities (in part supported by ZCC) - now looking for next steps to implement schemes (investor prospectuses available - identifying solar (on ground and on roofs), hydro, installation of heat pumps etc.)
- How can communities take these schemes forward?
- Enterprising Cumbria also supported SPARK scheme - now looking at how Local Community Power Plan can be promoted in Cumbria
- GB Energy plan to invest £1bn into community and local authority energy projects including feasibility grants - GB community energy fund. May be joint funding projects which can be developed by community groups and local authorities. Loans available + investable projects / grants. Will support capacity building including standardised documents to help developing business cases; shared ownership models e.g. community benefit societies etc. Interested in exploring innovative models too. Want to introduce network of trusted suppliers, bulk buy of solar PV etc to make economic case.
- First stage = EOIs. Development costs e.g. planning permissions could also be covered - theory is that 'all stages will be covered.' Asks - how to make exporting energy as accessible as possible to ensure financial viability
- How do we coordinate? Are there other stakeholders to be included? Are there any 'quick wins' with a strong investment case.
- Improvements in national grid will generate funding for community benefits
- Constraints of the grid are linked to the scale of project … depends on what we are trying to connect; will be hyper local circumstances / aim of project (need to engage early with ENW to consider as part of network development plans).
- Currently lots of investment going into grid upgrades - informed by local needs analysis etc. Long term timescales 2030 -35. More significant shift than e.g. transport
- ENW procure flexibility services linked to demand; suggestion that batteries could help with capacity
- ENW has tool to calculate high level viability indicator in response to feedback
- Futureproof - keen to scale and make sure something really significant happens in Cumbria but aware of the challenges involved in getting new schemes set up
- Futureproof has investigated the potential for installing solar panels on farms - challenge around structural viability of the sheds etc.
- Need to build energy / enthusiasm for community renewables - lots of capacity building, pre-feasibility work required. Smaller projects e.g village halls - have volunteer capacity issue. Public commons share offers would also need resources to make this happen.
- Energy 4 All - can take on commercially viable projects. May be economies of scale if projects work together - also provide peer-to-peer support
- Shareholders - may be older, with more disposable income - how get younger people involved?
- May be dependent on one or two key people - risk without a critical mass of projects
- May face disinformation / misinformation - which can create push back from communities - need for communication and engagement to promote community benefits (e..g money off bills, support for local charities)
- Need for some good practice examples to demonstrate success
- Opportunity to link with the development of resilience hubs
- Insurance = massive proportion of costs of small schemes

30. Climate Psychology: Beyond hope

Host: Tom Deacon, Futureproof Cumbria

Note-taker: David F Murphy

Actions agreed:

- *Action 1: Various climate psychology resources are offered by Tom/Futureproof to enable participants to unlock 'trapedness', overcome anxiety, etc.*
- *Action 2: Develop a central hub to share and communicate more actively available resources.*
- *Action 3: Be proactive in identifying opportunities to speak up and advocate to enable others to take action (e.g., saving energy and resources).*
- *Action 4: Access Active Hope resources as forms of healthy and supportive group process.*

Key Discussion points:

- Important to consider how climate emotion is part of wider societal concerns about our individual and collective mental health and wellbeing.
- The Climate Emotion Wheel is a helpful framework for making sense of how we each individually reflect on our own evolving experiences of engaging with our emotions about climate or making sense of how we feel and have felt about our work on climate issues.
- Some people have refocused their work and efforts when facing climate burnout exacerbated by other 'wicked problem' such as Brexit, Covid, Cost of Living crisis, etc.
- Difficult conversations are very challenging for people.
- Finding others that share our climate anxiety and at the same time our commitment to take action.
- Talking about our feelings and basic human needs can enable meaningful conversations with those who are disengaged or disinterested in climate issues.. This can help to enable people to articulate both their fears and hopes.
- The Process Model of Eco-anxiety and Ecological Grief (P. Pihkala, 2022) offers a framework to enable people to stay effective and mentally healthy while worrying about the planet. It has the potential to enable people to find a way to turn anxiety into a more holistic perspective and lifestyle that includes rest and meaningful goals.
- Some people's reaction is to put their head in the sand to avoid dealing with difficult issues.
- Self and collective care processes are vital.
- Recognise that we are not alone.

