

Report to Shipley Area Committee

Shipley Town Council Citizens Jury on the Climate Crisis. 04/1/23 Paul McHugh

When done well commissioning a citizens' assembly or jury can be truly transformative for the commissioning body, the participants, and for the wider public. Depending on how they are designed and commissioned, mini publics can be a tool for creating public dialogue. Be used for identifying nuanced public opinion on a topic. They are useful for building consensus, for producing a set of prioritised recommendations or creating space for public engagement within policy making.

They can create a robust mandate for politicians to take action. They can improve trust between citizen and government, produce better and fairer policies and act as a catalyst for better partnership working amongst the range of organisations that may have a role to play in addressing the climate emergency. They require financial and time commitments on the part of commissioners, as well as a commitment to meaningful follow-up to ensure value for money and impact.

At a local authority level, there are now urgent changes that need to be made if we are to stay within the 1.5 degrees of global heating that scientists insist we should. This includes changes in land use, housing and building developments, transport modes, planning decisions, development of onshore wind and other renewable energy sources and waste. The largest proportion of greenhouse gas emissions come from travel, heating, food and consumption.

Addressing these at the scale and pace required to meet the climate crisis will require significant changes in everyday life for the UK public. These changes that will be either in direct control of a local authority, or facilitated and in partnership with a local authority, will require a very high level of public engagement. This includes public understanding of and support for the changes that will need to take place as well as participation and adoption of those changes. As we transition to net zero, local authorities will need ways to ensure the citizens within their constituency are part of this journey, otherwise there is a risk the changes in behaviour and infrastructure will be resisted or poorly designed. "Evidence suggests that while policymakers may be aware of the levels of public concern, they do not have a good understanding of the public support on specific climate policies." (Willis 2018).

Deliberation, through processes such as a citizens' assembly or jury, can create greater public support, a political mandate and momentum for change amongst the wider public.

Citizens' assemblies and juries in this context can be a tool for ensuring public legitimacy of climate policy. If policies are to have a direct effect. We need a people powered response to the climate emergency, it is vital that people are enabled to shape their design and implementation. Enabling a wide range of viewpoints, beyond those already highly engaged with the climate emergency, will mean climate policies are more likely to be fair; as they have been informed and based on recommendations made by fellow citizens, they are also more likely to be publicly acceptable and perceived to be fair.

Background

After a series of Community Assemblies ran by Shipley Town Council to mark COP 26 in the Autumn/Winter of 2021, the Climate Emergency and Environment Committee passed a motion to develop a Citizens Jury on climate change. The motion was duly presented and passed by the Full Council.

We managed to secure a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery 'Together for the Planet' Fund and the Town Council agreed £12,500 for the project.

Town Councillor Paul McHugh and The Deputy Town Clerk, Helen Mawson, were recruited onto the Involve 'Local Climate Engagement Training Programme'. Which consisted of 6 weekly, 3.5 hour sessions on different ways of engaging your local community in climate actions. This training gave a good grounding and understanding of different ways of engaging local communities in climate conversations and confirmed our decision to deliver a Citizens' Jury as the right choice.

To ensure the process was robust, fair, and unbiased, an Oversight Panel was recruited. Which was independent of the Town Council. The panel met monthly to help oversee the jury recruitment, programme planning and recommendation implementation.

The main tasks were:

- agree the recruitment methodology;
- set the question that the Jury were tasked with answering.
- recruit the Facilitators
- and identify commentators.

The eleven strong Oversight Panel included representation from the Health Sector, the Education Sector, the Voluntary Sector, District Councillors and environmental groups. The process was co designed by the social enterprise Shared Future and facilitated by local facilitators recruited by the Oversight Panel and trained and supported by Pete Bryant from Shared Futures. Shared Future has extensive experience of delivery citizens' assemblies and juries across the country and acted as our consultants over the whole design and delivery of this Citizens' Jury process.

Wherever possible local people and organisations were utilised to build local capacity for these initiatives and keep funds in the local economy.

Pete Bryant from Shared Futures agreed to be our external consultant for the planning and delivery of the Jury.

The local Library was booked for all the sessions as it was in the centre of Shipley, known to most people and was accessible.

The facilitators

The three local facilitators were appointed by an Oversight Panel working group. The advertising was conducted by the Town Council and the shortlisting, interviews and appointments were conducted by the Oversight Panel Working Group.

