
ALSTON MOOR GREENPRINT PROJECT YEAR 2 EVALUATION



Postcards from the Future – Alston Moor Greenprint Convergence 2018

Report Prepared for Cumbria Action for Sustainability

October 2018

PORTER BROWN
Solutions

ALSTON MOOR GREENPRINT EVALUATION –YEAR TWO

1: The Project:

The purpose of the Alston Moor 'Greenprint' is to develop and begin to implement a long term low carbon pathway for a specific community that has the potential to be replicated as an effective model for low carbon living in other rural communities.

It is managed by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), an experienced environmental charity, which has a well-proven track record of working with rural communities and supporting low-carbon solutions and good practice. The Greenprint project builds on the existing relationship between CAfS and the Alston Moor Partnership (AMP), which was responsible for the piloting of several greener transport options in the locality under the Sustain Eden Project.

Another key partner in the Greenprint project is the Community Benefit Society, Alston Moor Community Energy (AMCE). This has been established with the purpose of bringing several potential community green energy generation projects to fruition.

The project has funding for three years, commencing in November 2016. The funding enables CAfS to provide a dedicated officer to work with community groups, the local authorities, and other potential funding bodies to develop and implement appropriate actions. The officer previously worked for the Alston Moor Partnership and has excellent knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting the community. She provides a vital focus for the various strands of the Greenprint.

Year 2 of the project has continued the long term task of influencing policy, specifically working with the AMP on a new Community Plan, with the intention that this will influence and become embedded within an eventual Neighbourhood Plan. It has also supported the delivery of a range of community projects, and organised a major event to develop and shared vision for a greener future for the communities of Alston Moor.

2: Outcomes and Objectives:

The key outcomes identified in the project funding proposal submitted to Esmee Fairbairn are:

- The Alston Moor Greenprint embedded within the Neighbourhood plan
- A community energy scheme established
- Skilled groups set up with capacity to take forward actions from the Greenprint and develop replicable models.

The neighbourhood planning process is complex. The project officer is a member of the planning group and also of the group developing the community plan. It is very possible that the outcome of an Alston Moor Neighbourhood Plan may be achieved beyond the lifetime of the project funding. The other outcomes are more tangible and there is reasonable expectation that they will be achieved within the three years of the project funding.

During the first year of the project, it was planned to develop a way to measure its impact using objectives derived from the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) document Zero Carbon Britain. This well-researched and argued document provides an influential strategic context for the Alston Moor Greenprint project. By fitting our modest project into this wider context we hope to contribute towards creating a body of evidence around successful practice, capable of replication elsewhere. In this way, the experience of one, small community may have an impact beyond its immediate locality, helping to bring about the critical changes in thinking and behaviour upon which a sustainable future depend.

Objective 1: Changing how we think about human beings and energy - this is a long term objective, which will be achieved incrementally. Many within Alston Moor are already promoting this changed relationship. This is a fundamental change that will be brought about by many factors – education, scientific reports, government policy, experiencing climate change, seeing other people change the way they think. It may be too difficult to isolate the influence of the Greenprint.

Objective 2: Taking action in our homes, communities and places of work – we will be able to demonstrate some direct ways in which the Greenprint has contributed towards this objective – from renewable energy generation, to supporting electric vehicles, to growing more food locally, to repairing instead of throwing away.

Objective 3: Influencing Policy – it is hoped that the Greenprint will make a significant contribution towards this objective by means of the community and neighbourhood planning processes.

Objective 4: Reclaiming the future –the Convergence was an excellent demonstration of how people can be helped to create positive visions for the future.

3: Year Two Progress:

The second year of the project has focussed on processes. Key activities have included:



First Draft Community Plan Consultation Event Garrigill 19th October 2018

- Supporting the AMP to produce a first draft community plan based on significant levels of consultation and engagement, which will lead to a final tailored house to house survey.
- Establishing and developing the Neighbourhood Planning group alongside work with Eden District Council on community led housing.
- Supporting Alston Moor Community Energy develop their plans to install solar PV on the school roof and to make feasibility studies into other renewable options.
- Organising the Greenprint Convergence Event, which brought together a wide range of people from the local community, the north east and Cumbria to share ideas and aspirations for a positive vision for a low carbon future.
- Organising, delivering and/or supporting a range of community groups and activities that promote low carbon solutions and inspire people to take action.

