

Climate Change Engagement Draft Report

This document is for internal purposes only.

1) Summary

On the 12th of June 2019, The Council declared a climate emergency and reconfirmed its commitment to battling climate change. Since then we have been consulting with residents and businesses as well as researching best practice from other local authorities to develop a draft strategy. In addition this, we have been taking every opportunity to reach out to the wider community to assess people’s knowledge of, and interest in, climate change, in order to establish what The Council can do to help people and businesses reduce their carbon footprints. So far engagement activities have reached over 1,500 people. The most common responses called for improved cycling facilities, cheaper public transport, more carbon education, green energy provisions, better recycling facilities, carbon neutral new builds and greater consideration for green spaces.

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1. Rationale and Methods

Following the climate emergency declaration, The Council has been working to understand what action can be taken to not only reduce the carbon outputs of its assets and activity, but also in what ways they can act as a community leader to empower the whole town to take necessary action. The declaration was a direct result of collective action from ordinary citizens, and therefore The Council believes the response should be community led. For this reason, it was important to reach as many people as possible to establish how people felt impacted by the changing climate and what ways The Council can empower residents to make changes. Furthermore, this was an opportunity to collect the contact details of people who were interested in being further involved in Stevenage Borough Councils climate emergency response.

Please see table 1 for full details and chronology of consultation and engagement methodology. For the purpose of analysis in this report, engagement has been divided into three distinct sections: initial online engagement, Stevenage Borough Councils questionnaires and formal consultation. To clarify, these three sections overlapped significantly in terms of questions posed and language used. This is why overarching conclusions can be drawn when combining the three data sets. For example, the questionnaires used by The Council were designed to mirror and build on the initial online engagement, and contained questions directly linking to the document which were being formally consulted on. The Council felt it was important to take an innovative approach in order to converse with people who may not usually have much interaction with the local authority or climate change action. Face to face surveys, traditional document consultation, pop ups at community events and social media platforms were all utilised.

Table 1: Chronology of consultation and engagement methodology

Type of engagement	Description	Dates
Initial online engagement	Online chatbot which targeted people who lived in Stevenage through Facebook advertising.	13 - 28 January 2020
Stevenage Borough Council questionnaires	There were three different questionnaires used to collect data. The online version was posted to the dedicated climate change webpage, circulated on social media and to staff members. The second was a slightly shorter version of this which was used for face to face engagement and the third was designed for the children.	4 th February – 19 th of March 2020
Formal consultation	At the end of February 2020, the Stevenage Borough Council climate change page went live. This dedicated resource included links to a draft strategy, draft resident pledge document and draft business charter. Residents were invited to respond with their views to the email climatechange@stevenage.gov.uk	February 24 th – March 22 nd 2020

1.1) Common responses and who was reached

To summarise, the data demonstrates that respondents are engaging with the urgency of the climate crisis and are looking to Stevenage Borough Council for guidance on the best course of action. Respondents are already taking significant measures to change behaviour and ensure they are actively reducing their carbon footprint. The engagement carried out so far has reached a wide range of people with 1,400 respondents to the Facebook survey (Section 1.2) and 192 recorded responses for questionnaires used, including people from primary school age to 65+. The methods used included face to face surveys, online questionnaires and email respondents to The Councils dedicated Climate Change webpage which was sent out to the Planning Policy consultation contacts. Respondents were reached through Facebook via third party Novoville and at community events such as schools parliament and metro bank business engagement event (Table 2). The hardest to reach group were local businesses, this may have been due to the increase in Covid19 concern and other distractions, but it is an area we will have to focus on for future engagement. Other engagement to note is ongoing meeting with representatives from Friends of the Earth who are giving support and critique of The Councils response to climate change. To date Friends of the Earth have given very positive feedback on the approaches the Council has taken so far. The Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust continue to work closely with the green spaces team as they have done for many years. The most dominant themes discussed by respondents to The Councils climate change engagement were:

- improve cycling facilities;
- cheaper public transport;
- more carbon education;

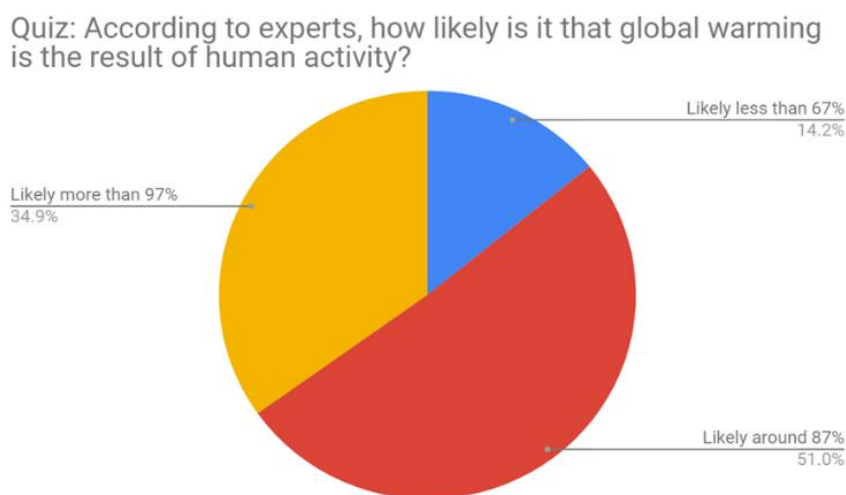
- green energy provisions;
- better recycling facilities;
- carbon neutral new builds; and
- greater consideration for green spaces.

This will give valuable direction for the development of a Stevenage tailored action plan to net-zero by 2030 and will be investigated further.

2) Initial online engagement

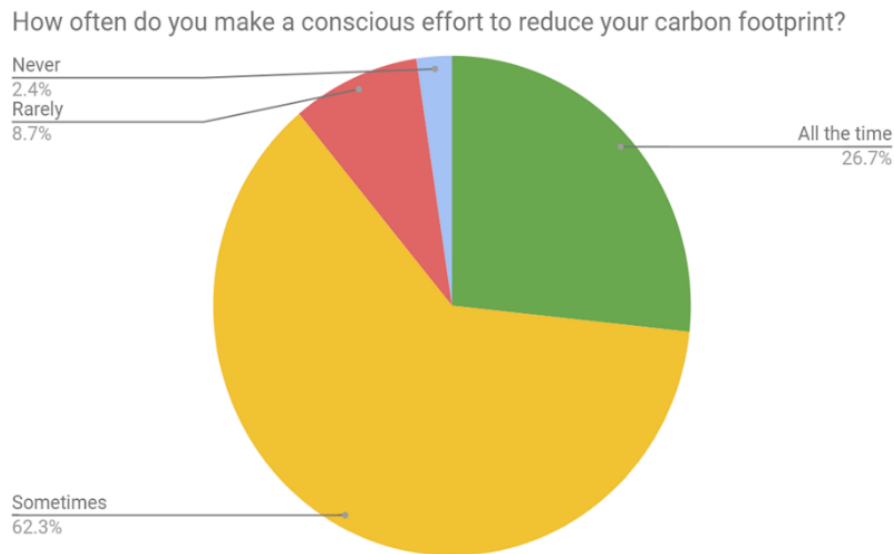
From 13 - 28 January 2020 The Council launched an information gathering exercise with the company Novoville in the form of a survey operated through a chatbot. The survey was advertised to those who have an association to Stevenage on their Facebook profiles. The survey received a large amount of interest, with over 1,400 respondents. This was the largest percentage of responses to a consultation of any council or authority in the UK that Novoville had ever received. Although it cannot be guaranteed that all this data was from Stevenage residents, the full data sets suggests the majority were. Moreover, this method of engagement allowed The Council to reach people who may be missed through conventional methods such as newspaper advertisement and traditional community consultation (28% of respondents were aged 25-34). Novoville compiled a report on this data, which could be used as a baseline for people’s knowledge and understanding of climate change. Data demonstrated that the majority of respondents believed climate change action was the responsibility of everyone in the community, which reinforces Stevenage Borough Council’s holistic approach to this issue, considering the town as a whole, rather than just their own outputs. Other important data gathered by Novoville included:

Graph 1: How likely is it that climate change is caused by human activity?



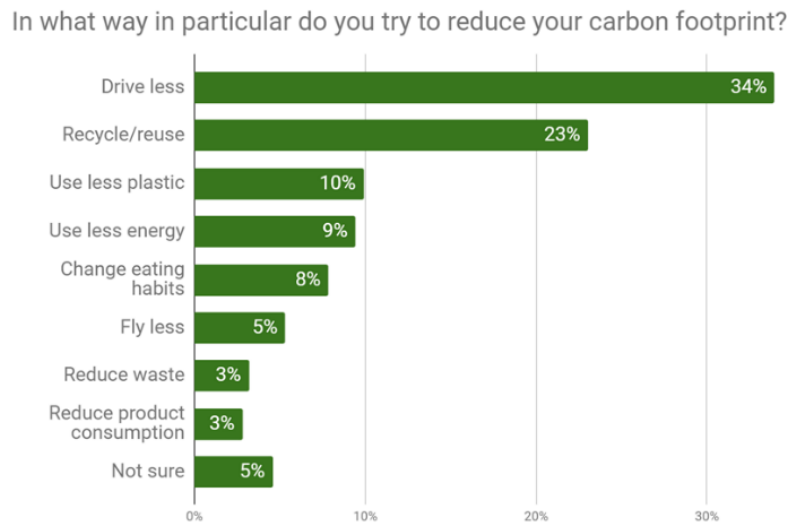
Graph 1 depicts the need for more awareness of the true extent of the role human activity plays in accelerated global warming. Respondents were asked how likely they thought it was that global warming was a result of human activity, and given three options of more than 97%, around 87% or less than 67%. Despite the correct answer being more than 97%, only 34.9% of respondents chose this.

Graph 2: How often do people make a conscious effort to reduce their carbon footprints?



Graph 2 shows that most people are either always or sometimes trying to think about their carbon footprint. This is a good starting point and shows the need for The Council to continue to help empower residents to always consider their carbon footprints.