The facilitators, already experienced in facilitation methods, did a full day training with Pete Bryant exploring different ways of running groups, citizen jury groups and planning a rough outline of the eight sessions.

The Facilitators met weekly, together with Pete Bryant to debrief the sessions and develop the next session.

The local Library was booked for all the sessions as it was in the centre of Shipley, known to most people and was accessible.

Citizens' Jury selection summary

Information about the Citizen's Jury, with an invitation to apply to join it, was delivered through a contract with Royal Mail to the postcode sectors covering the Council area. Volunteers delivered to the few streets not covered by these sectors. A few just outside the Council area were included in the postal sectors. We agreed to pay the Jury members £250 in vouchers to ensure we got an equal, representative spread of people.

130 offers were received. 27 of these were rejected because they lived outside the area or said they would not be available for all the planned sessions of the Jury.

As the Jury were self-selected, it had been agreed to achieve a Jury representative of the composition of the Council's residents, by prioritising the offers. The Council Area composition was measured from the Census, and from a national survey about attitudes to climate change. The prioritisation and selection were made using an anonymised list of offers, using only the information about sex, postcode, age, disability and educational attainment.

The Question

The Oversight Panel debated the best question for the Shipley Jury to address and came up with:

'How can we work together in Shipley to limit climate change and its impacts while protecting our environment and health?'

The Programme

The Programme was co designed by Shared Futures, the Oversight Panel, Town Council Representatives and the Facilitators and was as follows. The Jury were given free reign to decide on which three issues they would like to explore in more detail for sessions 5, 6 & 7.

Shipley Citizens Jury Programme Sept – Nov 2022

All sessions to be held at Shipley Library

Session 1: Introductory Session. 28 September 18.30 – 21.00 Room 2

Session 2: What is Climate Change? 5 October 18.30 – 21.00 Room 2

Session 3: Emissions and Where They Come From. 12 October 18.30 – 21.00 Room 1

Session 4: How Change Happens. 19 October 18.30 – 21.00 Room 2

Session 5: Transport. : 2 November 18.30 – 21.00 Room 2

Session 6: Housing. 9 November 18.30 – 21.00 Room 1

Session 7: Education. 16 November 18.30 – 21.00 Room

Session 7a: All Day Saturday 19 November 9.30 – 4.30 Shipley Library Rooms 1 & 2.

Recommendations Writing.

Session 8: Agree final recommendation report. 30 November 18.30 – 21.00 Room 2

The Recommendations were then typed up and sent out to each jury member to vote on via a sliding scale of:

Strongly agree = 2, Agree = 1, Neutral = 0, Disagree = -1, Strongly Disagree = -2.

Jury's Recommendations

Jury statement

We, the Shipley Citizens' Jury on Climate Change, come from many different backgrounds. We are a diverse group that has considered the issue of climate change in great detail and have agreed how we, Shipley, must respond urgently to the crisis. Our recommendations are based on a belief that if we fail to act we will fail to protect our future generations and our future planet.

We need a vision that is ambitious, bold, brave, creative and radical. This vision must tell the facts. We believe that such a vision can point to a positive future, one which improves our personal wellbeing at the same time as saving us money. There is an urgent need for immediate action. At present not enough is being done.

In preparing a vision for the future that has tackling climate change at its centre, we have concluded that nobody must be left behind. Our communities need to develop skills, to collaborate with each other and to organise.

All of us need a can do attitude to drive what we see as a set of recommendations that form a bare minimum for action, and national government must create the support that is needed to help strong local action be a reality.

This experience has ignited a passion in us all. We have shown that when we are aware - we care. We have become one in our shared vision of the need to tackle this enormous problem. Our experience of coming together as a group has shown us the value of community. As members of the Shipley Citizens' Jury on Climate Change we have moved from 'me thinking' to 'we thinking'. Shipley must do the same.

We have explored the doughnut economic model as a clear and effective way of showing how to make decisions that keep us in a 'safe and just space for humanity'. Therefore, we would like to see Shipley Town Council employing 'The Doughnut' for all policy decisions. This is overarching to our recommendations and critical to answering the question of:

"How can we work together in Shipley to limit climate change and its impacts while protecting our environment and health?"

Theme: HOUSING

1.

Tackle existing homes and buildings through retrofitting.

