

Fulford Climate and Ecological Emergency Vision and Strategy February 2021

City of York declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and Fulford Parish Council did so in November 2019. This document outlines the issues and starts an exploration of what Fulford can do to reduce its impact on ecosystems and the climate. Fulford has a part to play in enabling City of York reach its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The recognition of human impacts on the planet can be traced back at least to the 1960s, when Rachel Carson showed the destruction caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Environmental damage and increasingly turbulent weather patterns created by human activity has been known about for decades, but little has been done. In fact, the situation continues to worsen, and many authoritative voices now agree that immediate and widespread action is needed to prevent environmental collapse and the risk of a sixth mass extinction event. The young climate activist, Greta Thunberg, reminds us that it is up to us to ensure the planet is habitable for her generation. Sir David Attenborough, in his recent television documentary, *The Perfect Planet*, showed both the effects of human exploitation of the planet's resources, and reparative actions around the world that restore habitat and reduce damaging consumption. The Chatham House thinktank reported in February 2021 that cheap meat-based diets are harmful not only to human beings (and public health systems) but to the planet, with agriculture and food systems being the largest threat to the natural world.

Increasingly people recognise that the climate emergency and ecosystem destruction are interlinked, and that humans are part of nature, not separate from it. The imperative is to stop treating the earth as an inexhaustible resource, and instead scale back and reverse the damage. This is no longer a controversial proposal: a recent book by Jason Hickel cites surveys showing that a majority of people in many parts of the world, including the UK, are concerned about the climate and the environment, and consider it a major policy issue for government.

The idea of tackling a huge global phenomenon can make people feel helpless and believe that small local changes make no difference. However, the National Association of Local Councils recently published a series of case studies, showing what councils small and large are doing to tackle these issues at a local level. This document draws on those case studies to create a starting point for Fulford Parish Council. The Council cannot act alone; the involvement of local people will be essential.

The Climate Emergency Working group makes **three proposals**. **First**, to change its name to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group. **Second**, to initiate the formation of a local Climate and Ecology Action Group. **Third**, for Fulford Parish Council to adopt this document as a working document to be developed and reviewed every six months.

References

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Carson, R (1962) *Silent Spring*, Boston, Houghton Mifflin.

Hickel, J (2020) *Less is More: How Degrowth will Save the World*, London, Heinemann.

NALC (2020) *Case Studies; Climate Change*, London, NALC.

Type of activity	Examples	Responsibility	FPC role	How to do	Funding
Community involvement	Recruit a Fulford Climate and Ecology Action Group with the capacity to work with the FPC to develop and complete projects.	FPC	Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group (CEEWG)	Social media, Parish Council Board, via York Covid-Volunteer system	This column needs further development to become a plan. FPC, Ward Committee, CoY, Awards for All, Big Lottery & Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, wildlife and other charities and crowdfunding are all possible sources.
Get data (carbon footprint)	Work with local Colleges and Universities to measure and understand Fulford's carbon footprint and subsequently prepare a series of achievable actions.	FPC	Support Climate and Ecology Action Group	Consult both universities	
Get data (pollution)	Enable local schoolchildren to monitor the air quality outside schools and then educating motorists about the impact on children's' health of keeping engines idling.	FPC	Support Climate and Ecology Action Group	Work with local head teachers.	
Inform, engage, consult and develop ideas	Hold an Environment Day. Host local agencies, environmental groups and members of the community with an environmental interest to provide information on their aims and what they do.	FPC or Fulford Show	Liaise about stalls at Fulford Show or hold separate event at Social Hall	One Planet York, Friends of the Earth, etc.	
	Establish a forum including businesses, local organisations and residents to develop ideas to make Fulford carbon neutral.		Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group (CEEWG)		

Type of activity	Examples	Responsibility	FPC role	How to do	Funding
Inform, engage, consult and develop ideas (cont.)	Yearly competition of Fulford schoolchildren and young people to develop ideas to make Fulford carbon neutral.	FPC and Fulford Show	CEEWG Seek donation for a trophy or prize at Fulford Show.	Suggest to the local head teachers. Prize at Fulford Show.	
	Hold consultations on ideas and designs, over a period of a month in local public places.	CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Organise consultation	Online through Social Media and a Zoom meeting; Social Hall; Library; Church Hall; car park behind the Saddle Inn.	
Improve the green environment	Hold an open meeting for residents on how to increase biodiversity in gardens and reduce the impact of climate change. Reduce use of pesticides	CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Organise a meeting on Zoom or at the Social Hall, Church Hall or behind the Saddle Inn.	Invite experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Trust • Yorkshire Wildlife • RSPB 	
	Plant and encourage planting of trees, including fruit and nut trees, on parish land, the highway, and in people's gardens. Identify suitable sites, types of tree, planting schemes and best time of year for planting. Recruit volunteer tree guardians to ensure that the young trees receive enough water to survive.		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group, Fulford in Bloom and other voluntary groups.	Survey suitable sites. Liaise with providers and voluntary groups Recruit tree guardians via social media etc.	Woodland Trust; Environment Agency; Rogers of Pickering; Business or individual donors.
	Monitor and respond to all proposals by City of York Council for re-zoning of land which could entail removal of trees.	FPC & City Council	Planning WG		