Graph 3: Action people take to reduce their carbon footprint

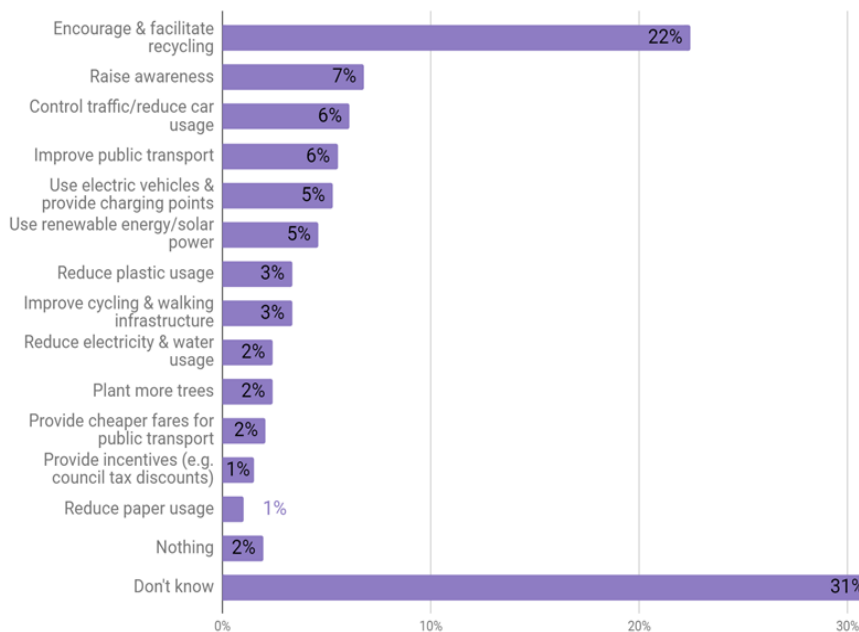


Graph 3 demonstrates that people understand the importance of driving less and how car emissions contribute towards climate change. However it is also clear that the second and third most popular response demonstrates people don't fully understand the difference between climate change and environmental damage. While 33% of people are recycling and using less plastic, this is having little impact on reducing their carbon footprint. This was a theme that came through on all public engagements and highlights there is a need for further education on carbon emissions and climate change. After sharing this emerging trend with Friends of the Earth, it is clear that this is not a Stevenage specific problem. Friends of the Earth have

confirmed that in the last few years the increased awareness of plastic pollution and high media coverage has clouded the climate change issue. It is now nationally apparent that an increasing number of people incorrectly think that cutting down plastic use and recycling their household waste will significantly reduce carbon emissions and climate change. Unfortunately this will have limited impact on reducing carbon emissions and the real message should in fact be that reducing product consumption rather than recycling and reusing is the way to reduce carbon emissions.

Graph 4: Ways The Council can help fight climate change

What do you think Stevenage Borough Council could do to reduce its impact on the climate?



Graph 4 again illustrates the misunderstanding that recycling is a major influence on reducing carbon emissions and climate change. Coupled with the fact that 31% of people stated 'don't know' demonstrates that The Council must do more to spread awareness of the causes of climate change.

Building on the Novoville results, at the end of February, The Council launched a consultation on the draft strategy, resident pledges and business charter. This was launched on a dedicated climate change webpage - <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/climate-change/>. Alongside this consultation it was important to continue to collect as many residents' views as possible, which was done through a further questionnaire. This was done through 6 weeks of engagement which included face to face engagement via The Community Wardens, promotion on social media, an article in The Comet and a presentation at The Schools Parliament. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19 the team managed to complete nearly all planned engagement, with the exception of a workshop with the Youth Council. The questionnaires were based on the surveys used by Novoville and built in with the formal consultation of the pledges.

3) Stevenage Borough Council Questionnaires

There were three different questionnaires used to collect data. The first, which was posted to the dedicated webpage, circulated on social media and to Stevenage Borough Council staff members, received 73 responses. The second was a slightly shorter version, which was used for face to face engagement via the wardens around the town centre, for which The Council received 103 responses. The third was designed for the children who attended the school's parliament and recorded 16 results. However, a lot of the children filled this out as a group. For the purpose of this section of the report, the three sets of data will be combined. The three individual data sets can be found as Appendix A, B and C.

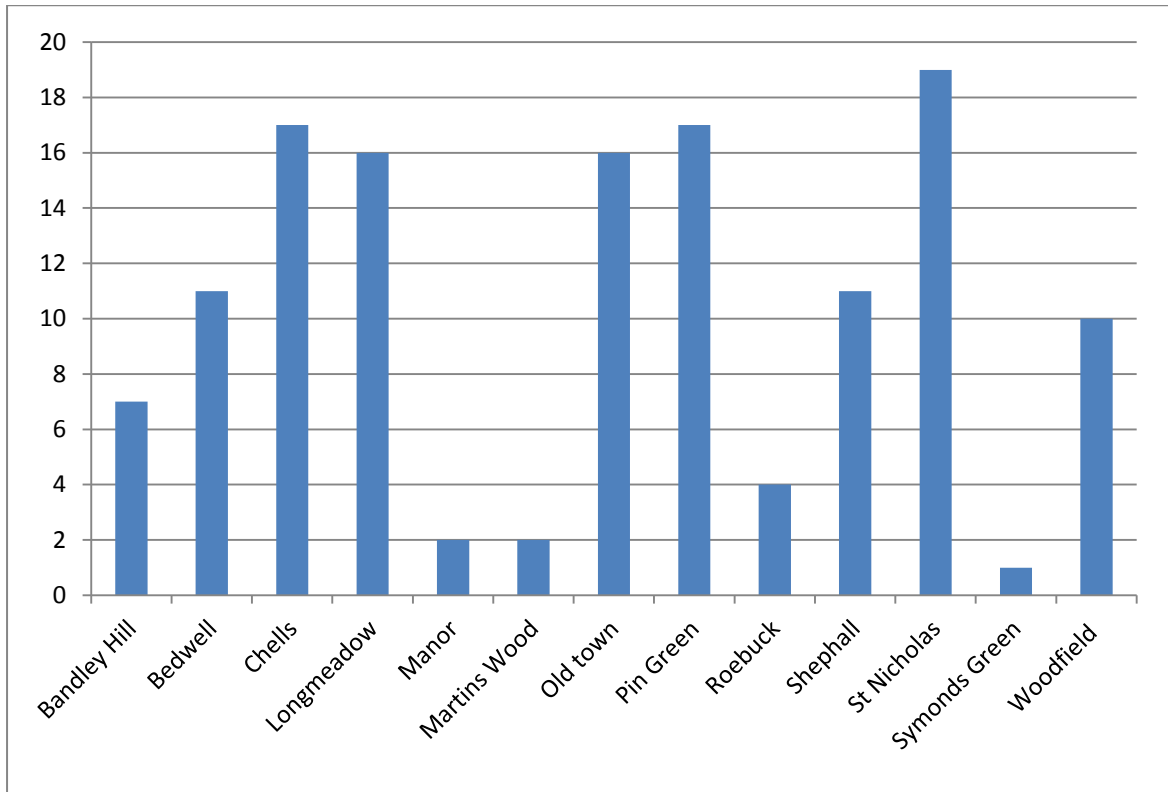
The surveys produced an array of both quantitative and qualitative data, with some of the most dominant narratives being around the following topics:

- Data showed overwhelming calls for better recycling facilities, particularly surrounding volume, frequency of collection and clarity of process.
- Data showed a strong call for more affordable and better public transport.
- Data called for improved education for residents on how to reduce their personal carbon footprints.
- Data shows people are well educated regarding the need for everyone to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Data illustrated the need for more support on how to ensure people's homes are as energy efficient as possible.
- Data demonstrates people don't always explicitly understand the link between greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
- Data shows that young people associated climate change heavily with environmentalism and were keen to do self-sustaining activities such as growing vegetables. It was also clear that young people did understand the importance of driving less and walking more.
- Data shows people wanted to cycle more but felt unable to due to reasons such commutes being too long and not feeling confident enough.

3.1) Who was reached?

In total 192 individual responses were recorded. It is important to highlight the fact that when carrying out face to face engagement sometimes one person will speak on behalf of a group, so the figure 192 may not be entirely representative. Out of the 192 responses, 133 residents provided their specific ward. Please see Graph 5.

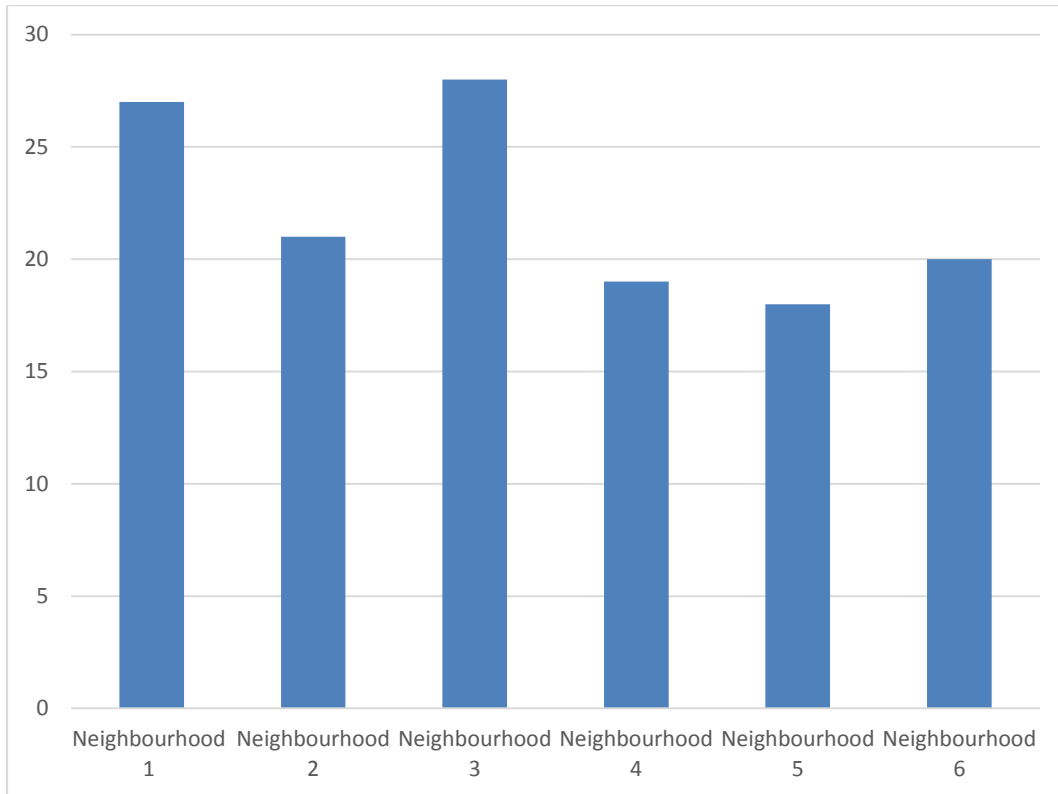
Graph 5: Breakdown of respondents by ward



