

Furness Citizens' Jury on Climate Change Recommendations

The question considered by the Furness Citizens' Jury on Climate Change was, *'What should happen in the Furness area to address the emergency of climate change?'*

Jury statement

The following statement was written by a group of jury members and then edited and discussed by the rest of the jury. Over 90% of the 18 jury members who voted on the recommendations either strongly support or support the statement:

'We are a diverse energetic group of Furness citizens which reflect the make-up of the local community. We have come together with a range of different opinions and ideas. We have heard from a range of speakers and have challenged them to further our understanding and knowledge. We have not always agreed and have had challenging discussions before reaching our conclusions which has promoted our learning.

We believe that climate change is something that affects everyone. We have taken this process to heart.

This has left many of us feeling overwhelmed but hopeful and enthusiastic that our small steps can make a difference.

Through our work we have produced a shared vision which we believe will do the best for Furness residents, businesses and organisations.

We feel positive that there is much work going on but that few people know of this. We also believe in the power of change as a positive which itself can create energy to produce the local solutions which must be the focus of our work.

But there is much to be done. We need a co-ordinated approach to get the best for Furness. We need a clear costed plan that lets all citizens know what is going to happen in the future as well as confidence in council leadership. We must recognise that we all must take responsibility and not leave it to someone else.'

Recommendations

The recommendations have been put into themes for the purposes of the small group discussions

	Poin ts	Rank
<p>OTHER</p> <p>1) There should be a thorough review of recycling - the council should give clear information about what can and cannot be recycled by households (using a variety of mediums for information to be accessible to all), especially as regards plastics, to ensure effectiveness and avoid damaging scepticism about the value of recycling. This scepticism can unhelpfully feed wider sentiment against other policies to address climate change. The council should take the following actions on recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) introduce an awareness programme within schools to engage young people and their families on recycling, e.g. by demos in school showing types of plastics that can and cannot be recycled, school trips to see conveyor belt sorting taking place etc. b) provide better facilities and support for recycling for residents in blocks of flats. c) enforce the contract for waste collection in relation to correctly dealing with misplaced recycling. A full load should not be rejected if misplaced items can be removed. d) introduce kerbside conversations with residents and a wider education campaign (including the use of incentives) that could encourage correct recycling. 	34	=1st
<p>OTHER</p> <p>2) The council should prioritise the creation of more green spaces within the town centre and surrounding areas, both through planning and via other means, e.g. repurposing large or small areas of wasteland not in use.</p>	30	=2nd
<p>OTHER</p> <p>3) Trees and carbon sinks in the local area should be protected. A baseline study should be undertaken to establish the current situation and an implementation plan for improvements. Trees should also be included and considered in Barrow council's planning guidelines.</p>	30	=2nd

<p>ENCOURAGING ACTION IN COUNCIL, LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES</p> <p>4) The council should report back to this jury every 6 months. The jury requires transparent explanations about the extent of progress with the final recommendations. SMART objectives should be identified by The Council (e.g. Climate Change Lead in collaboration with relevant people or departments and/or outside agencies) in relation to each of the recommendations. The council should give consideration to how they can continue to support jury members who wish to continue their involvement in the work of the jury.</p>	29	=4th
<p>OTHER</p> <p>5) Locally produced food has very low food miles and can sequester carbon –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the council should bring overgrown allotment plots back into a manageable condition so that they can be effectively taken on by people on the allotment waiting list. Regular inspections should be undertaken to ensure that plots are kept in working order, and can be reclaimed if not in use. Access to allotments, including shared community allotments, should be prioritised. b. It must be made easier to link local people up with local food producers, to buy local food. 	29	=4th
<p>ENERGY</p> <p>6) Local government should lobby national government to accelerate the changes to 2025 Future Homes Standard to ensure that planning and building control should only permit new builds (domestic and commercial) if they meet the highest energy efficiency (EPC) standard. This should include solar panels and heat pumps or other technologies as appropriate. Also, old / ruined buildings in Barrow should be repurposed or rebuilt on before building on green spaces.</p>	28	=6th