3.1: Community Planning

One of the key outcomes for the project is that the Greenprint will be embedded into the Neighbourhood Plan. Unlike a community plan, a neighbourhood plan has a legally enforceable status.

The main focus of a neighbourhood plan is planning policy, new development and land allocation, but it can set a higher ambition for current building regulations and promote and ensure the use of renewable energy and recyclable sustainable building materials and protect and designate greenspace. Any Neighbourhood Plan would need to comply with the Eden Local Plan which is due to be adopted. It cannot contradict the local plan, but it can offer additionality. The Eden Local Plan must sit within the National Planning Policy framework.

Being situated within the North Pennines AONB (NP AONB) means that the Alston Moor neighbourhood Plan would also need to work to the NP AONB's planning and design guidance.

In contrast, a community plan is designed to address all issues that are of critical interest to communities. A community plan may, therefore, have a much wider scope than a neighbourhood plan. Of itself, it has no legal status but an effective plan will inform a neighbourhood plan.

The Alston Moor Partnership has just completed a first draft of the community plan. This has been informed by meetings with established community groups, key individuals and drop-in sessions at the Town Hall. The Greenprint has partnered this consultation and engagement with consultation tools and discussion at each Greenprint event.

Progress has been slow between meetings and events due to lack of resource within both the statutory organisations and community groups. The work will go forward in partnership with Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) and Cumbria County Council.

Eden District Council (EDC) are currently developing a housing needs plan and the Project Officer and AMP are working with the Council on the possibility of a joint household survey to cover both housing needs and the community plan.

It is hoped that a well-supported community plan will be able to influence a neighbourhood plan on issues of land allocation and use. Issues might include:

- Housing design in terms of creative, eco-architecture;
- Affordable social housing developments that create an integrated mix of residents;
- Creation of communal and joint-use spaces;
- Small-scale spaces for social and commercial enterprises, such as office-pods;
- Land for food growing.

There have been four meetings so far to discuss the need for and potential development of a neighbourhood plan. It is a long process requiring a great deal of work. An alternative proposal is that it might be possible to make amendments to the Alston Moor aspects of the Eden District Local Plan.

Although progress has been slow, the planning process has improved communications between partners and has laid down sustainable foundations for future partnership working between the District Council, the Parish Council, the AMP and local community groups. The Chief Executive of the North Pennines AONB has joined the steering group which bodes well for any future social housing development.

3.2: Community Engagement



Discussion at the Greenprint Convergence Alston 8th September 2018

The Zero Carbon Britain report emphasises the need to help people see a positive vision of the future if they are to be influenced to change behaviour and to be persuaded that their efforts will lead to positive benefits for themselves as well as the planet.

“Stories and images around positive solutions can counter the prevailing ‘climate science’ and have been proven to be more effective at inspiring action than negative or fear-based narratives.”¹

The Greenprint project is supporting positive ways to engage people in planning a shared and sustainable future for Alston Moor, which includes the practical activities reviewed in section 3.3.

In year 1, people in Alston Moor were invited to use a local ‘currency’ to vote for priority issues. This approach was developed further in year 2 through an event to develop and share practical and specific visions for the future. This was the Greenprint Convergence which took place in September. A full review of the event and the feedback from participants is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

A key presentation by Paul Allen of CAT proved a significant draw and the event was well attended with participants engaged actively and enthusiastically in the various aspects of the programme.

People shared ideas and concerns regarding all of the priority themes. However, there was a clear focus on energy-efficiency/production and local food production, with the ultimate aim of becoming more locally self-reliant in both these areas.

Over half of those attending offered to become further involved in some way, some by offering to share skills, expertise or facilities.

Paul Allen has expressed an interest in running a whole day “train the trainer” event on understanding ‘zero carbon’ – called carbon literacy - with the aim to embed learning within statutory bodies – like education, the health service and councils. This could be a joint event between CAT and Cumbria County Council and, if it happens, will be a very positive, high profile outcome from the Convergence.

¹ Zero Carbon Britain



"Launching Ideas" Greenprint Convergence 8th September 2018

3.3: Community Activities:

Community activities supported by the project officer in year 2 have included the following:



Repair café Volunteers meet for Greendrinks initiation meeting June 2018

The Repair Café – The first of these took place in Alston in July 2018, followed by a second one in Nenthead in September. Building on a regular recruitment Green Drinks social event, the activity has proved very successful at attracting volunteers, with 16 in all. One issue with a repair group is that it could take work away from small local businesses adversely affecting their sustainability. Therefore all electrical and bike repair work are contracted out to local businesses. The Repair Cafés are funded by the Cumbria County Council Waste Prevention Fund with coordination and marketing provided by the Greenprint.