The graph demonstrates that at least one person was engaged from each neighbourhood. A further 59 people did not provide their neighbourhood, and 16 respondents were under 18 and therefore were not asked this question. Please see graph 6 for the wards split into the 6 neighbourhoods. The wards split into them as follows,

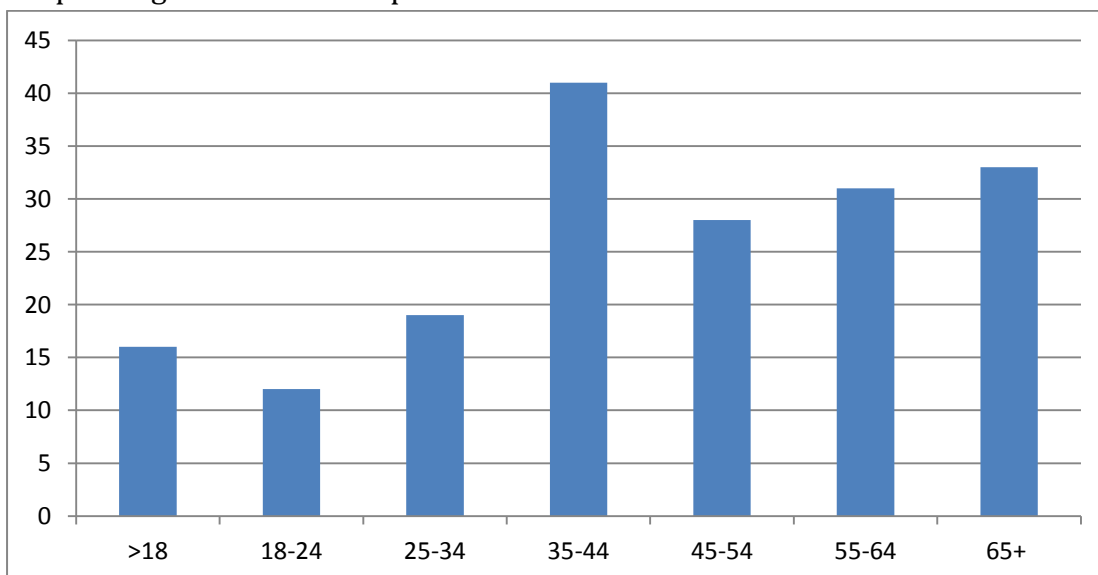
1. Woodfield – Symonds Green – Old Town
2. St Nicholas – Martins Wood
3. Bedwell – Pin Green
4. Manor – Chells
5. Shephall – Bandle Hill
6. Longmeadow – Roebuck

Graph 6: Ward responses grouped into the 6 neighbourhoods



Regarding age, the same age brackets as Novoville were used (except for under 18s) and 180 people provided their age bracket which is almost every respondent. The age bracket which was most dominant was 35-44 with 41 respondents, which was the second most dominant in the Novoville data set. In contrast, while Novoville saw the 25-34 group dominate, this is likely due to the social media targeting, reaching people who might not usually engage with The Council. Graph 7 shows a good breadth of people are being reached. It is The Council's aim to strive to engage more young people on this topic, due to their influence as the future generation and already existing interest.

Graph 7: Age brackets of respondents



Face to face engagement was carried out at several different events by the community development and climate change teams. Please see table 1 for the full list of engagement events.

Table 2: Engagement events

Event	Date
Douglas drive elderly service users	04/02
School parliament – Council chamber	25/02
Metro Bank business engagement	26/02
Symonds Green Café / Community centre	09/03
Old town library	09/03
Haven football match	09/03
Shepell centre	10/03
Bandley Hill play group	10/03
Bedwell flats, town centre	11/03
Hendron court / Hutton house	11/03
St Nicks play centre	11/03
St Nicks shops	11/03
Mayors charity concert	11/03
Longmeadow	12/03
Roebuck shops	12/03
Chells – St Pauls and St Hughes church	12/03
Hampson Park community centre	12/03
Hampson park play centre	12/03
Tinebridge community centre and shops	13/03
Bedwell community centre	16/03
Customer service centre	17/03 and 19/03
Town library	19/03

Business representatives were engaged at an event hosted by Metro Bank at the end of February in Stevenage, which was meant for networking. The Council had a stand set up and spoke to businesses about how The Council could help them reduce their emissions. Table 2 depicts what was found.

Table 3: Suggestions from employees of Stevenage or Hertfordshire based businesses

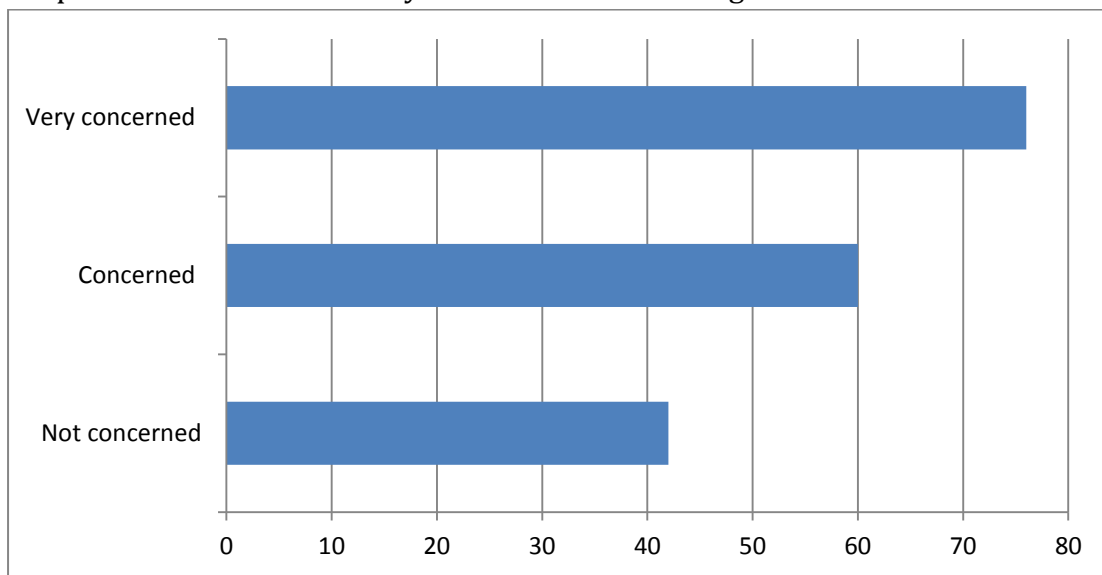
Business employee worked for	Suggestion
Croner (Stevenage territory)	Company has been using less paper and online apps and would like to have some more education about what's out there.
Beststart HR	Free or heavily subsidised electric charging points, more electric charging points, take measures to reduce congestion / make priority lanes.
Letchworth SEAT and CUPRA (Hertfordshire)	Currently launching an electric fleet which could be hired out to SBC or local businesses.
Metro bank	Metro bank have been helping people get loans for electric vehicles. The Council declaring the emergency is good - need to keep going with spreading awareness and keep up momentum with action.
Solveway Ltd	Solveway Ltd are based in a school, follow wider

	school policies, Barnwell school. Would like to see SBC promoting green electric, improved efficiency of the housing stock and also offer help to those with private housing.
Tollers Solicitors	Tollers Solicitors are recycling more and want to use green electric, would like to see more tree planting and use of green electric.

3.2) Numerical data

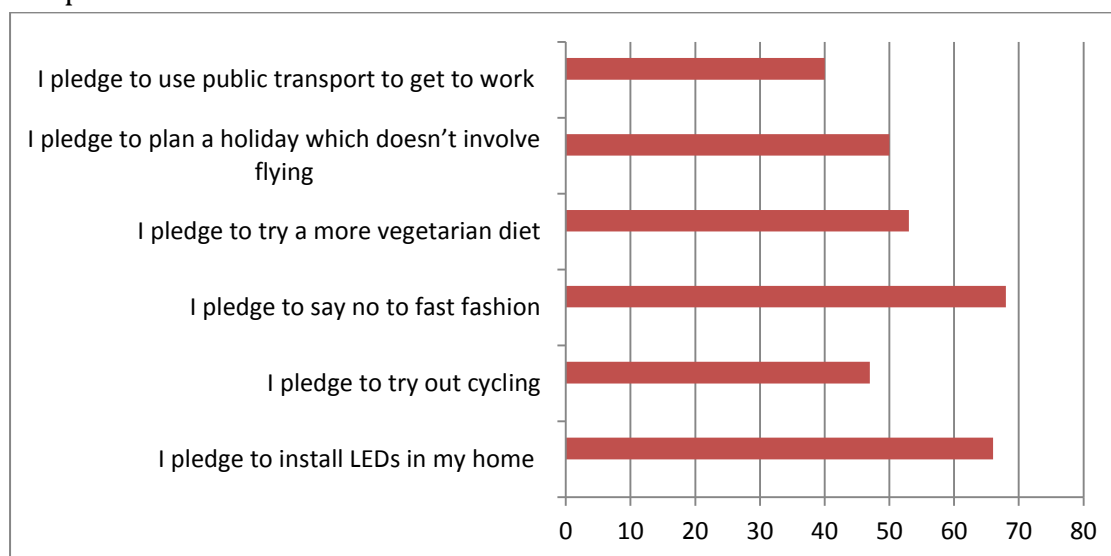
In order to establish how important residents felt climate change was, the question ‘How concerned are you about climate change?’ was included. Overall, 178 respondents answered this, and the results are depicted in Graph 7. In total 136 people stated they were either very concerned or concerned, in comparison to 41 people stating that they are not concerned. It is important to highlight the self-selection bias, meaning it is likely that those who filled out the online questionnaire likely already had an interest in the subject. However, people who were involved in face to face engagement were not attending climate specific events, so this will balance out the responses.

