

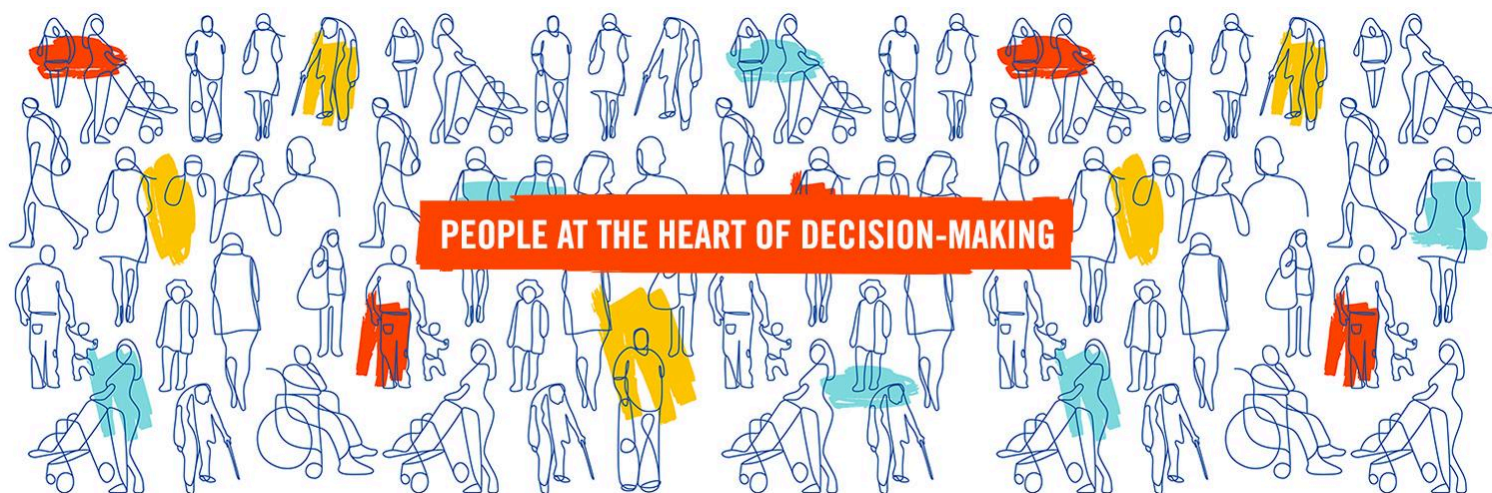


# Camden Climate Panel

## Session Five

13th June 2024

This document outlines the key discussions, questions and themes that emerged from Session Five of Camden's Climate Panel





## 01. Climate Action Day

The panel began with a review of the Climate Action Day that happened in March 2023, and feedback from panel members who attended. Panel members discussed their views and reflections on the event and how to improve anything similar which could be run in the future.

### Community day

The panel felt that in order to ensure success of future similar events like the climate action day in the future, key points to consider were:

- Different framing the event differently in order to make it more appealing for young people, and not just the usual suspects. This could look like making the event feel more festival-like with other entertainment and events linked into this. It was felt that broadening the scope of the event would help attract a broader range of people.
- More time to plan would be useful to help ensure the event had more entertaining/fun parts to it. For a future event it would be good to start planning now
- A more diverse steering group would help make future events more interesting to a wider audience. To do this it could be useful to join forces with events or programmes which are already happening and forge further partnerships in the community

## 02. Climate Action Plan

For the majority of the session, members reviewed Camden Council's current Climate Action Plan (CAP). **Natalie Curd, Climate Programme Manager**, reintroduced the current CAP, including its progress and future direction. You can find Natalie's powerpoint slides [here](#) and on [the site](#).

After the presentation, panel members asked questions about the CAP before rotating between four stations to give feedback on themes in the CAP - People, Places, Buildings, and Organisations.

At each station, members focused on two areas:

1. Identifying gaps in the current Climate Action Plan
2. Envisioning Camden's future, answering:
  - a. *What do you want the future Camden to be in relation to each of the four themes?*
  - b. *What does Camden look like in a net zero world in 10-20 years? What do you want to see, hear and feel?*



The panel answered these questions on one flipchart per theme, responding to the question that appealed to them most. Their suggestions, hopes, ideas and questions are themed below, with the themes written in italics. This is the same for each of the 4 themes below.