The Nenthead event was organised to coincide with the village Big Breakfast. The Repair Café was well attended so pulling the two activities together seemed to be effective with over 120 breakfasts served. However, there are organisational challenges to rotating the venue, so consideration is being given to having a permanent venue with a pre-planned programme of dates. Once the project funding ceases there will be no funds to pay for the coordination, professional contractors or venue. However, there is a good level of community support, and alternative funding will be sought.

The project is an effective way of getting people to engage with their community, either by sharing expertise or bringing an item to repair and meeting and chatting to other people over tea and cake.

Most items to date have been repaired, thus reducing waste and demonstrating the practicality of repairing/recycling as an alternative to throwing things away.



Dave and Gordon Repair electronics in Nenthead Big Breakfast September 2018



Julia gives a sewing tutorial –people are encouraged to have a go and fix things themselves with support and advice

Installation of community electric car charging points – The installation of two points outside the Alston community gym was carried out by social enterprise Charge My Street. The points were officially ‘opened’ by the local vicar, who charged the parish car and answered questions about running an electric vehicle as well as “blessing” the charge points – quite a unique experience.



Reverend Mark blesses the Community Electric Vehicle Charge points at the community fitness centre in Alston as part of the Greenprint Convergence programme September 8th 2018

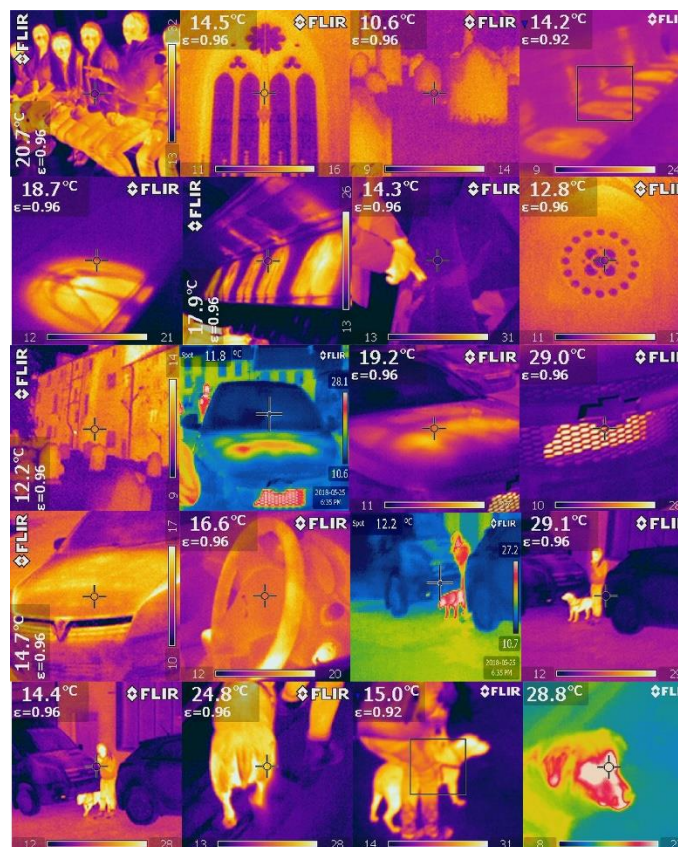
Development of High Mill – High Mill is a disused building. The Alston Moor Business Association (AMBA) are now leading on this and are looking at developing the entire site for car parking, offices and as a meeting venue. This will bring a derelict building back into use. The Greenprint Project is a member of AMBA and is working with the group to look at enterprise and apprenticeships linked to green outcomes – like waste disposal, local food production, renewable energy development, retrofitting of older properties to a high energy efficiency spec.

Energy Champions – the training of local energy champions on Alston Moor has not been developed due to lack of capacity at CAfS. However, CAfS have carried out 3 domestic household energy reviews in the area to help them reduce heat loss and energy consumption.