Graph 8: How concerned are you about Climate Change?



Respondents were asked ‘What action are you most likely to take to help reduce your own carbon footprint?’ and the options included were examples lifted from The Councils draft climate change pledge list. The document focuses on the fact that while local and national policy on energy is critical, Stevenage Borough Council also wants to support and empower residents to make changes in their everyday lives. Residents are presented with a list of actions they can take to help reduce their carbon footprint and asked to consider committing to at least two from each category – home, transport and consumption. People could pick as many as they liked. Below, graph 8 depicts the six options that were included in both the online questionnaire and face to face version. Data shows people have a clear understanding that they should be avoiding fast fashion and installing LEDs. Public transport was the least popular pledge, highlighting the need for a better and cheaper public transport system in Stevenage and Hertfordshire.

Graph 9: What action are you most likely to take to help reduce your own carbon footprint?



3.3) Qualitative data

The questionnaires included open text boxes so respondents were able to give their views using their own words. This section will consider common themes that arose when these questions were put to residents and people who work in the town.

Table 4: What action would you like to see from Stevenage Borough Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment?

Theme and the number of responses which related	Quotes from data set
Greener transport - 48	'Make the town centre and high street more accessible by bike. People will continue to drive if there's no alternative.' 'Offer staff bus passes instead of car park passes. Make sure cycle routes are continuous, attractive and go to the places people want to be including the town centre' 'increase cycle parking provision and increase the cost of car parking' 'Stronger incentives to use alternative transport to car' 'I would like to see electric buses being used. Incentivise businesses to use electric vehicles for delivering in the town centre.'
Managing green spaces and building regulations - 18	'Reduce its carbon footprint. Plant more trees and manage our green spaces' 'Stop building on green belt' 'Up the sustainability ratings on all newbuilds.' 'Use brownfield sites for building homes as much a possible' 'Ensure that green space and trees are prioritised, make preservation of green space a priority in planning applications (e.g. not tarmacking over front gardens)' 'In planning, insist on carbon neutral houses and offices. In. parks and gardens plant and encourage tap rooted species.'

Green energy and reduced energy usage - 18	'Improve the controls to the heating/ventilation within Daneshill House - 25 degrees+ most days' 'GETTING ALL SHOPS/ADVERTISEMENT LIGHTS TURNED OFF EVERY NIGHT' 'increase use of solar and wind generated power, using public spaces to do so.' 'Solar panels /batteries on all council buildings and help lobby for schools to get the same. Also use heat pumps instead of boilers' 'Ensure all new housing is carbon neutral by ensuring efficient insulation.'
Recycling - 23	'Continue recycling keep recycling centre open all week more recycling at neighbourhood areas' 'Give us wheely bins for our recycling to encourage more people to recycle' 'More frequently recycling collection' 'Provide more help with recycling and reduce waste in the town'

Table 3 shows the extensive feedback received regarding what The Council can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the most prominent topics being green transport (particularly surrounding cycling and calls for a better bus system), managing green spaces, energy efficiency and recycling. The full data sets can be found in Appendix A, B and C, questions 7, 6 and 5.

Table 5: Are you doing anything to reduce your carbon footprint?

Theme and number of responses that relate to the theme	Quotes
Transport - 35	'One of the reasons I moved to Stevenage was to make use of the cycle paths, however I have no safe storage for my bicycle.' 'Less flying, cycling public transport - conscious decision to have no car' 'Using train & bus rather than car where feasible. But bus service is not good in the evenings.' 'I use trains only occasionally as they are so expensive.'
Consumption - 26	'Buy locally grown, use local traders, buy with less packaging, vegan' 'Trying to only buy second hand clothes/buy less' 'repair/ reuse/ upcycle' 'Looking to buy only food with low transport miles where ever possible.'
Energy - 20	'I have installed solar panels; I have increased insulation' 'Yes I changed my electricity provider to Ecotricity, this energy provider supplies 100% green generated energy.' 'wash at 30 degrees and use washing line and clothes airers' 'being energy efficient where ever possible'

Table 4 demonstrates respondents are already going to great lengths to take action against climate change. The transport theme is of particular note, as people highlight their efforts to use more

public transport or try out cycling. However, they believe this has been hindered by an unreliable bus service, expensive train fares and a lack of cycle storage. The full data set can be found in Appendix A, question 8. This question was only featured in the online engagement.

Table 6: What help would you need to reduce your carbon footprint?

Theme and the number of responses which related to the theme	Quote
Transport - 4	'The cost of train travel is far too high at the moment. Travelling by car is cheaper for me.' 'FREE BUS PASS FOR THE 60'S!' 'If cycle paths were clean more people would use them.'" More discounts on ev'
Housing and energy - 3	'Support with funding to replace single glaze metal windows and support to fund new roof which is leaking Private house.' 'Solar panels and batteries with data instruments should be encouraged everywhere but are too expensive for most' 'free insulation'
Carbon Calculator and data -13	'A monthly/3 monthly/6 monthly update on the level of Carbon emissions in Stevenage/Hertfordshire. "app showing how much you were using' "Carbon calculator. For example if you drive from a particular neighbourhood to the town centre it equals x amount of carbon if you take public transport is x amount.' 'Being able to track on an app perhaps'
Education and legislation – 15	'Better legislation to push us down the route of creating less carbon' 'Where can I buy locally produced items with a high environmental standard/awareness? Much of what we consume is manufactured in counties with poor environmental standards, a well know biscuit brand using unsustainable palm oil etc' 'Understanding the differences small changes can make.'" Clear facts and impact of changes I could make. You can feel that what you do individually does not make a difference, there needs to be mass change in attitude and behaviour urgently and enablement to change' 'Application of a carbon tax to all consumables'

Table 5 demonstrates that the majority of responses centred on a need for better education, tougher legislation and most significantly the need for clearer data and carbon calculations. Full data set can be found in Appendix A, Question 9, and this question was only featured in the online version of the survey. However, it is significant data as it highlights what specific assistance Stevenage Borough Council could provide to assist residents to make small scale, everyday changes.

4) Stevenage Borough Council formal consultation response

At the end of February 2020, the Stevenage Borough Council climate change page went live. This dedicated resource included links to a draft strategy, draft resident pledge document and draft business charter. On the 28/02/2020 a link to this page was sent out to The Councils Planning Policy consultees, with the message: *Stevenage Borough Council now has a dedicated page for Climate Change, please follow this link <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/climate-change/> to view our emerging strategy, and to get further information on the Council's ongoing response to the Climate Emergency. Please respond with any feedback to climatechange@stevenage.gov.uk we will only use your details to contact you in relation to this issue. Please advise if you no longer wish to be contacted.* Further to this, an advert was also placed in The Comet inviting people to give their views and visit the dedicated web page <https://www.thecomet.net/news/stevenage-borough-council-launches-climate-change-strategy-1-6542841> as well as being promoted across all The Councils social media.

Table 6 highlights the organisations who responded and what changes they would like to see to the draft documents, as well as specific action they would like to see from Stevenage Borough Council in the future.

Table 7: Organisations responses to formal consultation page

Respondent Organisation	Main Comments - Improvements required or proposed action
Friends of the Earth	-Need for better or at least clearer data on the pledge list (in regard to the graph depicted) concerned it is misleading as it depicts carbon emissions reducing -Praise for pledges, need to add a dairy specific pledge and a way for people and SBC to track progress -Need for a pathway to Stevenage being carbon neutral as a next step
Wallington Farms	- Proposed that SBC appoint a new member of staff to liaise with all industrial property owners in Gunnels Wood to work with them to substantially increase the amount of clean solar energy that is generated on the roofs of industrial buildings in Stevenage
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	-Lister hospital team are looking at revising and improving their own sustainability strategy and would like to work with SBC on this in the future
Hertfordshire Gardens Trust	Future detailed planning should include -grey-water recycling, green energy provision (solar panels, heat pumps, neighbourhood heating systems etc), efficient insulation of buildings, provision of green roofs where appropriate, SUDS, plenty of outdoor space with trees as well as grass, provision for cyclepaths (and home storage of bicycles) and adequate public transport provision. Adequate storage provision for bicycles at stations. bus

	interchanges and neighbourhood centres as well as town centre
Woodland Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Forwarded a template which sets out some of the key actions that the trust would like councils to include either in their climate change strategies or tree strategies. - Would like the council to assess its own land holding and that of key partner organisations to find suitable land for tree planting. -Would like the Council to commit to planting only UK sourced and grown trees to ensure a tree population that is resilient to disease and well adapted to local conditions. -Would also like to see a minimum of 30% tree canopy cover in all new development, and particularly in housing areas.

As previously highlighted in this report (see section 3.2, graph 9) respondents to Stevenage Borough Councils questionnaires had the opportunity to give their views on which of the draft community pledges they felt they were most likely to adopt. Further to this, individuals responded by email to formal consultation, suggesting specific changes and thoughts on climate change. There was some negative feedback with the majority focusing on new construction, building on green spaces and in particular Forster Country. The other negativity raised was respondents feeling that people in Stevenage are not likely to be taking long-haul flights and are unable to 'fork out' for electric cars. This is reflective of wider views that climate change should be dealt with from the top down. The most raised specific requests were around tree planting, protecting green spaces and zero-carbon new builds as well as retrofitting and production of renewable electricity. There was also praise for The Councils role in challenging the Luton airport expansion.

5) Conclusions

Climate change is no longer the divisive topic it once was with the data showing a large amount of people are not only concerned but are actively trying to reduce their emissions. It is clear that more education is needed on what is causing climate change and what needs to be done to reduce carbon emissions. The engagement illustrates that respondents would be supportive of policies and leadership from The Council on reducing emissions. Issues of contention seem to surround not if action should be taken, but what this action might look like. Some of the most prominent conclusion include:

- Importance of protecting green spaces and woodland management. Also, the need to find ways to ensure residents that new development does not always have to be at direct odds with climate change. For example, when investing in low emission housing and redesign of the town around active travel.

