

Sustainable Carlisle. Notes from Conversation Café, Feb, 2022

The session was a free ranging brainstorm of ideas on how to tackle the climate emergency around the following themes...

TRANSPORT

- How do we change the 'car brain' mindset and promote less reliance on cars.
- Can park and ride schemes work in Carlisle?
- We need good cycling infrastructure sometimes segregated (safety etc) and sometimes as part of normal traffic (taking more control of roads to help change mindset)
- 20 is plenty scheme
- Staggered traffic lights
- Free, regular, accessible, reliable, trains and buses
- Stronger east/west links
- Changes in legislation
- More electric bikes and workplace schemes to help support them
- More bike spaces on trains (subsidised)/security for bikes
- Community involvement in running/designing services
- Electrification of trains
- West Walls...campaign for two way cycling!

ENERGY

- Accept that electric cars are not the answer just part of it. There are too many issues with them...consumption of energy when we need to reduce, mined metals required for their production etc..
- Need to design out the 2.5 car spaces that seem to be the norm for house building from developers
- Investment needs to move from Fossil fuels to Renewables
- Encourage public and local ownership of energy
- Need to insulate and retro fit existing houses, reducing consumption and ending fuel poverty
- Note that there will be no new gas boilers from 2020
- Need to investigate appropriate new heating systems
- Lower consumption!
- Legislate standards and consider long term costs not just capital costs.
- Involve community

HOUSING

- Tax on holiday homes and empty homes
- No building on flood plains and green belt
- Promote Community Led Housing including the likes of co-housing, supported accommodation etc. Designed for needs of the community
- Affordable housing for existing populations.
- Walkable cities!
- Avoid car-centrism in new developments
- No new developments without co2 impact studies being done
- Community infrastructure
- Land- banking
- Revisit tax structure on e.g. 25% council tax discount on single occupier
- Taxes on multiple property owners and land lords
- Flexible affordable housing is needed
- Housing tax reform
- Design in green spaces and biodiversity. Sustainability!

WASTE

- Break cycle of waste production!
- VAT on non-recyclables
- Clearer labelling for recyclables
- More comprehensive system for recycling
- Target supermarkets and their suppliers to reduce packaging
- Suppliers must pay their fair share to recycle what they produce
- Improve food waste collections
- Encourage the circular economy
- Rebuild/recycle/reuse/repair and upcycle. Promote and fund schemes
- Bring back glass!
- Move away from consumerist mindset and addiction
- Support free share schemes in communities

LAND USE

- No to astroturfing !
- Examine fair land ownership and support 'the Commons'
- Move from monoculture and pesticide use to regenerative farming
- Support smaller farms working cooperatively and supplying locally
- Protect biodiversity and hedgerows. Plant more hedges and tree mixes
- Start soil replenishing projects
- Introduce different levels of rewinding when appropriate

- Support community food projects
- Promote 'slow food'
- Increase accessibility of locally grown produce
- Protect coasts and have maritime protection zones