STC needs to implement a major campaign to support residents, local contractors, trades people and students to develop their knowledge and skills needed to make this happen. To do this, the Jury recommends working with partners to:

- a) create a ONE STOP RETROFIT SHOP a physical, accessible and town centre location (could be pop up) and online resource of trusted and verified information and an accessible place to learn, test and collaborate to:
 - Advocate about what retrofitting is how to do it on different types of properties locally
 - Explain why it will save money and lower carbon emissions
 - Showcase how you can do it, be a place to test out techniques e.g. plastering and sample materials
 - Signpost (to funding opportunities, grants etc, trusted contractors, stakeholders)
 - Galvanise (community to act, create street level power stations)

- b. Work with Shipley College and other local education providers to develop and incentivise a range of courses on retrofitting for:
 - Students, vocational (accredited - opportunity for placements on local public buildings)
 - Residents DIY (weekends/evenings)
 - Local tradespeople

- c. Get ready for the next wave of Government finance for retrofitting and know effective channels to promote the information locally e.g. where is it most needed

/ know the relevant advisors with experience and knowledge on local properties /
create and promote a trusted network of retrofitting contractors locally.

2.

STC to join forces with surrounding Local Authorities to lobby central government to improve rules on planning to ensure energy efficiency standards and explore potential of council tax discounts to reflect energy efficiency rating of housing.

Incentivise and encourage landlords to ensure rental homes in Shipley are minimum C energy rating or above.

Incentivise and encourage Shipley businesses to pledge or obtain a kitemark to be more energy efficient (reference Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action). Including but not limited to:

- Insulation
- Energy generation
- Cutting emissions in line with what the science tells us
- Working towards net zero in operations and supply chains

3.

Support people to reduce energy usage at home

- STC to collate and distribute '10 Top Tips' for using less energy this winter.
- STC to run an information campaign on dehumidifiers (low cost way to remove moisture in stone houses)

4.

Find opportunities for buildings in Shipley to generate power and transfer from gas boilers to fossil fuel free energy sources.

STC to explore partnerships to generate energy on all public buildings (reference Otley 2030 and their Solar 4 Schools partnership).

STC to broker a row by row/street by street scheme to insulate & change heat source (to heat pumps) in Shipley. This would bring costs down and ensure quality contractors.

Aim for the delivery of two pilot streets delivery in 2024.

STC to comment on planning applications in the area and push BMDC for higher standards around insulation and power sources e.g. all new buildings to be exemplar looking forward not back.

Theme: Education

Vision For Education

Our experience on the Shipley Citizen's Jury on Climate Change has shown us that education is critical for people to understand & engage with climate change. Our vision is a Shipley where everyone has access to the information and resources required to understand climate change and the ways that they can contribute to addressing it. Our recommendations suggest the most appropriate ways to do this for different groups.

5.

Developing a Shipley Climate Change Information Hub

Locate an information hub in a community location, or series of accessible community locations e.g.

- Shipley Library
- Shop spaces that are empty to bring them back to life

Bring together accessible information on what climate change is and how we can contribute to addressing it e.g.

- Tips for saving energy
- Ideas for being more environmentally friendly
- Information about local schemes and organisations people could get involved with

Organise monthly pop up events and talks that focus on different areas of climate change e.g.

- Talks from local organisations and commentators
- A native seed bank

Develop a website / page within an existing website, such as STC, to compile information that Shipley Residents can access easily

6.

Embedding Climate Change in School Curricula

- Organise a multi-agency meeting to discuss delivery in ALL schools in Shipley in next 2 - 4 years
- Develop climate change content that underpins every other subject as well as stand-alone sessions
- Ensure content is aimed at preparing students for the future through developing relevant skills and knowledge for jobs and attitudes that will tackle climate change, rather than scaring them
- Include explicit mechanisms for children to feed their knowledge back to parents
- Consider organising a Youth Climate Assembly

7.

Creating an Educational Campaign Across All Groups

Research the Shipley context to better understand the challenges and opportunities of addressing climate change in the area e.g.

- Areas of green space we could improve
- Buildings we could use for information hubs

Reach out to varied groups such as business/STC/BMDC/education/public sector for ideas and joined up action around these areas

Disseminating and promoting the Shipley Citizens jury on Climate Change report and recommendations as broadly and creatively as possible

Develop a Shipley Citizens Jury 'Actors For Change' Campaign

- Create posters of jury members as relatable peer educators which highlight:
 - What stuck with me from the jury process?
 - What am I doing about it?

Encourage creative campaigns and educational activities e.g.

