



## Tiverton People's Assembly 20 September 2019

On 20 September 2019 a town centre march for the Global Climate Strike presented a tree to both Town and District Councils to thank them for declaring the Climate Emergency; then Sustainable Tiverton and Extinction Rebellion jointly convened an Assembly using the guidance provided by Extinction Rebellion. 40 local people took part by volunteering themselves and were not an invited or selected group. After explanation of the inclusive deliberation method, 5 groups of 8 people considered the question "What would a Zero-carbon Tiverton Look Like?" Each group had a facilitator and a note-taker. This report contains the most supported suggestions from each group, plus additional notes from their discussions and from wider public contributions to the same question which had been displayed in the town centre that week.



### **Summary: Themes for change emerging from multiple groups**

1. Shift to zero-emission public transport systems and car alternatives (5 groups)
2. Mandatory low-carbon housing, with change to planning systems (4 groups)
3. Accessible/one-stop public information for local engagement (4 groups)
4. Local renewable energy (river Exe hydropower) generation (4 groups)
5. Land use/agriculture incentives for carbon storage (3 groups)
6. Lead change from civic activity centres eg, schools, councils, recycling (3 groups)
7. Local plastic reduction and re-use schemes (3 groups)
8. Increase communal green space for food growing and re-wilding (3 groups)



## Key Suggestions put forward by groups

### Group 1

- School eco-councils - influencing education content, food waste avoidance, vegetable growing on school sites, clothing swaps etc
- Transport - cycleways (town centre, Exeter-Tiverton commute); Tiverton Parkway shuttle-bus; electric car/bus infrastructure
- Plastic reduction - community water fountains; organisations to drop single-use plastics; shop to adopt refill + packaging-free
- Community green spaces for trees/gardening/food growing

### Group 2

- Transport - cycle paths & parking; electric car, cycle & bus infrastructure & hire
- Planning system - new school & housing low/zero carbon; grants for older housing stock insulation/renewable heating ; green space for trees/re-wilding
- Information Point - transparency & climate truth; intergenerational discussion; topics eg energy, recycling, heating & insulation
- Community energy company; hydropower

### Group 3

- Council role - amplify grass-roots efforts; influence through media, community electronic notice boards; lead by example
- Public knowledge/awareness - where emissions coming from generally and locally, monitor and report carbon footprints, publicise
- Review and change land-use - nature-friendly farming, carbon-storing methods

### Group 4

- Low-carbon housing and planning system geared to expect this
- One-stop shop information point on greener living
- Transport schemes - for walking & cycling, bus bike racks
- Tree planting

### Group 5

- Transport - quiet electric and public; safe walking and cycle routes especially to schools; local car-sharing app; reduced parking fees for sharers; car-free days
- Zero-carbon housing builds; smaller self-build developments; financial incentives to replace fossil fuel heating systems
- Land Value Tax replaces business rates for housing developers; tax or subsidy for agricultural land dependent on soil degradation or carbon storing practices
- Civic Recycling centre instead of 'the tip' is free of charge for recyclables and encourages free re-use of any items removed
- River Exe hydro-power scheme



## Further ideas put forward

- Building community spirit and engagement through effective communications
- Hedges - Maturation of trees, reduce harmful mechanical management
- Transparent information on waste recycling systems
- De-bunking myths on 'greener' lifestyle choices
- Car-scrappage scheme
- Pressurise local government through massive public engagement/expectation
- Sharing/libraries - replaces individual purchase of manufactured goods eg tools
- Fossil-fuel divestment by pension funds, and public information on banking investments
- Air pollution monitors next to busy roads, public health information on pollution impacts
- Rubbish collections to include plastic from waterways
- Localise food production and share between communities with local networks
- Tree strips in every available space and in farmed fields
- Reduce lighting & energy use in buildings at night