26. What could a low carbon Cumbria look like?

Host: Alistair - Low Carbon Transport

Note-taker: Bex

Actions agreed:

- *ALL to put pressure on decision makers to make sure transport solutions make sustainable travel easy and simple to use (bus stops in places where people need them!)*
- *ALL Engage with the local plan - as an opportunity to set out what "good" looks like for people locally!!!!!*
- *To ensure that leadership at the Combined Authority is towards more visionary access and transport systems for Cumbria's communities as well as focussing on operational aspects of transport*

Key Discussion points:

- Building up persona's - developing an understanding of what is important to people to help build solutions/models
- Lots of new conversations but has it translated into action and progress? Limited?
- What about a handbook on what can be done in communities to help them be more low carbon - tangible, physical things - like when trying to make dementia friendly towns? Tools are needed to do this - what are the tools? Do they not already exist?
- We don't talk often enough about what it could be like. It's got to be the right message to the right people, to get them on board.
- Centre Parcs - people pay to bike and walk to the pool/shop - how can we do this in our own villages?
- How do we enable people to understand what it means for them - it needs to be made real for individuals in their own way? Sell the benefit, not the concept.
- How do we ensure that people understand the 'other' options - if they can't see it/haven't experienced it.
- Leadership is key in making this happen - could be at the community level (but could lead to ostracized) but to get scaled - needs to be at a county/regional level.
- Leadership without vision won't work.
- Need to understand why the networks/messengers aren't saying this?
- Projects/schemes aren't linked - homeworking could have been linked to home energy efficiencies for example. People aren't facilitating this.
- Missing the practical elements that make it simple to do the right thing. Do you incentivise or disincentivise to make it happen? What do people favour? What makes things happen?
- Does it all come down to communication to make people want to have 'that type of life' to make it happen if it's not happening now, with all the guidance and info out there??
-

31. LDNP Wild deer strategy

Host: Alice Collier
alice.collier@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Note-taker: Laura Blake

Actions agreed:

- *Action 1: carbon footprint – Alice to check if WDS Steering Group have an established wild venison carbon footprint figure and if not what work is being done.*

Key Discussion points:

- 24 organisations in partnership. Have developed a strategy with 5 main themes. Actions and measures of success identified in document. The official launch is in April at Rheged, and document will be available online from this
- Deer – becoming a problem for many reasons. Developed strategy as part of current LDNP Partnership Plan actions..
- Opportunity to sell the meat. Biggest challenge: infrastructure on getting deer to market. Sometimes it can be culled but just left. Need processing facilities nearby but there aren't many around. Linking it to LDNP helps branding, especially for tourism.
- One of Strategy outcomes is deer festival in October being hosted by Cumbrian Connect (CC): values and impacts of deer. Starting to breakdown any concerns people may have about managing deer. CC also have two deer management apprentices.
- How many is too many? All about impact. General consensus is we have too many at the moment. Can tell what's eating what where. Can see when they spill out on other habitats. Not just woodlands but farmland and in SSSIs etc.
- Suppliers and food businesses need to understand this stuff too. (hospitality market and end consumer). Brand – provenance has to be genuinely wild. Need to manage and protect brand. (how do we do assurance)
- Seasonal menus have an important part to play! Deer is seasonal and need businesses that can work with this.
- Public reaction: still mixed but powerful sustainability messages will help. Need to work hard on animal welfare concerns and working with deer stalkers to make it as ethical as possible. There is still customer choice.

32. Motivating the next generation

Host:

Note-taker: Karen Rutter

Actions agreed:

- *Develop case studies on wormeries, rebuild and other projects*
- *Barbara - case study on composting, organic gardening*
- *Link up with other organisations*
- *Comms link - clips/info for social media*
- *Revisit attendees @ SL+CAP*

Key Discussion points:

- Karen Rutter working in early years - climate action plan, washing and food waste
- Work in homes, schools and communities
- Getting children to actually do things - composting, recycling projects
- Save money as well as helping the environment - e.g. washing nappies, cooking
- Healthy Happy Families programme
- Climate action Plan programme - 150 nurseries and childminders given practical climate action tips
- Rebuild outdoor play areas and introduce wormeries and compost bins
- Use of portable microscopes to look at microbes in compost
- Garden Organic - national charity supporting compost as source of rich growing medium for fruit and veg. Provides volunteers and coordinators to go into schools and summits

Scan the QR codes
with your camera to
download the walking
route
More information is available at
Reception
Great Mell
Fell
Little Mell
Fell
Pooley Bridge
Ullswater
Dalemain
Gowbarrow
Aira
Force
Arthurs Pike
Bonscale Pike
Howtown
Martindale
Hallin Fell

33. The Lake District National Park Management Plan - What are the gaps?

Key Discussion points:

Host: Tim Duckmanton **Note-taker:** Rosie Halsall

- Carbon emissions of 2.2m tonnes in 2022 need to be reduced by 77% in 2031. Nearly half is from travel - other emissions are land-based, food & drink, energy. Want to check the feasibility and gaps in the plan.
- ZCCP partners are agreed on targets for tree & woodland establishment and peat restoration. But how do we tackle transport emissions when the people able to make the changes when the partners we need aren't our partners?