## People

### ***“Everyone in Camden will be well informed and actively contribute to tackling the climate crisis in all aspects of their lives”***

The panel highlighted how they thought different groups of people should be supported to engage in the Climate Action Plan by addressing their interests. These are themed below:

#### *Who to partner with*

- Big organisations to help push our messages and needs
- Social media – “climate influencers”
- Engage with local spokespeople, make “climate champions” who can reach their communities

#### *How to make climate action more approachable for people*

- Use JOY – make climate action FUN, don’t lecture!
- Work with more arts and culture organisations – for education, messaging, and inspiration
- Meet and communicate with young people, where they are – social media, gaming, music etc.
- Start in schools
- Link in with Youth Parliament, direct support and funding

#### *Starting with people’s current priorities*

- Cost of living – offer economic incentives
- Take into account that it’s not on most community groups priorities (cost of living crisis)

#### *Accessibility of information*

- Improve access to information, English may not be people’s first language, computer literacy, how people get the information, WhatsApp?

#### *Helping people to take action themselves*

- Do sample projects, case studies with real people, who resemble the populus
- Objective – need to empower communities to take action
- Increased resources for communications channels/resource e.g. social media team



- People who don't know what services are available to them e.g. how do I recycle?  
Can I get reusable nappies?
- Residents want to do the right thing – but can be demotivated e.g. bins are full/not being emptied
- How do people living in flats recycle?

#### *Working in schools*

- Encourage kids into climate positive careers
- Strictly part of school curriculum

#### *Hopes and visions for the future:*

- Co-housing that are intergenerational, are encouraged and built throughout Camden
- When I walk, I want to see happy people, who are responsible citizens, who are knowledgeable and engaged in climate justice at all levels
- People [will] find it easy to navigate information re climate change (e.g. easy to find info)

## **Places**

### ***“Our public spaces will encourage and enable healthy and sustainable travel choices and promote biodiversity”***

The panel developed a long list of ideas, actions and thoughts they wanted to see relating to the Places theme in the next Climate Action Plan. These are themed below:

#### *Nature*

- To see – trees, plants, vegetables, fruit trees, green roofs and green walls
- Like to hear birdsong, see bees, butterflies and other insects flying around pollinating
- To feel that the air we are breathing is clean
- Talk about nature (NOT biodiversity); nature connectedness, wellbeing, we ARE nature, recognise, value, and reward nature
- Clean air, clean water, zero plastic, zero waste
- Camden wildlife
- Stop felling healthy trees
- Replacing healthy older trees with WHIPS and young trees is NOT progress

#### *Food*

- Opportunities for growing food based on permaculture principles
- Vision for local food security
- Urban allotments



### *Travel*

- More shared car services available and affordable
- Remove more parking spaces
- EV chargers need their parking spaces protected or they will be blocked and useless
- Better lighting for pedestrian paths. Encourage safe walking
- Pedestrianised roads, no petrol vehicles, less cars, more public transport
- Enforce/prevent anti-social illegal parking. May be plant trees to stop pavement parking
- Stop front gardens being used for parking
- Disparity of healthy school street roll-out
- WTS more pedestrian crossings
- Wider pavements, so it's safer to walk
- More street cleaning

### *Planning*

- Remember long-term maintenance, not just budget to set up
- Hold utilities and developers to account
- Finish what you start. A half-finished project like an HSS with no cameras is worse than doing nothing
- New developments (like the )2(?)), must not be allowed to buy their way out of providing green spaces
- Relax planning rules for true green projects

### *Wider principles*

- Environmental justice
- This theme IS the visible actions, you see the improvements
- Need to create a culture to motivate people to recycle

## **Buildings**

### ***“Our buildings will be energy efficient, comfortable, and fit-for-purpose for a zero-carbon future”***

The panel developed a long list of ideas, actions and thoughts they wanted to see relating to the Buildings theme in the next Climate Action Plan. These are themed below:

### *Planning and regulation*

- Cost effective long-term decisions
- Consistent enforcement of planning requirements