- Approach local TV and radio to script fictional Citizens' Juries e.g.
 - Emmerdale
 - BCB Radio
- **Organise a Shipley climate change festival**
- **Develop engaging educational activities such as a tree survey**

Disseminate the report and recommendations from the Shipley Citizens jury on Climate Change as broadly as possible e.g. through

- The MP
- Telegraph and Argus
- Pop up stall in the Market Square
- STC website
- Next Door
- Physical copies in community locations e.g. Shipley Library

Theme: NATURE

8.

We recognise the vital role of nature in addressing climate change and for health and wellbeing. Our vision is a Shipley where nature is supported and given every opportunity to thrive. We recommend:

1. Finding Every Opportunity to Support & Improve Nature

- Create a fund that is earmarked for environmental action
- Map opportunities for environmental improvement in Shipley e.g.
 - Green spaces where biodiversity could be increased - including large private gardens
 - Reclaiming concrete spaces with community planters
 - Reducing mowing
 - Stopping the use of pesticides and insecticides
 - Saving trees and hedges from being removed and planting new ones where possible
 - Encouraging beehives
- **Develop a project creating wildlife corridors using residential gardens**
- **Create a native seed bank and plant native flowers & plants wherever possible**
- **Accompany environmental initiatives with information to raise awareness and knowledge**

Theme: PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Vision for Transport

In the future Shipley Citizens Jury believe that urban planning, how we use the public space around us, should be flipped to prioritise pedestrians and people on bikes not cars. Our vision for transport is one where trains and buses are affordable and where cycling and walking are appealing, easy and safe - this will lead to health benefits. We must recognise that an investment in an affordable public transport system and safer cycling infrastructure will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions as well as other benefits.

9.

In order to do this we have identified the following actions for STC and others

- Having integrated public transport i.e. one ticket for the train, bus, e bikes, links put on screens, better/more reliable connections.
- Trains & buses must be affordable. Traveling through the UK must be cheapest by train not by driving or flying.
- Information is provided to help people make connections & is updated to account for delays etc. To make it easy for everyone.

- Buses should as much as possible be electric.
- We must recognise that an investment in an affordable public transport system will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions as well as other benefits.
- We need to better understand why people choose to use their cars rather than public transport or bikes etc.
- Recommend regular publishing of data from the CAZ = info around less emissions/HGV's
- Investigate with local businesses and others the possibility of a free bus in Shipley - local journeys - BRI for example (use charge from CAZ to fund.
- Consider citizens' jury to look at proposals for new Active Travel Neighbourhood Schemes.
- Investigate car use in Saltaire - how to reduce roadside & pavement parking
- Investigate if the CAZ is reducing HGV traffic

10.

Encourage more people to walk by making it easier and safer - this will lead to health benefits. This should be done by:

- Considering the needs of pedestrians crossing to the train station, prioritise pedestrians, eg a scramble intersection.
- More street lighting for walking at night. Switch to environmental bulbs. Investigate light pollution concerns.
- In the future, Urban Planning priority must be flipped from cars to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Events to promote walking in Shipley eg Otley Walking Festival
- Investigating the possibility of joining the canal towpath and the Greenway into Bradford,

11.

We must make Shipley more cycling appealing, easy and safe.

- We need physical infrastructure separating pedestrians and cyclists from vehicular traffic. Better availability of bikes/e bikes/trikes/cargo bikes.

- We need a Shipley e-bike and/or scooter hire scheme, learn from Leeds/Liverpool schemes.
- Employers are to be encouraged to provide shower facilities. Cycle to work schemes. Better cycling infrastructure.

13.

Encourage people to share cars: Council or community-run non-profit e-car pool. Where people can book e-cars when they need to, for specific local journeys eg Otley 2030.

14.

Encourage people to use electric cars: Provide clear information to residents regarding electric car charging leads - crossing pavements, what is allowed? legal responsibilities? Greater provision of electric car charging points

The Town Council will give a considered response to the recommendations within the next two months and look to incorporate the recommendations into its existing neighbourhood plans.

We would encourage the Area Committee to accept the report and refer it on to the Bradford Council Scrutiny Committee on Regeneration and the Environment as a good example of community engagement and best practice in developing equitable and effective responses to the Climate Emergency.

The full report will be launched in February of this year and we hope many other organisations will adopt this deliberative democracy methodology. To enhance the democratic process and help achieve more relevant and equitable solutions to the many problems that face us all.