Travel

- Glover Report & LDNPA Smart Travel Plan had good ideas. Should partners lobby for Glover Report to be back on the agenda as government seeks "vision-led" transport plans.
- Could a visitor levy (bed levy or visitor vehicle levy) fund better transport in the National Park? Friends of the Lake District have done lots of work around the levy - YouGov research suggests people support the levy, and using the levy to fund transport.
- Some successful things are already in place .e.g buses (improved thanks to national gov's £2 bus fare)
- We need to work with those outside of the county (where tourists are coming from) to create an effective lobby for better infrastructure for tourists (as transport funding is based on population not size, which discriminates against us).
- Commuters - trains and buses are full and the demand is there.
- Add a passing loop on the Windermere-Oxenholme line - something a mayor could support with. Can we run an electric bus in the meantime to show how that would work (brand it Herdy Line, like Manchester's Bee Network)
- Better tourist travel should be aspirational - people don't come to the Lakes to sit in the car.
- The National Lottery like to fund big partnerships working on big projects - the LDNPA, local councils.
- Having space and infrastructure for Park & Ride systems is difficult, and wouldn't dissuade people from bringing their car.
- National Park is a national asset for everyone - don't want to limit visitors.

Agricultural emissions

- NFU think the plan is achievable, but need to then work with people on the ground. Need to have bespoke, meaningful and tangible advice to each separate farm.
- Turning peatland into a tourist attraction?
- Should we prioritise a longer term ambition of being a carbon sink (and allow EVs to reduce transport emissions)?
- More collaboration between LDNPA and parish councils on this? Can be difficult to discuss as it means changes to people's businesses.

Other

- How to communicate the Plan to the public? Some consider it to have an "anti-car" angle. People trust the National Park, community groups.
- Need to retain positivity and hope even though data points aren't where they should be. We need to share positive stories.
- Some discussion about whether we need to scare people with the truth about climate action, or to persuade them on the grounds of cost-saving.
- Landscape resilience comes from some carbon reduction measures.

34. How do we better engage all groups

Host: Erica Lewis erica.lewis@cumbria.ac.uk

Actions agreed:

- In relation to session 2A Erica agree to look at where the MCA constitution process was up to and potentially draft an amendment and supporting correspondence.

Key Discussion points:

- **NB this discussion group did not go ahead as a stand alone session, but was heavily discussed in session 2A permanent citizens' assembly**
- There is a broad consensus that public engagement is necessary to ensure achievement of zero carbon communities.
- However, that discussion of public engagement, with the exception of young people, often over looks other equality groups.
- Despite commitments being made under international human rights treaties to those groups - women, disabilities, race, indigeneity, children plus local factors like poverty and rurality and of courses their intersections.
- In order to ensure a just transition we need to ensure that all the voices are included in public participations.

36. How do we accelerate urban greening?

Host: Andrew Brookes, Curtins Consulting
andrew.brookes@curtins.com

Note-taker: Felicity Scott

Successful schemes

- Stramongate – Kendal (Curtins Consulting)
- Devonshire Street, Carlisle (Curtins Consulting)
- Market Sq, Carlisle (Curtins)
- English Street (WSP Consulting)
- GreenBlue Urban | Creating Healthier Urban Spaces In Harmony With Nature – 100s of examples! Provide free design work.
- Rochdale – 'Revealing the Roch' case study – opened up lost streams and becks

Sources

- CIRIA C753 The SUDS Manual – for derisk guidance
- Water framework directive – EU legislation (1 of drivers is reopening culverted watercourses)

Funding

- Levelling up fund – Kendal, Carlisle received funding so there is capital available

Action

- To mandate council to replace trees that have been felled and restoring common ground (eg orchards, free food)

Key Discussion points:

What is urban greening? – reduce hardstandings, create more permeable surfaces in urban landscape – mimicking more natural landscape

Benefits – by adding more vegetation – reduce rate and volume or surface water runoff. Vegetated areas help filter the pollutants out improving water quality, increasing biodiversity, creating habitats, street cooling (urban street island effect), enjoyable spaces for people to be closer to nature, open culverts have much higher flow capacity and attenuation (holding of water), reduce urban heating

Examples – trees, opening up water courses (culverts), green roofs/walls (reduce surface water, low maintenance as long as don't use mains water for irrigation)

Challenges

- Trees need good root space ($20m^3$) and protection using structure similar to SUDS crate, ventilation, irrigation.
- Labyrinth of services! (not always where you would expect)
- Cultural shift needed – particularly around car use – to increase green space available
- Concerns about H&S
- Cost of maintenance (other orgs often take on instead of Highway Authority – eg Kendal in Bloom)

Can we get tree lined avenues back?

Yes! There is a lot going on (and there is a historic precedence). Check out successes to the left.

Closing and evaluation

Sarah Swindley thanked the facilitators, ZCC team, and all attendees for an inspiring and productive day. She had three key take-aways from the actions she had seen in the draft report:

- an overarching commitment to follow up on **new connections** that had been made
- the strength of **collaboration** between different organisations to **lobby government for change**
- the **crucial role of young people**, who will represent more than 30% of the vote in the mayoral elections, to drive change.

Sarah was confident that the momentum towards a low carbon future in Cumbria would be carried forward into the actions committed to by individuals.

When asked what they had most appreciated about the day, participants gave a wide range of positive feedback - including that they valued the opportunity to share ideas with a diverse range of people who cared, to discuss topics that were important to them in a self-directed way, and to learn about new initiatives in the county and to learn from young people.

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