Community Energy – The project manager has continued to work closely with Alston Moor Community Energy (AMCE). They have been successful in securing a grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) to conduct a feasibility study re installing solar panels on the roof of the secondary school. Whilst insurance/warranty issues may prevent a large scale development, it appears likely that a project can go ahead, using a smaller area of the roof. This will not produce a surplus but could produce sufficient to meet the direct energy needs of the school. AMCE is requesting some changes to the RCEF grant in order to broaden its scope. This will enable the group to investigate the possibilities of bio-mass energy production and to look again at the opportunity to develop the Nenthead hydro scheme.

Radio Cumbria – reporters spent the whole month of May 2018 in Alston, recording live interviews with the community on a whole host of issues. The May 31st Breakfast show came from the Market Cross and the Greenprint was a feature as were recordings made at various Greenprint events.

Youth Group/Alston Moor Ark – the Ark was an art work developed in year 1. It has been further developed by the Alston Youth group who participated in a fun but educational thermal imaging workshop and added images to the Ark which was displayed at the Convergence event.



Thermal Imaging workshop with the Alston Moor Youth Group May 2018

Climate Keys – A music, poetry and discussion event focussing on climate change was held at the Alston parish church to promote awareness and understanding of climate change and the environment. It was timed to coincide with the COP24 Climate Change Conference in Poland.

3.4: Project Management:

Much of the project officer's time is taken up with developing and maintaining the partnerships that are essential in order to achieve the key outcomes of the Greenprint – influencing policy and enabling behaviour change. She is well networked within the area and has developed close working ties with key groups and influencers including AMP, the Church, Alston Moor Business Association, Alston Moor Community Energy, the secondary and primary schools, local enterprises, artists, and farmers.

She is a member of the groups working on both the community plan and the neighbourhood plan. A good working relationship has been developed with Alston Moor Parish Council, Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council.

In addition she provides support to small projects like the Repair Café and uses her knowledge and contacts to make links between organisations and opportunities – for example working with the County Council to influence the development of a redundant school as a community centre which could provide a permanent venue for the Repair Café and a community growing area.

Because the project manager is embedded within CAFS, she is able to provide direct links for Alston Moor groups, residents and businesses into relevant CAFS services and projects – such as the Cumbria Greenbuild Project, the use of the thermal imaging equipment, and energy efficiency training and assistance for businesses via the Townscape Heritage Scheme.

3.5: Summary of Year Two Achievements:

Year two has built upon the partnership development and awareness raising work of Year One. Achievements are:

- The project officer is part of the team working with the Parish Council, North Pennines AONB and Eden District Council on the development of neighbourhood plan.
- The development of the draft Community Plan out for consultation.
- Various community events held including 4 Green Drinks social events, 2 Repair Cafes, Climate Keys concert.
- Funding secured for AMCE to develop solar panel project for the school, and, potentially, other projects including bio-mass.
- The Greenprint Convergence event demonstrated considerable community support for actions to build a more sustainable future for Alston Moor.
- Links established between CAT and Cumbria County Council to deliver a full day Carbon Literacy event on Zero Carbon.
- Energy efficiency measures installed in a number of local households which can be developed and promoted to property owners, landlords and social housing providers.
- Links made and strengthened between Alston Moor and other CAFS projects.
- Installation and promotion of the “Charge my Street” community electric car charging points.
- Setting up of Web and Facebook platforms and Greenprint Timeline to show progress – linked to websites for Alston Moor Partnership and CAFS.

4: Challenges

The first year of the project was full of challenges, many of which predated the setting up of the project. Embedding the project officer within key working groups (Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plan) has gone a long way to addressing some of the communication issues. Nevertheless, planning remains one of the greatest structural challenges facing the Greenprint project – for example the direct clash between the aspirations of many of those attending the Convergence who see wind-power as an essential part of the energy mix for the Moor and a district council policy which is against wind farm development.

Influencing policy development takes time, much of it spent in formal meetings. It is not an activity that is attractive to volunteers. Therefore a large percentage of the project officer’s time is invested in this aspect of the project.

A Broader Vision: There is a history of social and community activism in Alston Moor. Until recently, however, individual groups were not well linked together to maximise impact.

In the past, the Alston Moor Partnership has developed and delivered individual projects, such as the Heritage Lottery funded Townscape Heritage Scheme. By leading the Community Plan, it is seeking to create and take forward a broader based, more strategic vision for the future in which all community strands are integrated. The Greenprint project has been something of a catalyst for the community conversation that is the required foundation for such a vision. Whilst focusing on ‘green’ issues, it has opened out the discussion to include other social and economic concerns. The Convergence event demonstrated that environmental sustainability cannot be separated from issues of social isolation and economic deprivation, and that a whole community vision – a whole place approach- which is supported by the wider political infrastructure - is required for a Zero Carbon future to be achieved.