Type of activity	Examples	Responsibility	FPC role	How to do	Funding
Improve the green environment (cont)	Monitor and respond to all Fulford planning applications to City of York Council which could entail removal of trees.	FPC & City Council	Planning WG		
	Plant wildflowers Support a local group to establish a wildflower area.		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group, Fulford in Bloom and other voluntary groups.	Survey suitable sites. Seek additional advice and guidance from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.	
	Propose to City of York Council that identified grass verges be left uncut for the coming year to see what naturally establishes itself.	City of York verges	CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Seek additional advice and guidance from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.	
	Heritage orchard: help develop a larger group to manage and improve the orchard		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group		
	Link open spaces together with 'green routes'.	City Council?			
	Encourage grassroots community projects such as gardens. Sponsor a tree - natural enhancement of green spaces and parks		Open Spaces WG: Allotments Planning WG CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group		

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Improve the built environment	FPC buildings: Social Hall, Cemetery Lodge		Social Hall WG, Cemetery WG, work towards improvements in insulation, glazing and heat sources	Develop a plan	
	New buildings to be as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible. Existing buildings to be improved to be more sustainable with a reduced carbon footprint where practicable. Alterations designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with sustainable design and construction standards.	City of York	Planning WG	Monitor and make recommendations on planning applications	
Improve energy use	Change FPC energy suppliers to purchase gas and 100% Renewable Electricity from a UK green tariff company that is also building Renewable Energy capacity.		FPC		
	Retro-fit existing buildings with energy-positive technology.		FPC	Develop a plan	
	Develop a solar streets programme	Fulford Show, GreenFest, invite suppliers	CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Work with One Planet York, York Community Energy	

Type of activity	Examples	Responsibility	FPC role	How to do	Funding
Reduce pollution	Reducing cars/traffic particularly concerning school traffic				
	Work with partners to provide a support infrastructure for electric transport Enterprise car club space in Fulford? Public e-charging point? E-car from car club?			Work with schools, Designer Outlet & Enterprise Car Club	donated Zero Carbon World EV Charging Stations
	Kick the Habit anti-idling campaign	City of York		Work with local business, schools to display 'Kick the Habit' posters	
	Electric Car Club to promote the shared use of electric vehicles.		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group		
	Encourage car sharing		Promote Liftshare		
	Monthly car-free day				
	Install more cycle parking		E.g. outside pharmacy		
	More cycleways and footpaths, to reduce car dependency. 'Green Walk' initiative	City of York	Advise about routes, consult with local people about 'lines of desire'		
	Provide more benches.				Donations?
	Local food production and marketing to reduce food miles, as well as encouraging fair trade.		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Work with local farmers/suppliers/pubs etc	

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Reduce use of plastics	Install drinking fountains	City of York?		Identify sites e.g. parish field, pavilion, Fordlands Road, library	
	Refill scheme, which aims to make it easier to reuse and refill your bottle with free at cafes, pubs etc		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Work with local pubs and cafés to stop selling bottled water and offer refills of tap water	
	<p>A voluntary plastic-clever scheme which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bags – This could involve an incentive for customers to use their own bags or provision or themed/branded bags for sale, with profits to local charities. • Plastic cups/straws/stirrers – To be replaced with biodegradable alternatives – paper or pasta straws, discounts for using your own cup, bamboo stirrers. • Plastic/Polystyrene packaging – To be replaced with biodegradable alternatives. • Use of own containers by customers • Fulford Show will be asked to include plastic-free guidelines for traders and attractions 		CEEWG and Climate and Ecology Action Group	Work with local shops and cafés	

Type of activity	Examples	Responsibility	FPC role	How to do	Funding
Reduce consumption	Repair Café				
	A 'Library of Things' to enable easy borrowing of items such as tools as opposed to purchasing				
	Reduce food waste. Encourage plant-based diets & natural food production		CEEWG & Climate and Ecology Action Group	Invite experts such as Edible York, allotmenters. Hold a meeting, stall at Fulford Show, or have GreenFest day. Fulford Show: encourage suppliers or seek out food providers who offer more plant-based dishes. School meals?	
	Promote water-saving		CEEWG & Climate and Ecology Action Group		
	Promote composting		Open Spaces & CEEWG & Climate and Ecology Action Group	Allotmenters become a 'Champion' for composting.	

Cllr. Juliet Koprowska 4 February 2021