<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>7) We need investment in cycling infrastructure and cycle paths to encourage more people to cycle. This should be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) cycle lanes and road surfaces being clearly marked and well maintained (road surfaces and cycle lanes require different surfacing materials). We should lobby for extra funding for this. b) better mapping and showcasing of existing and future footpath and cycle routes and links to encourage use. This should be made as simple as a tube map on a board, or like the routes around Grizedale. c) the council converting more footpaths to bridleways to be used for cycling. d) secure places for bike storage to encourage cycling. e) raising awareness in Furness of cyclists' rights to be on paths and roads. f) enabling cycling between Barrow, Dalton, Ulverston and beyond with minimal interaction with traffic, using segregated routes. g) the council making sure that encouraging electric bike use for medium journeys should be included in transport plans. 	27	=7th
<p>ENERGY</p> <p>8) Increase access to expert impartial advice on energy saving measures available to households such as the Cumbria Action for Sustainability Cold to Cosy scheme which could be much more widely promoted. Promotion should be targeted at local residents including via social media as well as on the ground e.g. multiple supermarket noticeboards, Leisure Centre, Libraries, health centres etc. These schemes should incorporate learning from initiatives that have been implemented in the past, e.g. the Green Homes Grant.</p>	26	=8th

ENCOURAGING ACTION IN COUNCIL, LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES

26

=8th

9) There needs to be a comprehensive plan on how best to **inspire action** through **informing the public** on a) everything that relates to climate change and b) what action can be taken. The council needs to be proactive about using all possible methods to inform the public (and businesses) (including social media, and informal and community networks). The communications and engagement strategy needs a thorough review, as current methods are outdated and boring. This can be done by getting advice from a wide range of people, including young people and considering what can be used as a 'hook' (e.g. linking things to the rubbish / recycling collection calendar)

- a) There should be a **well-designed, concise community leaflet distributed to residents monthly**, highlighting positive actions being taken and key steps people can take now, including from local businesses (who might contribute to the cost as a way of drip-feeding encouragement and engagement without being overwhelming).
- b) **A festival should be initiated** for fun, inspiration, and environmental action that harnesses the arts, participation and learning.
- c) A **network of local community champions** should be created and supported to act as a hub for environmental action.
- d) **Climate change should be a regular topic in school assemblies.**
 'People's Assemblies' should be held on climate change for adults that are led by childrens' perspectives.

In putting this plan together, we need to **shift from telling people about the doom-laden crisis** to telling stories and sharing optimistic examples about the positive benefits of taking action to tackle climate change, such as wellbeing and biodiverse green spaces. This **engagement needs to meet people where they are** - from Tesco, to the gym, or the rugby ground. Instead of inviting people to events, we should take events / festivals to them, including using the arts, such as street performances, and harnessing the enthusiasm and perspectives of young people. See the Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy as an example of engagement methods.

TRANSPORT

25

=10th

10) The local Business Improvement District should be encouraged to focus their membership and **wider business community to actively promote low carbon travel options for their employees.** This could include an electric vehicle fleet funded by larger businesses to offer coordinated transport options for people getting to and from work. The use of electric bikes could be more widely promoted and financially supported for employees by businesses.

<p>ENERGY</p> <p>11) The jury recommends a fully funded scheme to retrofit all housing stock in Furness for better insulation and improved quality of housing provision, to reduce energy wastage and increase energy saving and generation. There should be a review of older housing stock in the area to decide the most efficient way of implementing modifications in a phased way. This should be undertaken jointly by the housing and climate change departments of the Council. Financial support for those least able to afford insulation, energy saving and energy generation measures must be prioritised. This would reduce carbon emissions from homes and reduce energy and heating bills which is essential due to high energy prices</p>	25	=10t h
<p>OTHER</p> <p>12) Funding: The council needs to consider where the burden of paying for all the necessary measures falls. All possible sources of funding should be explored to avoid putting the financial burden onto local residents, especially those who are least able to pay. The contribution of the area to national energy requirements (e.g. electricity generation from offshore wind farms) should be used as leverage for central government funding for local measures to address climate change.</p>	25	=10t h
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>13) Bus services should be made more appealing to encourage the use of public transport. This should be done by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> increasing the frequency on routes that are busy implementing bus routes in areas that get insufficient service. The allocation of more bus passes for local residents. advertising and educating residents about bus pass availability, bus times, and ticket types to increase awareness of available options for public transport in Furness. investing to replace large and double decker buses with more frequent smaller, efficient or electric people carriers. Routes could then also be expanded to include rural communities currently not accessible by large buses. ensuring that local timetables connect/link with other forms of transport 	24	=13t h