The Capacity to Work Together: The residents of Alston Moor show a great capacity for working together. The project officer has provided a hub, linking people, ideas and organisations together to create a stronger whole. This has been achieved partly through her presence at meetings and on working groups, partly through the effectiveness of her local networking with groups, businesses, schools, the Church and councillors. Involving Paul Allen of CAT in the Convergence event was a significant achievement, which may lead to further sharing of good practice. The event itself showcased the ways in which community groups were already working together and proposed many ways in which the community could work together more closely, including offers of direct help. It also linked Alston Moor to neighbouring communities in Durham, the North East and Cumbria. It brought a high profile to this small and isolated area, set it firmly into the wider context of Climate Action, Transition and Sustainability.



Participants from Durham, Cumbria and the North East join the representative from the Cumbrian Green Party at the Greenprint Convergence workshop.

The project has been careful to include businesses and enterprise in its activities. For example by making sure that the work of the Repair Café does not disadvantage small local businesses such as the electrician and bike repair service and engaging with the business association, inviting them to Greenprint events and supporting theirs.

The challenge this year, as it was last year, is that the project officer is the 'go to' person on a wide range of issues. This risks leaving a large hole when the funding for her post ceases. For the project to have long term impact, it is essential that a suitable vehicle for the future strategic development of the community is established before the end of Greenprint project funding – the Community Plan may be the key to this.

Engaging All Parts of the Community: The challenge of engaging different groups within the community remains an issue. People are busy, especially those with young families. And the issues can seem too complex for the individual to deal with. The feedback from the Convergence and the success of the Repair Café suggest that people are more likely to engage with specific activities that address an immediate need (something needs to be repaired, the house is draughty) or provides an opportunity to do something that they take pleasure in doing (growing vegetables, cooking, mending things).

The installation of the community charging points for electric vehicles and the potential development of a solar power project for the school are, or will be, practical, visible and useful

outcomes to which people can relate. Seeing things happen in the actual fabric of the community is likely to be more successful at engaging people from all areas of the community than the hard but technical and bureaucratic graft necessary to bring about policy changes at the political level.

5: Recommendations for Years 3:

- Focus on small but highly visible projects that can be achieved within a relatively short timescale – judging by the feedback from the Convergence, projects to assist local food production and renewable energy are those likely to have the greatest impact.
- Seek funding for a local food feasibility study – possibly linking a food enterprise to the development of a community building.
- Seek funding to ensure the future of the Repair Café and find a permanent ‘home’ for it (again, possibly linked with the development of a community building).
- Continue to support AMCE with a view to achieving at least one renewable energy generation project over the next 12 months.
- Ensure project timeline on the website is kept up-to-date with activities, events, successes and developments.
- Apart from the above activities, it is recommended that the project officer invests the majority of her limited time resource in the less visible but essential business of working with councillors at parish, district and county council levels to ensure that the work of the Greenprint project is taken forward via a Community Plan and other policy vehicles. These may include the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan for Alston Moor, or specific additionality to the existing Eden Local Plan to accommodate Alston Moor priorities around housing and land use.

JUDITH BROWN

October 2018

Appendix 1:

ALSTON MOOR GREENPRINT CONVERGENCE EVENT: SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK AND IDEAS.

A: INTRODUCTION

This event was held over the late afternoon/early evening of Saturday 8th September 2018 in Alston Town Hall. This seemed to be a good choice of time and location, as the event was attended by 62 people, which effectively filled the hall.

A keynote presentation by Paul Allen of the Centre for Alternative Technology was a considerable draw, but the level of active engagement by most attendees in the exercise following his input indicates that most were there because of their commitment to putting the community of Alston Moor onto a more sustainable basis.

There were four parts to the exercise:

1: A personal postcard from Alston Moor in 2045

2: Individuals write ideas and issues on post-it notes and stick them on themed flipchart sheets:

- Food
- Buildings
- Energy
- Transport
- Emergency Planning

3: In groups, people work on one theme, clustering the ideas from the post-it notes to identify key ideas and issues.

4: Everyone was invited to answer 3 key questions on a paper aeroplane;

- What is your priority theme?
- What practical steps can we take?
- Do you have experience to share?