- Clear need for major improvements to the public transport in Stevenage and Hertfordshire as a whole, which will require cross partnership working and lobbying to the County Council. On a smaller scale, respondents have requested the Council provide safe and dry places for people to leave their bikes.

-Respondents called for a bolder policy which would really make a difference against climate change, although most understood the strategy as a vision expert, a more detailed action plan is expected to follow.

-Engagement suggest Stevenage Borough Councils Pledges will be of great help to the public, who asked for ways to track their own (as well as the Councils) carbon outputs. To take this further, it must be considered how people can tally their carbon savings and see the difference they are making. It would be great to have a way for people to 'sign up' for the pledges, and then provide data or updates which allow for The Council to monitor (and celebrate) progress.

Next steps for The Councils climate change response will include reconsideration of a time frame for the citizens panel, due to the COVID 19 outbreak. The engagement activities were used as an opportunity to build a database of contacts to recruit for a representative citizens panel, to act as a sounding board on climate policy. As a result, 16 people have provided their email addresses and neighbourhood to be considered for sign up, and a further 56 have requested to be kept informed about climate change engagement opportunities. The above highlighted topics can be used as a foundation for discussion for the first panel.

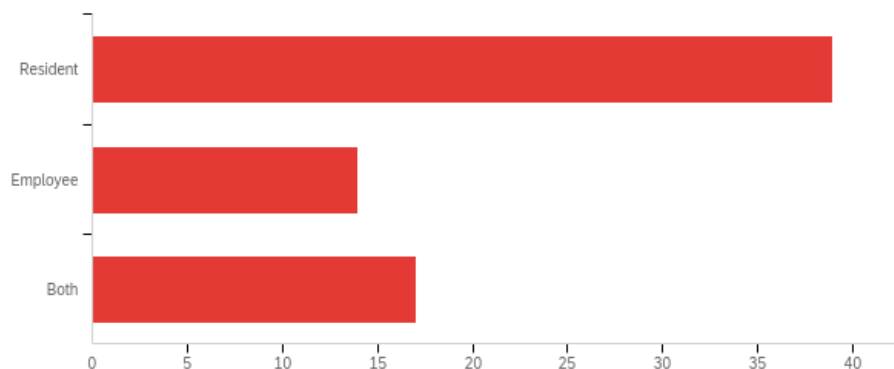
Appendix A – Climate Change Online Questionnaire

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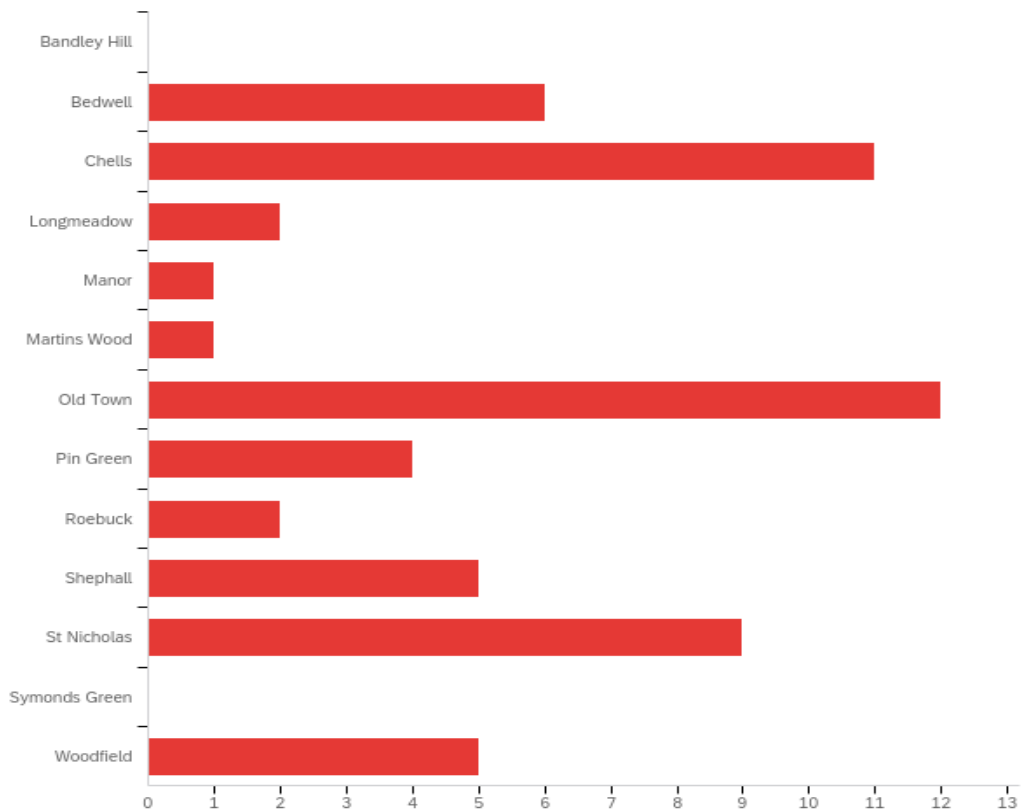
Climate Change Engagement (ONLINE VERSION)

April 3rd 2020, 9:59 am BST

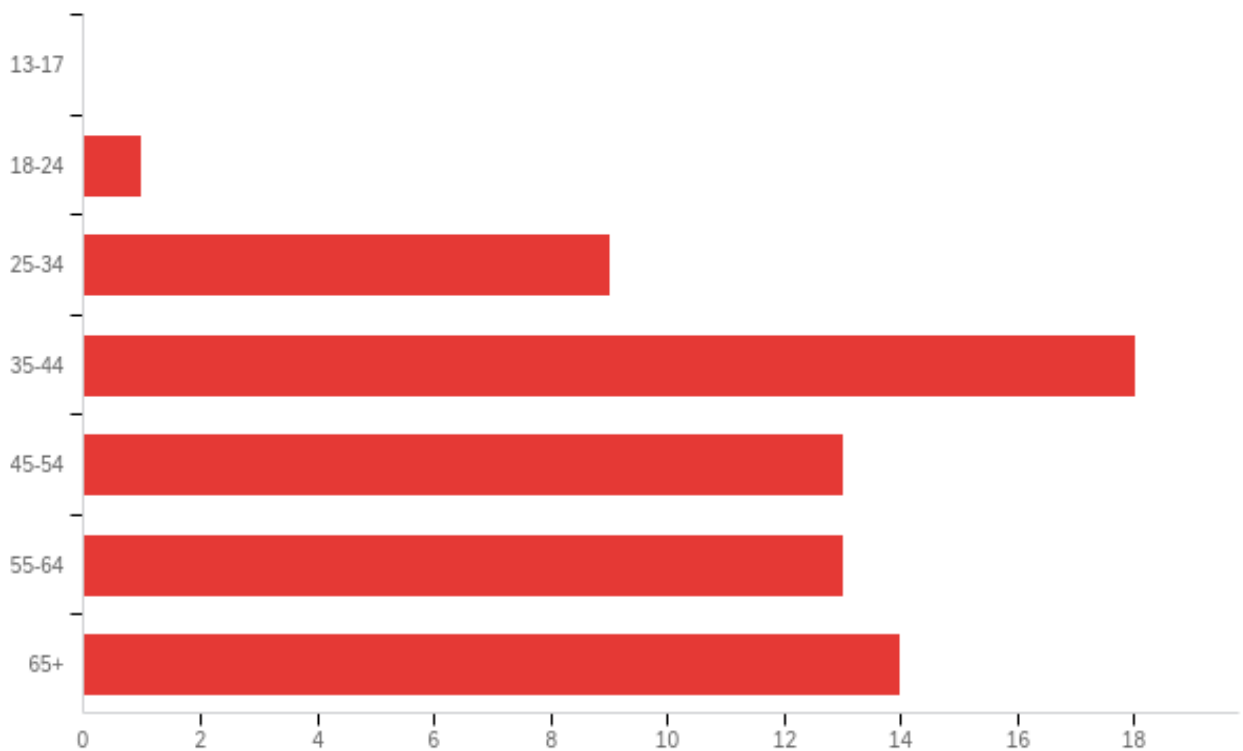
Q1 - Are you a resident of the town or an employee of a Stevenage based business?



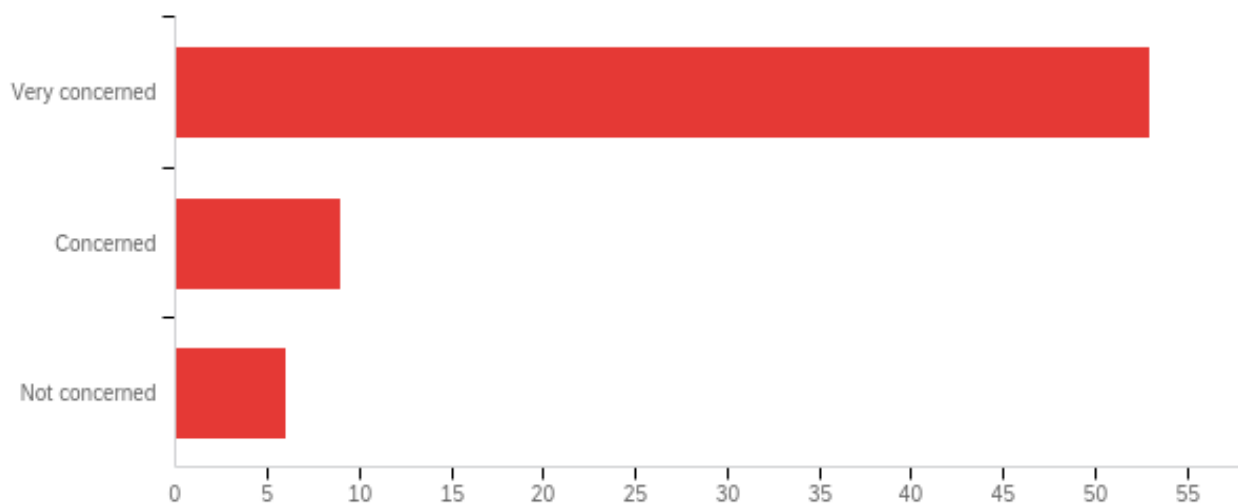
Q2 - If you are a resident - Which area of Stevenage do you live in?