<p>ENERGY</p> <p>14) Funding for addressing climate change is vital. We are concerned that the current 'green levy' on energy bills could be lost given the pressure on bills. There should be a windfall tax on high carbon energy generators, which the Council should support and lobby for as well as fair taxation and an end to fossil fuel subsidies for the long term, to enhance, or if necessary replace, the current green levy and ensure that funding for climate change measures is not compromised and that everybody can affordably live in warm and well insulated homes.</p>	24	=13th
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>15) Businesses and transport providers should work together to encourage the use of public transport by offering an incentive and increasing services at certain times. If people buy a multi-trip bus ticket (e.g. a day rider or monthly pass), they could also receive a discount card for local participating businesses. This could include discounts at shops, or perhaps a free meal in a restaurant. Bus services should also increase in line with offers within the discount card (e.g. later evening services to improve night-time economy etc). Staff of participating businesses could be offered free bus travel in return.</p>	23	=15th
<p>ENCOURAGING ACTION IN COUNCIL, LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES</p> <p>16) The council should provide funding for community hubs. Support should be given for all local areas to have an active community hub (physical or virtual) for residents to connect with each other with information, activities and climate action. Such hubs could for example encourage, through rewards, vouchers or prizes for picking up litter or recycling.</p>	23	=15th

<p>ENCOURAGING ACTION IN COUNCIL, LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES</p> <p>17) Businesses should encourage behaviour change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Schemes like the BAE pledge schemes can be used to encourage people to change their behaviours around climate change, for example by turning pledges in exchange for vouchers. These pledges could include walking or cycling to work. Other businesses in Furness could adopt the same approach. b. Companies or employers such as the council / Sellafield / BAE should provide a shuttle bus service for employees between car parks or from parts of Furness. This will discourage employees from driving their cars, reducing car use and the carbon footprint from employees travelling to work c. Businesses in Furness should enable more people to work from home, or adopt hybrid working patterns, to reduce the need to travel to work. 	23	=15t h
<p>OTHER</p> <p>18) Food and farming. The council and others need to support our farmers to farm in a way that means that our farms can act as carbon sinks and encourage biodiversity both through re-wilding and other approaches.</p>	23	=15t h
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>19) This jury urges the Council to commission a report setting out a vision of what a low-carbon transport system for Furness (including links with surrounding areas) could look like based on best practice elsewhere (with citizen input). Achieving such a vision would reduce climate change impacts, enhance local prosperity by creating business opportunities and increase choices in work and leisure for a wider range of people through improved transport options. To achieve this vision our recommendation is that council should directly employ an officer/s with knowledge and experience about low carbon transport who can lead the transition to low carbon travel and inspire the public and businesses as a key part of the process.</p> <p>The cross-party support of Council members is vital to ensure action. This vision should include non-car connectivity with the Lake District and local coastal areas (taking into account desirable end points, target markets, which organisations might lead on development and delivery etc. with a view to trialing different initiatives ahead of new local government reorganisation in 2023).</p>	22	=19t h