This report sets out the results from these exercises.

B: A POSTCARD FROM ALSTON MOOR 2045

The challenge set to people was to visualise a positive future as a counterbalance to the negative and dystopian future scenarios which tend to dominate the media.

The way people used this exercise was very personal (as was intended). Some people wrote mini-essays, some a single sentence. Some people really imagined that they were sending a chatty postcard to a friend, a few set out bullet points, or made political statements.

Despite the diversity of responses and the various ways that people had approached the exercise, certain themes came across very strongly and would seem to form the structure of a positive vision for Alston Moor 2045.

- AM self-sufficient in energy, with a strong reliance on wind-generation supplemented with solar, bio-mass and hydro power generation capacity. Surplus energy is used to fuel public buildings such as schools and an arts centre. Anticipated future technological developments include greatly improved power storage capability.
- More food is produced and sold locally, bringing more land into food production and developing community approaches to growing, exchanging, preparing and eating. Some people anticipate more use of food growing technologies such as solar heated poly-tunnels, others favour greater focus on growing crops suitable to the Alston Moor climate.
- Houses are better insulated, and power consumption is down.
- All transport that isn't human (or animal) powered, is electric. Electric cars, pods or drones facilitate individual travel, but there is a cheap, regular and efficient public transport system (buses, mini-buses, trains). Most travel does not go too far afield – across the parish, and to Hexham.
- There will be a shorter working week, people will volunteer their time to run community facilities, they will exchange skills, labour and goods in a local bartering or swap system.
- Communication technologies will keep people connected with each other even when weather prevents travel and there will be emergency volunteers and community-owned equipment to cope with extreme weather events.
- There has been a great improvement in the natural environment with the restoration of meadows and the return of bird species.

It is worth noting that some people's postcards mentioned political changes (e.g. a Basic Citizen Income) as being a necessary part of this future vision and that others recognised that it would come at the price of certain freedoms being curtailed.

A couple of postcards described a future where Alston Moor works with other aspiring social enterprise communities and one mentioned co-operation with a renewable energy group from another country. But, on the whole, it was a remarkably inward-looking vision of the future, painting a picture of a community that is self-sufficient but also self-contained.

C: THE THEMES

This section summarises the issues emerging from the post-it note exercises.

FOOD – This can be summarised as follows:

- Grow, buy, and eat local
- Teach people how to grow, including learning different growing techniques
- Bring more land into productive use both individually and communally and in association with local farmers
- Share – land, tools, skills, produce, 'muck'
- Community kitchen and community café.

BUILDINGS – the key issue identified within this theme was insulation to make buildings more energy efficient.

- Improve design and building regulations to require highest standards of energy efficiency.
- Educate people – courses on low energy techniques, passiv haus and straw-bale building, retro-fitting.

- Use sustainable materials.
- Provide advice and subsidies to help people draught-proof and insulate.
- Promote community-led housing schemes with shared facilities and equipment.
- Support a community-owned retrofit company.

ENERGY – Enabling wind turbine technology was the predominant theme, but other renewable technologies are also seen as important as are changes in behaviour.

- Change public policy on wind farms; seek solutions including community ownership and funding.
- Encourage personal behaviour changes to reduce consumption (switch things off, wear more jumpers!)
- Support and encourage solar generation.
- Work with children and young people to engage the next generation.
- Invest in locally-grown bio-mass (including community woodland).

TRANSPORT- Electric vehicles and more car sharing are the favoured solutions to this problem.

- More community electric bikes to rent/share.
- Set up a car share club facilitated by social media e.g. a WhatsApp group, or online car-pool.
- More EV recharging points.
- Regular, cheap public transport – mini-bus?
- Easier and quicker system for qualifying drivers of community vehicles.

EMERGENCY PLANNING – Most of the responses focussed on snow rather than flooding, perhaps reflecting the experience of being cut-off by ‘the beast from the east’ storm in early 2018.

- Set up network of emergency volunteers on a regularly updated database – list skills, who can do what – available on website. Include emergency contacts.
- Pre-plan when bad weather expected – visit the vulnerable or have buddying system for vulnerable people – have they got supplies of food and meds, warm clothes.
- Emergency stocks of food, meds and fuel (in household? In community?)
- Carry out local resilience planning.
- Tree-planting and rewilding to reduce flooding.