- Co-location of complementary things, e.g. housing with flexible working spaces
- All new buildings must be energy efficient, preferably to passive Haus standards
- Co-housing schemes for all ages. That are climate resilient and built to passive Haus standards
- Green walls and roofs should be encouraged, no concrete drives for cars allowed!
- Encourage residential re-wilding – no lawns/meadows, no concrete drives, more window boxes etc.
- Encourage social housing tenants to plant pots, planters, window boxes with plants to encourage bees/insects etc. INSTEAD OF BANNING THEM!
- Management of development of density and green space – balance, not slums
- More thought to waste disposal (e.g. underground pits) saves precious space for humans
- Restrictions on glass/metal/heat producing buildings
- More space sharing – most offices empty on a Friday – community use?
- Better man management of rental cycles and e-scooter parking
- Rethink the high street – more civic, learning, meeting, fixing etc. spaces

#### *Maintenance*

- Refurbishment as opposed to demolition
- Mould/damp better insulation
- Repair work to current council owned buildings up to standard
- Water boilers/cylinders
- Maintenance of existing buildings

#### *Education*

- Promoting sustainability from within schools etc.
- Green roof, solar panels, district heating (from waste heat)

#### *Support and incentives*

- Need over-the-phone energy advice, targeted advice to residents – people prefer face-to-face advice rather than reading
- Incentives – eco-points
- Targeted advice for different housing tenures – leaseholders, freeholders etc.
- More education on materials innovation – more access to such innovations
- More up-cycling and recycling for home refurb
- More money for retrofit
- Incentives for changing home energy and water use patterns

#### *Questions*

- Stable temp – without air con – how?



## Organisations

### ***“All organisations in Camden will operate responsibly, and embed tackling the climate crisis throughout their organisations”***

The panel developed a long list of ideas, actions and thoughts they wanted to see relating to the Organisations theme in the next Climate Action Plan. These are themed below:

#### *Camden Council and public sector*

- Camden doing this from within all departments, making it a culture in the workplace
- Encourage council to buy locally and cascade down your supply chain. Prefer suppliers who do the same

#### *Schools*

- Schools should ensure that climate resilience is made explicit. Curriculum activities need to include food growing, cooking, mending, making, permaculture principles and students in school need to be provided with ‘good role models’ and taught about climate justice, and how to mitigate the effects of the climate emergency
- When going into educational establishments I want to feel welcomed by the people AND the environment. I want to hear happy people, music, birdsong, and see creativity all round
- Green apprenticeships
- Are the organisations doing the small steps e.g. recycling, turning lights off etc.?
- Young people have different priorities e.g. finding a job!
- Invest in young people

#### *Faith*

- Faith angle – need to look after the environment

#### *Large private sector*

- More involvement and transparency from the Kings Cross mega-corps – publish their sustainability plans and donate money locally
- Large/global organisations: how to ensure they operate and embed?
- How are the big companies impacting transport links?
- Encourage employees to use public transport

#### *Private sector (general)*

- More efficient logistics for deliveries
- Support Arts organisations in the borough – invest in Imagination work
- Carbon literacy training for businesses



- Must include companies providing services in Camden
- Factor in energy efficiency alongside emissions, not just cost
- Reporting and accountability from businesses to residents
- Connect business diversity initiatives to climate justice work
- Grants for small businesses to retrofit
- Have a directory of organisations who have good practices
- From pledges to action

#### *Incentives and restrictions*

- Offer incentives to be more energy efficient
- Enforce delivery restrictions – stop large Tesco lorries on pavements in rush hour

### **What is Missing (not covered by the four themes)**

#### *What is missing*

- Utilising large corporates to noticeably contribute
- Energy and transport themes on their own
- Creativity is missing; language is too dry
- Nature needs its own space in this plan
- Basics infrastructure e.g. recycling and food waste, being accessible and incentives to do so
- Long-term plans vs. short-termism

#### *Who is missing and how to include them*

- People would like to participate but can't prioritise climate, so we need to understand their circumstances
- Make everything accessible to all languages, types of digital access etc. e.g. Camden Magazine in different languages – community climate champions
- Find routes into climate action that matter to people. Incentives etc.
- Impacts of climate action on human wellbeing

### **Car Park - Other points that came up in the discussion**

As always, the panel had a 'car park' where ideas, thoughts, questions and comments which did not directly fit into the topics being discussed, but were still important, could be noted down.

- Youth angle – climate and social justice
- Use HS2 monies [for climate action]
- Contributions from KX corps, big business contribution
- Lots happening in Somerstown, how do we model it in other areas in the borough?
- What is the budget annually? What can we or can't we do?





- The other side is what is it we want to do/need to do and find the budget
- Have an actual emissions target reduction and not net zero