<p>ENERGY</p> <p>20) Solar panels should be installed on as many buildings in Furness as appropriate, alongside better insulation. The council needs to make it easy for solar panels to be installed on buildings, for e.g., by addressing planning permissions to allow solar panels to be installed.</p>	22	=19th
<p>ENERGY</p> <p>21) Homeowners should be encouraged and incentivised to make their properties energy efficient, and landlords should be encouraged and incentivised to make their properties better insulated and energy efficient for their tenants. Energy saving, insulation and energy generating solutions should be made affordable for all. For example, the council could lobby for a link between council tax rates and home energy efficiency / EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) ratings. The council should also explore / influence the potential to lift / reconsider restrictions on buildings that prevent energy saving measures e.g. listed buildings.</p>	22	=19th
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>22) We should encourage more people to walk by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implementing schemes to incentivise walking to school such as through discounts, subsidies for trainers, good shoes and protective clothing. We can also organise a local walking / running competition to schools or workplaces for a term or more, with gym / PE equipment / similar as prizes. b) Providing facilities for runners, walkers and cyclists (including at workplaces) for changing and showering, with storage space (such as lockers or hanger space) or a dry room to dry clothes. c) Incentivising children to walk to school, for e.g. through stamps on a card. This might also encourage parents to help them to walk to school. d) Overhauling of traffic light signal priorities to benefit pedestrians and road users alike by making them smarter and more time efficient. 	21	=22nd
<p>OTHER</p> <p>23) The Council need to build an engaging community vision emphasising the positive aspects and benefits of addressing climate change together, including everyone from businesses to citizens.</p>	20	=23rd

<p>ENERGY</p> <p>24) The North Morecambe gas field / terminal is becoming obsolete in the next few years - there should be an investigation on how the site might be repurposed to generate green energy and retain / redeploy staff in green jobs.</p>	19	=24t h
<p>OTHER</p> <p>25) There should be a thorough investigation into the potential for sea grass as a carbon sink in the Furness area.</p>	19	=24t h
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>26) We should have a bus service that is either free or heavily subsidised. Before local government is reorganised, the council should investigate how this can be paid for without causing low-income households to bear the cost through taxation - some options could include a tourist tax or a contract workers tax. Other options could include: free bus services for locals who meet the criteria of local occupancy in Furness, or at least 1 free return bus journey per day.</p>	17	=26t h
<p>ENERGY</p> <p>27) Green hydrogen needs to be pushed forward by supporting companies in Barrow that are connected to the energy generation industry, while encouraging other industries in Barrow to take up hydrogen, creating many jobs, preferably on the Spirit Energy plant which is currently winding down. Companies should be encouraged to build an electrolysis plant to split water to produce hydrogen, with oxygen as a byproduct, as a zero carbon method of hydrogen production.</p>	16	=27t h
<p>ENERGY</p> <p>28) The council needs to have a future vision of how Furness can produce its own low carbon energy, a comprehensive plan with a mission statement, objectives, and pledges. They need to be showing council commitments towards low carbon energy. The council should also appoint a head figure that is identifiable as the person responsible for moving things forward.</p>	15	=28t h

ENERGY

29) We are excited about the potential of **wind power** in Barrow. However, we recommend that the materials and wind turbines for wind farms in the UK should be produced locally instead of being imported. We are also concerned about emissions during the production process of wind turbines. These materials too should be more sustainable and recyclable. (Wind turbines could be mounted on lampposts on major routes for example, on the A590, in order to use energy generated by passing traffic).

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<p>ENERGY</p> <p>30) The council should continue to support the Moorside nuclear plant bid for a prototype fusion energy plant by the end of the year. Cumbria is an established nuclear area and is more likely to get support. It also presents huge potential for employment opportunities in Barrow. Barrow could become a global leader in nuclear fusion energy.</p>	10	=30th
<p>ENERGY</p> <p>31) There should be a review to explore alternative ideas for low carbon energy generation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hydroelectric power: the possibility and feasibility of hydro-power generation on the Leven and Duddon. b. Tidal energy: i.e. whether a bridge across the Duddon Estuary to Millom could generate tidal energy while reducing journey distances. This could be run as a toll bridge, and electricity generated from tidal could be sold to assist with economic viability. 	7	=31st
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>32) A system should be created to share or coordinate shopping deliveries from large supermarkets/businesses to reduce the need for individual vehicles to go out shopping and promoting local produce with reduced food miles.</p>	5	=32nd