D: PAPER AEROPLANES

At the end of the event, participants were invited to answer three questions on pre-printed paper aeroplanes, then fold them and launch them. This is the analysis of the answers people gave. Thirty-one planes were launched. Some people identified two priorities rather than one, so the figures for each theme add up to more than the total number of participants. In terms of next steps, some answers were specific and some very generalised, some deliverable at an individual level, some requiring high levels of partnership to effect policy change. It is not always clear whether some steps are a person commitment or a plea for action in more generalised terms (e.g. ‘reduce energy use’.)

Two people selected the theme of buildings as their priority, but as their next steps referred to energy, their answers have been included with the energy group. Some people prioritised additional themes. These have been identified separately in this analysis.

FOOD – 7 people identified this as the key priority. Suggested next steps were:

- Create more community growing spaces.
- Encourage more diversity of land use including for bio-mass as well as for food crops.
- Use Alston Primary school field.
- Concentrate on seasonal produce.
- Provide training and expertise on how to grow food at Alston's altitude
- Share my garden with others.

ENERGY – 10 people identified energy as a priority.

- Find out what grants are available for external insulation.
- Reduce energy use.
- Push forward on delivery of local community renewable energy projects.
- Engage the council on wind farms.
- Employ known technology to create energy.
- Wind turbines and EV.
- Support Brampton Beyond Energy.
- Run a survey "If wind development around Alston Moor was community owned – would you support it?"

TRANSPORT – 7 people chose transport as the priority.

- Regular buses and car shares.
- Promote the EV charging points.
- More volunteer drivers.
- Set up a car share club (reduce need for individual ownership.)

EXTREME WEATHER – 5 participants selected this theme as the priority.

- Contact Cumbria Community Foundation about funding
- Create a local weather resilience plan.
- Increase public awareness.
- Pre-plan, e.g. home-visits to vulnerable people before bad weather.
- Plant more trees and hedges.

EDUCATION – 2 people chose education as their priority.

- Educate to enrol interest.
- Educate through practice, e.g. more eco-friendly church building drives awareness through the congregation.

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT – This was identified by 3 people.

- Focus on engaging young people in politics.
- Involve school-age children in 'planning for real' type activities.
- Make a group of residents and councillors to find what's available in schemes and make sure we badger districts, county and central government to make sure we get what's available and lobby for what we need.

ECOLOGY/NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – 1 person identified this as the key area.

- Land reform/cycle more/eat less meat/share things.

OFFERS OF HELP – 19 of the participants stated that they had expertise or experience they are willing to share. Some were non-specific ('Yes, I have experience to share.') More specific offers included:

- Fixing bikes
- Tree coppicing
- Wildlife surveys
- Renewable energy technical expertise
- Facilitation of workshops with children and young people.
- Community planning expertise.
- Re-use and repurposing of textiles.
- Demonstrating hydroponics
- Gardening for bees.
- Setting up EV charging points.

E: Conclusion:

The Convergence Event attracted a committed cross-section of local residents and interested individuals from neighbouring areas. Most participants engaged enthusiastically with the exercises. Whilst some of the actions suggested are beyond the immediate capacity and remit of the Greenprint, the involvement of local political representatives (with the invitation taken up by Labour, Lib Dems, and the Green Party), may help to drive forward the 'green agenda' on the wider political and social level.

Most suggested actions and aspirations were of a more local level and there appeared to be a willingness from a significant number of participants to take some realistic next steps.

Although all themes are important and integrated, some may be more readily achievable than others. Energy and Food both feature very strongly. Whilst the issue of Council policy regarding wind farms must be tackled at the political level, Alston Moor Community Energy continues to develop opportunities for smaller scale, locally owned renewable energy projects.

Regarding food production, land ownership and use is a big and complex issue, but supporting the cultivation of more produce at an individual and community level is more readily achievable by means of small-scale actions which engage and enthuse those involved.

It is important that (realistic) offers of support are followed up in order to maintain the energy and momentum of the event. The feedback received regarding priorities and ideas should be used to inform the next steps with the Greenprint Project – identifying short, medium and long term actions – the 'easy wins' and the long, hard slogs!

It was notable that some suggestions were for activities already provided by CAFS (e.g. advice on draught-proofing) and through previous projects (e.g. community electric bikes). It is not possible to tell from the written feedback whether people knew about these schemes and were asking for more, or whether existing activities need greater publicity.

JUDITH BROWN

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