Q3 - Which age bracket do you fit into?



Q4- How concerned are you about Climate Change?



Q5 - In what way - if any - do you feel impacted by Climate Change?

In what way - if any - do you feel impacted by Climate Change?

The air we breath

weather and allotment

Increased worry

Growth of country with little or no way to stop increased carbon

Environment, biodiversity, impacted on global communities and wildlife both in the UK and globally (flooding/bushfires/draught), along with mass extinction, the alarming rate of polar ice melt.

Weather

The effect on my generation and generations to come

I don't think we are impacted yet and won't be until serious government measures are introduced

Varying weather patterns; plastic pollution in food; polluted air.

We shouldn't start worrying only when we are personally affected! It's started in many parts of the world, and e g with the cherries coming into flower on 11 March, one sharp frost could endanger fruit growers' livelihoods in this country.

Suffering more extremes of weather

No proper seasons. Wildlife does know if it's coming or going

The weather

Weather

Changes in climate

More extreme weather events; rising sea levels; future shortages and potential for conflict over water and other resources.

Concerned about the future

The future of our babies, the huge amount of recycling ruining the ozone layer

frustration that authorities do not take this matter seriously enough

RECYCLING AND TOO MANY CARS

Levels of pollution

Wet and relatively warm winters and very dry summers are killing my allotment. Imagine what's happening to farming

none

Weather

Warmer winters

Everything from pollution, to seasonal produce changes

Just look at the weather and smell the air!

worry for my children's future

I have noticed a marked season change, which could have an impact on food production. I am concerned there seems to be no attempt to research historical climate patterns, and comparing them to polarity change, this way we can differentiate between natural and man made climate change, and we can plan better strategies.

Weather

The concerns I have are global as yet no real direct impact other than the increase in insects etc. I have been involved in farming at one point and I have noted that we seem to get more crop fungi etc. these are a reflection of the impact of more rain and generally warmer temperatures.

more storms, higher rainfall, higher summer temperatures, effect on plants and wildlife, air quality

Nothing other than perhaps being made to pay more taxes or having some of my freedoms removed if climate alarmists get their way

Transport pollution - air quality

Green spaces being removed for more housing, lack of fresh, clean air

The burning of fossil fuels from vehicles is most likely the cause of my recent diagnosis of asthma from the pollution.

Too many

Fear for the future of my grandchildren

Entire world will be increasingly impacted, with major knock-on effects e.g. food prices, migration, poverty

Concern for the future of the world, particularly for the next generation

Rising temperatures

Extreme weather; plastic pollution; air quality

It affects all of us, every living thing on this earth

less snow in winter

The somewhat contradictory policies set by Central and Local Governments are often not thought through properly and the longer term effects are not identified and properly analysed. Knee jerk comes to mind.

I am particularly concerned/anxious about the impact on future generations, including my own children and grandchildren.

I need to modify my behaviour to try to protect the future for my children

Being made to feel guilty by woke celebs who contribute more carbon than me.

Increased regulation and short sighted profiteering

Stress over pressure to reduce carbon footprint

Lots of ways

Air pollution

Extreme weather, more aware of the type of food I purchase, more aware of packaging, more concerned with reusing and upcycling rather than depleting further resources to buy new

Extreme weather

the all encompassing threat of doom as serious weather threats become common and wildlife suffers across the globe, leaving an geological epoch-defining mass extinction on the cards.

Q6 - Are you doing anything to reduce your carbon footprint?

Are you doing anything to reduce your carbon footprint?

Using green electricity and solar panels

walking more using car less

Trying to only buy second hand clothes/buy less.

Yes

I do not own a car, I cycle. I have an allotment which I cycle to. Reduced eating red meat and buy organic when I can, would like to cut out palm oil but most products contain it. I dry washing on a line, but work in a health care environment so need to wash clothes at 40c+, in was 2013 since I've flown anywhere. I use trains only occasionally as they are so expensive.

Solar panels, cycling, plant based diet

Less waste at home and work

Walk to work as much as possible.

Yes.

Fitted insulation, solar panels and long-life light bulbs decades ago. Don't drive anyway. Been vegetarian for 60+ years but went vegan about six years ago. Only fly in emergencies and then pay for tree planting in an attempt to offset the damage.

Not directly. I am reducing my plastic though

Not had a car for eleven years. We walk or cycle

Recycling everything i can

Nothing

Yes

Changed diet to reduce consumption of meat, especially red meat.

Yes

Recycling, being energy efficient where ever possible

Walk instead of drive, vegan lifestyle, trying not to buy plastic good where possible, not buying products with palm oil, recycle everything that can be recycled, washing clothes at 30 degrees

yes, cycling and walking instead of driving whenever possible

EVERY DAY I RECYCLE AND DO NOT USE MY CAR TO AND FROM WORK AND I HAVE LEDS IN MY HOME

More UK holidays

Yes

Recycle more, walk to local shops than just jump in the car, cut down on my red meat consumption

Eat less meat. Avoid using plastic. Wear a pullover

using the bin supplied by council

Recycling reusing reducing

Try to buy British

Yes- rescue food from landfill, recycling, cutting out one use plastics, being energy effectient, using renewable energy at home

Stopped using single use plastic and bought a hybrid car

Recycling, reusing, growing our own fruit/veg, reducing meat in diet, using car as little as possible, holiday every 2 or 3 years not yearly.

Trying to recycle as much as possible.

Loads

Ride a bike

One of the reasons I moved to stevenage was to make use of the cycle paths, however I am no sfe storage for my bicycle. I am alos eating less meat, have turned my heating down, driving in a more fluid manner and reducing my consumption of signle use plastic. I am reclying more.

reducing car trjourneys, using public transport, lowering house temperature, composting and recycling more

No, it has always been low and couldn't get much lower if I tried. If needing to reduce the carbon footprint is actually necessary, it should be corporations, not individuals, making changes

Recycling as best I can

Yes - already have solar panels, walk rather than drive whenever possible, thermal film on windows to cut down on heating, already do most of the pledges below

Yes I changed my electricity provider to Ecotricity, this energy provider supplies 100% green generated energy. Many food products I have changed to vegan alternatives.

Recycling, re-using, avoiding plastic, cutting down on energy/water use, public transport, no meat etc

Recycling, avoiding plastic when I can, paying carbon offset when I fly

Using train & bus rather than car where feasible. But bus service is not good in the evenings.

House insulation, reduced use of car, no flying, avoid imported food where possible, no red meat

Yes by trying to be as plastic free as possible and buying local products

We have an Electric car, recycle thoroughly, ensure home is insulated. Try to use electricity off peak when grid is greener. Minimise use of gas boiler

Use less plastic or reusable plastics, cutting down on clothes shopping, recycle, work from home as often as possible, eating less meat,

avoiding the purchase of those trendy wood burning stoves Nothing. Focus instead

Yes. Drive vehicles more empathetic to the longer term goal of reducing CO2. Looking to buy only food with low transport miles where ever possible.

Yes: dietary changes, renewable energy tariff, using public transport where possible, reducing consumption and recycling, avoiding flying.

recycle / improve green electric

Small business based in a school, follow wider school policies, Barnwell school

helping more people to get electric vans

Currently launching an electric fleet which could be hired out to SBC or local businesses

Automated operational side

Company has been using less paper and online apps

I have installed solar panels; I have increased insulation; I try to cycle and use public transport as much as possible; I am moving to a vegan diet

green electric, less flying

Nope

Less flying, cycling public transport - conscious decision to have no car

driving less, using less gas and electric

Recycling, eating less meat

Yes, cycling to work, using the train to visit schools, getting milk delivered in glass bottles

Yes lots- all of the below suggestions

I walk everywhere I can

Bus to work sometimes rather than drive across town. Tried cycling - too unfit, took me an hour! Buy locally grown, use local traders, buy with less packaging, vegan, oat milk, no palm oil, no charcoal, charity shops, repair/ reuse/ upcycle, holiday in UK, wash at 30 degrees and use washing line and clothes airers,,

Yes

Solar and cycling/scooter

Walking to work, selling my car.

Q7- What do you think Stevenage Borough Council should do to reduce its impact on climate change?

What do you think Stevenage Borough Council should do to reduce its impact on climate change?

Provide charging points for electric cars

ic buildings, more electric car charging points,

Ensure all future projects are sustainable even if this is more costly/time consuming

Consider more home working

Use brownfield sites for building homes as much a possible, new homes should include solar energy and rain water storage, housing estates with extended wildlife corridors, better public transport, repair cycle tracks and use of e-bikes

Make taxis go electric with incentives, build eco houses with water recycling and power walls. And keep them council cheaper bus fares, may be a ev car rental like in london

Bring in new policies to force residents to reduce their carbon footprint

Make the town centre and high street more accessible by bike. People will continue to drive if there's no alternative.

Newer/more efficient buses. Stop building on Greenbelt land.

As far as I know SBC is doing pretty well. Plant even more trees?

Stop turning green belt into housing. Safeguard allotments and manage them well. Use electric vehicles and have electric vehicle schemes. Have business rates insentives for businesses & shops that are carbon neutral

Need to get people out of car, definitely stop them silly with engines running. Need a better bus service & sort cycle tracks out

Continue recycling keep recycling center open all week more recycling at neighborhood areas I

Cut down on vehicle use

Give us wheely bins for our recycling to encourage more people to recycle

Reduce its carbon footprint. Plant more trees and manage our green spaces.

Much more robust planning and transport policies. Offer staff bus passes instead of car park passes. Make sure cycle routes are continuous, attractive and go to the places people want to be including the town centre. Up the sustainability ratings on all newbuilds.

Improve the controls to the heating/ventilation within Daneshill House - 25 degrees+ most days

Ban refreshments for Member committee meetings, provide Members with i-pads to view meeting papers online instead of paper copies, sensored taps to reduce water wastage, office lights on

sensors to save electricity

Greener fleet, plant more trees, not remove anymore unless absolutely necessary

GETTING ALL SHOPS/ADVERTISEMENT LIGHTS TURNED OFF EVERY NIGHT

Stop the mass printing for council meetings - it's poor behaviour that needs to change.

