



# Parish Councillor Network Meeting

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Grow green together**

# Agenda

Welcome and introductions

Greening your community – the climate emergency

Climate Action West Northants – Jane Wood

What Parish Councils can do

Save our street trees – Alice Whitehead

Grow Green conference September 2022

Current policies affecting rural communities

Northamptonshire VCSE Assembly

Topics for future meetings



# Greening your community

Elaine O'Leary

Northamptonshire ACRE

# What is climate change

- ▶ Climate change has always happened on Earth; it is the rapid rate and the magnitude of climate change occurring now that is of great concern worldwide.
- ▶ Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere act as warming blanket absorb heat radiation, leading to more heat retention and an increase in surface temperatures.
- ▶ Since the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s, the global temperature has increased at a much faster rate.
- ▶ In their latest report, the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)\* stated unequivocally that human activity (through release of greenhouse gases) is the leading cause of global warming.
- ▶ About three-quarters of greenhouse gas emissions that are attributed to humans come from burning fossil fuel

**\*The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. Working group Sixth Assessment Report published February 2022**



# Definitions

- ▶ Carbon neutral and net zero often used interchangeably but they are different
- ▶ **Carbon-neutral** means purchasing carbon reduction credits equivalent to emissions released, without the need for emissions reductions to have taken place.
- ▶ A **net zero carbon footprint** refers to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (often through carbon offsetting) or simply eliminating carbon emissions altogether (the transition to the "post-carbon economy").<sup>7</sup>
- ▶ Lots of carbon calculators available to help residents assess their carbon footprint:

University of Chester developed a community carbon calculator for Ashton Hayes

Ashton Hayes is aiming to become completely carbon neutral

<http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk/>

Here are all the files you need to use our community carbon calculator, developed by the University of Chester. Please credit the University and the Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral Project if you use these files on your project.

- 📄 A: Instructions on how to use the calculator (1.8M)
- 📄 B: The calculator (48K)
- 📄 C: An edited Survey (75K)
- 📄 D: Example of completed survey (76K)
- 📄 E: Notes for survey appendix (48K)
- 📄 F: Typical resident feedback form (43K)
- 📄 G: Toolkit- Measuring your Footprint (48K)



# Climate Action West Northants

Jane Wood

CA-WN

# What Parish Councils can do

# Some actions



- ▶ Parish and town councils may not be as powerful as local authorities but they can be a force for change in addressing the climate and nature emergency.
- ▶ Friends of the Earth have 20 actions for councils to take e.g:
  - ❑ Support Local Plan policies that help to tackle climate change and boost nature
  - ❑ Promote practical action by local people
  - ❑ Produce green energy – Salix loans, crowdfunding
  - ❑ Increase tree cover – speak to Alice at Save our Street Trees
  - ❑ Minimise waste going to landfill
  - ❑ Designate sites within Neighbourhood Plan for trees, renewable energy, nature restoration
  - ❑ <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>
- ▶ Small steps can make big changes
- ▶ Encourage local initiatives e.g. hedgehog highways, communal composting



# Save our Street Trees

Alice Whitehead

Founder, SOST



# Grow Green Conference

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE'S

# GROW GREEN

## TOGETHER

CONFERENCE



MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A GREENER PLACE



The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Monday 12th September 2022  
10am - 4pm

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

10am – 4pm

10am Elaine O’Leary to discuss aims of the day

Keynote speaker - Dr. Mark Avery

Guest speakers: possible

Russell Horsey, Urban Dwelling (Biodiversity)

Jane Gridley (Energy) ACTION

Dr Brenda Boardman (Energy)

Dr Janet Jackson (UON)

Lunch

Breakout sessions for attendees to hear from small project and view story boards

Panel discussion - Uni of Northampton academics, Representatives from North & West Northants Council

Pledges from delegates

Summary (how NACRE/CA-WN can help attendees to achieve their goals/pledges).

Story boards of local community projects – do you have one to tell?

Suppliers of green products

Online sessions on green topics prior to conference – what would be useful to hear about?



# Current policies affecting rural communities

Elaine O'Leary

# Policies

- ▶ Levelling Up White Paper sets out how government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It includes:
  - ❑ new devolution framework
  - ❑ establishment of a new independent data body
  - ❑ a new Levelling Up Advisory Council
  - ❑ National ACRE says government must consider how it's plans for levelling up will address disadvantage faced by rural communities
  - ❑ LGA briefing: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/levelling-white-paper-lga-briefing>
  - ❑ Rural Services Network asks if the White Paper is fit for purpose in rural context
  
- ▶ APPG Rural Health and Care Inquiry – 3 year investigation. Published 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022
  - ❑ *Almost one fifth of the population of England live in rural or coastal areas and they deserve better health and social care outcomes than is currently the case (APPG Inquiry)*
  - ❑ Average age is already higher than in urban communities and this will increase significantly over the coming decades - In 2041 it is projected that over 65 year-olds will account for 31.6% of the Predominantly Rural population
  - ❑ Alongside funding, workforce capacity is perhaps the greatest impediment to the delivery of equitable health and social care in rural areas.
  - ❑ *Useful facts and 12 recommendations*



# Policies...[con]

## ▶ UK Shared Prosperity Fund :

- ❑ The Fund is a central pillar of the UK Government's levelling up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK.
- ❑ It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025
- ❑ All areas of the UK will receive allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

## ▶ Local authorities in England with responsibility for the Fund to start preparing for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by:

- ❑ Starting early conversations about how the Fund can best support the people and businesses in their community to thrive and grow (taking account of the Fund's objectives and investment priorities and focus on the specific outcomes they want to achieve for their area).
- ❑ Identifying local partners and stakeholders who can provide advice and insight on local needs.

## ▶ Integrated Care System:

- ❑ New partnerships between organisations that meet health and care needs across an area,
- ❑ Will coordinate services and plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities between different groups
- ❑ Confirmed in the NHS Long Term Plan



# Northamptonshire VCSE Assembly

# Northamptonshire VCSE Assembly



- ▶ A one voice vehicle for the VCSE in the county
- ▶ About a year old
- ▶ The Assembly will create a structure for the Sector that supports the establishment of local and strategic partnerships, which will lead to collective representation
- ▶ Aims to create a platform that listens to all voices to enable them to influence and decide how best to engage as a collective
- ▶ Number of thematic groups looking at specific issues
- ▶ Rural Thematic Group:
  - ❑ an opportunity to highlight some of the known issues
  - ❑ look at how to shape support for rural communities with the new policies and legislation
  - ❑ Use rural proofing to ensure policies do not forget rural areas
- ▶ All community groups welcome as members, it's free!
- ▶ Website - <https://vcse-assembly.co.uk/>



# Topics for future meetings



If you have any suggestions for what you would like to discuss at future meetings we would like to hear from you. We would also welcome ideas for future speakers or presentations that you would like to see.

Please email [natasha.jimenezsanchez@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:natasha.jimenezsanchez@northantsacre.org.uk) with ideas or suggestions for future topics.

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