Ensuring recycle facilities are located throughout town , not just general use bins, public awareness campaigns, tolerance and promotion of cyclists campaigns, support reduced packaging in supermarkets, recycling points at till to ditch excess packaging before leaving store so supermarkets take responsibility at last, incentives, work with schools- ensure young people are on board, invest in cycle paths on A roads. I live in a village so getting to Stevenage where I can use cycle paths is too dangerous a ride for me on main roads, subsidy schemes for fold up bikes, electric bikes or "boris bike" type scheme to encourage commuters like me to use train then bike to work, survey bus use from villages to town centre and assess if bus times meet local need

Replace Council vehicles with electric or hydrogen powered vehicles Solar panels on all Council buildings, community centres and council housing. Where possible install heat pumps in all new Council housing. All residential planning applications should have electric re-charging points for ever house/resident

In planning, insist on carbon neutral houses and offices. In parks and gardens plant and encourage tap rooted species. Encourage allotment use. More electric vehicles. Green vehicles. 20 mph speed limit everywhere to disincentives driving.

Build less houses

More frequently recycling collection,

Stop the development on Forster Country

Make recycling easier for residents! Spread the word about the work we do at Hitchin Food Rescue grab and go at the mutual friend pub on Saturday mornings.

A) Get Arriva to provide a better service. Better and reliable b) Install at least 20 more plugin points for electric vehicles. There is NO rapid charging point in Stevenage! That's unreal! People won't buy electric cars before they can see charging points! Not everyone has the option to charge at home! C) Use streetlights as charging points

Increase items recycled, plant more trees, encourage public transport use, go paperless, solar panels on council buildings.

Bigger is not better, does the Council really need a new suite of offices? Take the coach when attending the Town twinning jaunts instead of flying(yes you do, you know you do)Install solar panels on the council buildings. offer residents compost bins. install solar panels on council houses. install rainwater collection units for flushing toilets.

increase cycle parking provision and increase the cost of car parking

encourage the use of public transport, bicycles and improve the recycling capabilities (be able to recycle a even broader spectrum of materials

increase use of solar and wind generated power, using public spaces to do so. encourage airconditioned shops to keep doors closed, companies to switch off all but entrance lights at night, increase planting of trees, one per child born each year, maximise the use of central reservation for pollution controlling planting, use of green walls on public spaces, car parks, rain water collection for grey water usage in new developments, enclosed shopping facilities in the new town centre to ensure that heating and airconditioning are maximised, use of roof gardens and balconies in existing flats and apartments and new developments, bye laws to reduce cars, taxis and commercial vehicles idling, improve the quality of buses to reduce emissions ,

Nothing because climate change is caused by changes in solar activity (solar maximums and solar minimums), CO2 emissions have no effect on that. In fact, CO2 is very good for the planet. It should be called global greening not global warming. There are real problems like plastic pollution that should be dealt with, too much of our "recycling" ends up in overseas landfill.

Stronger incentives to use alternative transport to car

Only use vehicles when necessary, and move to electric vehicles - when I've attended meetings before, each person has turned up in their own vehicle. Ensure that green space and trees are prioritised, make preservation of green space a priority in planning applications (eg not tarmacking over front gardens), recycling bins in town centre, repair centres where people can get help to repair goods, more 'encouragement' for people to walk to and from school rather than using cars

I would like to see electric buses being used. Incentivise businesses to use electric vehicles for delivering in the town centre.

Stop building on green belt

Install solar panels on council owned businesses & housing, use electric vehicles

Improve energy efficiency of homes & offices. Install / assist owners to install solar panels for electricity or water heating. Don't build on green spaces or green belt land.

Ensure all new housing is carbon neutral by ensuring efficient insulation and uses heat storage

Solar panels and batteries on all council buildings and help lobby for schools to get the same. Also use heat pumps instead of boilers

Cycle schemes, Educate and reward those who do try to contribute

Nothing. Focus instead on what councils are supposed to do - collecting rubbish and other core services

Develop housing areas with minimum distances to town centres, transport hubs and retail parks. You should be developing west of Stevenage not at the extremities of Stevenage around Great Ashby for instance. The development near North Road and Junction 8 makes sense.

I think the most important thing the council can do is encourage all local businesses and residents to take action to reduce their own environmental impact. This must involve leading by example.

Educate on green electric / tree planting

Green electric, housing stock, help private housing

declaring the emergency is good - need to keep going with spreading awareness

Free or heavily subsidised electric charging points, more electric charging points, take measures to reduce congestion/ make priority lanes

Education around what's out there

Everything set out in the plan.

reduce the number of elected members to one per ward. This would reduce consumption and reduce costs. the savings could be passed onto green schemes.

I do not think that it should try to reduce the impact. It should be trying to prepare for the inevitable changes that are coming and cannot be stopped this late in the day.

Support all housing in Stevenage to convert to electric heating, provide electric vehicle charging points in all garages, parking spaces, and loggy to ensure the electric grid is 100% renewable

influence planning so new builds are carbon neutral, all parking created comes with electric charge points

Encourage use of cycle to work and increase bus services

Lots of small changes

Provide more help with recycling and reduce waste in the town centre and flat blocks

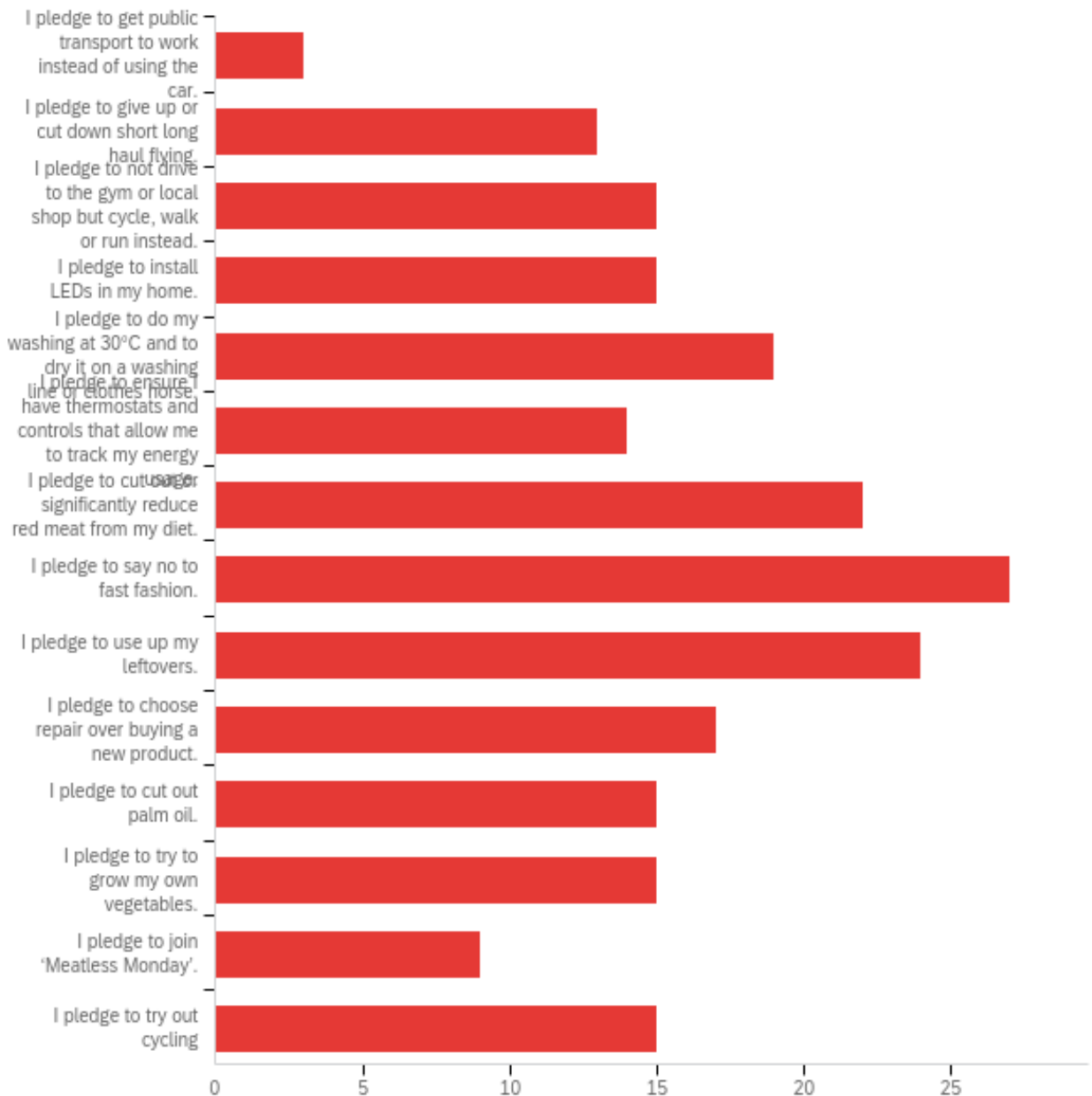
Doing a great job, incorporating sustainable technologies within the regeneration. Extend grants to a wider range of households to improve windows, roofs, etc of housing

Encourage cycling by having secure baggage drop style bike park

E-buses, public car charging, may be car rental like zipcar. Electric bike hire. Build houses with solar powerwalls and water recycling for toilets and washing machines

Close roads to motor vehicles, increase parking charges, restructure key parts of town (the town centre and High Street) so that access isn't easy by car, promote cycling routes as much as possible, buy land and run a solar and wind power production company to supply the town, run it's own Material Recycling Facility

Q8- These are our community pledges to help people reduce their carbon footprint. Which three do you think you are most likely to undertake?



Q9 - What help would you need to be more conscious of your carbon emissions?

What help would you need to be more conscious of your carbon emissions?

A monthly/3 monthly/6 monthly update on the level of Carbon emissions in Stevenage/Hertfordshire.

app showing how much you were using

Better legislation to push us down the route of creating less carbon

Where can I buy locally produced items with a high environmental standard/awareness? Much of what we consume is manufactured in counties with poor environmental standards, a well know biscuit brand using unsustainable palm oil etc

More discounts on ev

The cost of train travel is far too high at the moment. Travelling by car is cheaper for me.

Free insulation

Understanding the differences small changes can make.

Can't really say; I do most of the things in the pledges above anyway, and have done some of them for decades.

An app that could track & inform me of my footprint

Dont kniw

Walkable distance to work

Some kind of tracker but no idea how that would work without high cost or even its own environmental impact.

new ides about how to reduce carbon footpring in our daily lives

FREE BUS PASS OFR THE 60'S

A caculator and a target so that it's clear what I need to do.

Clear facts and impact of changes I could make. You can feel that what you do individually does not make a difference, there needs to be mass change in attitude and behaviour urgently and enablement to change

Carbon calculator. For example if you drive from a particular neighbourhood to the town centre it equals x amount of carbon if you take public transport is x amount.

Application of a carbon tax to all consumables

If cycle paths were clean more people would use them

Numbers on carbon emissions involved in car journeys, animal meat production...

To know about these in the first place and keep it super simple with a how section.

Support towards installing solar panels, better lighting on streets at night to encourage walking.

Tough one this question but things like active signs indicating tthe current CO2 level in Stevenage and what this means. I also think that indicating SOx and NOx levels would be useful as the two are also linked to CO2

notifications of CO2 emissions,e.g. a journey from Chells totown, eating 1 kg of red meat a week, using a non Led light bulb for an hour, leaving the tap runnung while you brush your teeth. have these facts displayed to make people think

None. However, regarding the above, I don't need to make any pledges as most of those things I already do. However, individuals should be free to eat what they want. As for palm oil, it is impossible to cut it out of everything in our lives because it is in everything. All palm oil should be from sustainable sources. This is something the UK needs to deal with as a whole, not really down to local government in my opinion

Every day living reckoner

Already very conscious, but easy ways of comparing different options would be good - a carbon calculator for example.

I already do all the above that are relevant to me.

List of objects and activities with estimated of their associated carbon footprints

Solar panels and batteries with data instruments should be encouraged everywhere but are too expensive for most

Being able to track on an app perhaps

Nothing

Nothing

I think I'm already very conscious! I've been actively involved in the environmental movement, campaigning on climate change, since my 20s (I'm now 56).

More/better food labelling

A methodology to work it out and see what produces the most

We need not be worrying about emissions. We need to be preparing for change, even if doing so adds to it.

some why of calculating carbon footprint and reductions

Better information

More information on what carbon emissions are and what causes them

Support with funding to replace single glaze metal windows and support to fund new roof which is leaking . Private house.

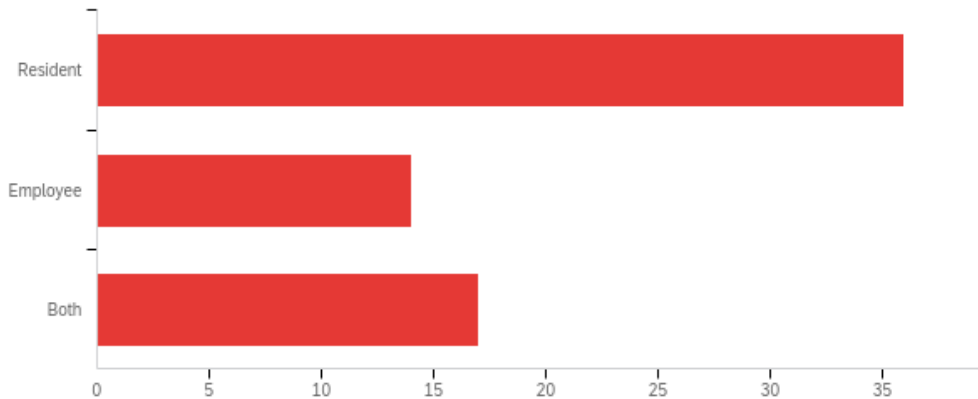
Appendix B – Climate Change Face to Face Questionnaire

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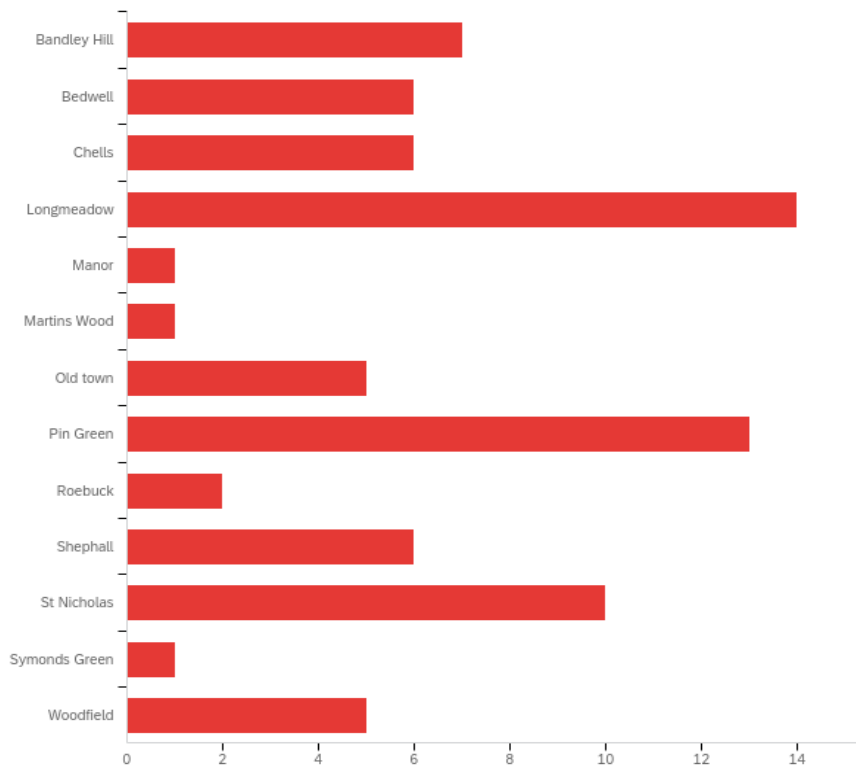
Climate Change Engagement face to face version)

April 3rd 2020, 10:12 am BST

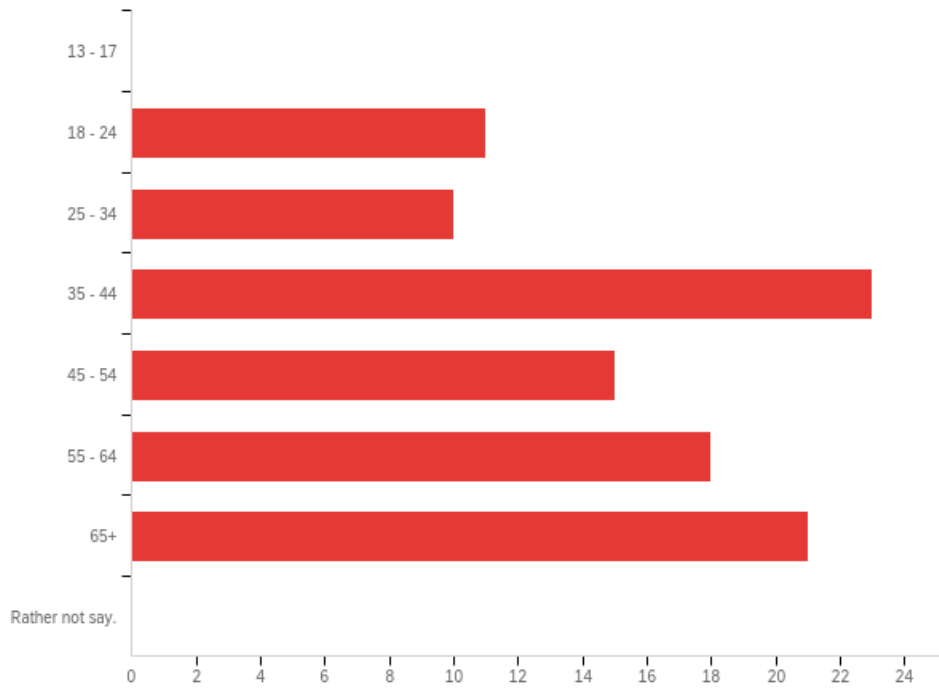
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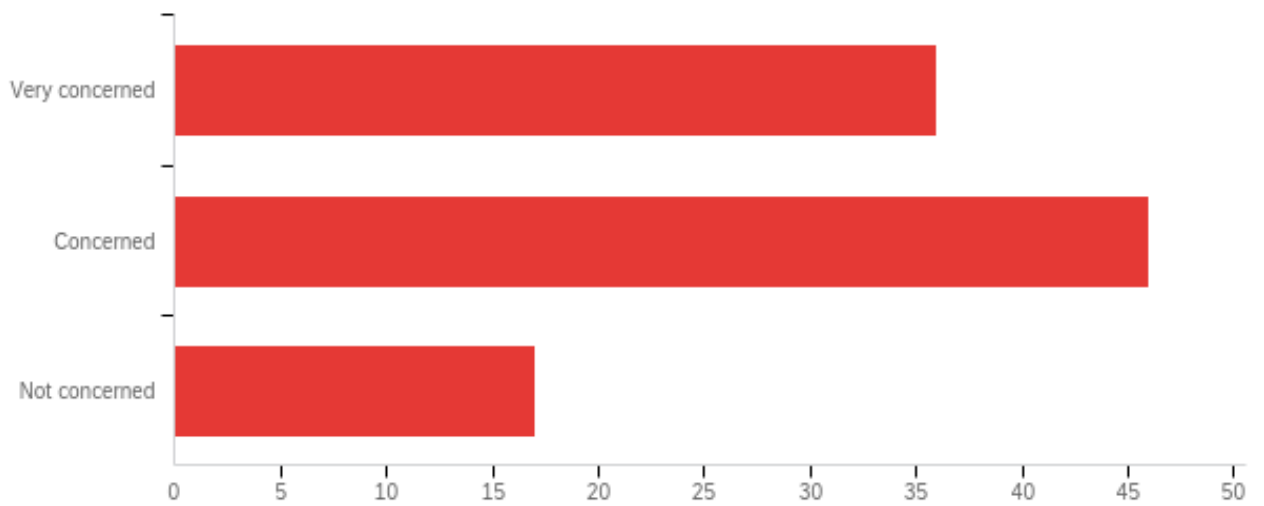
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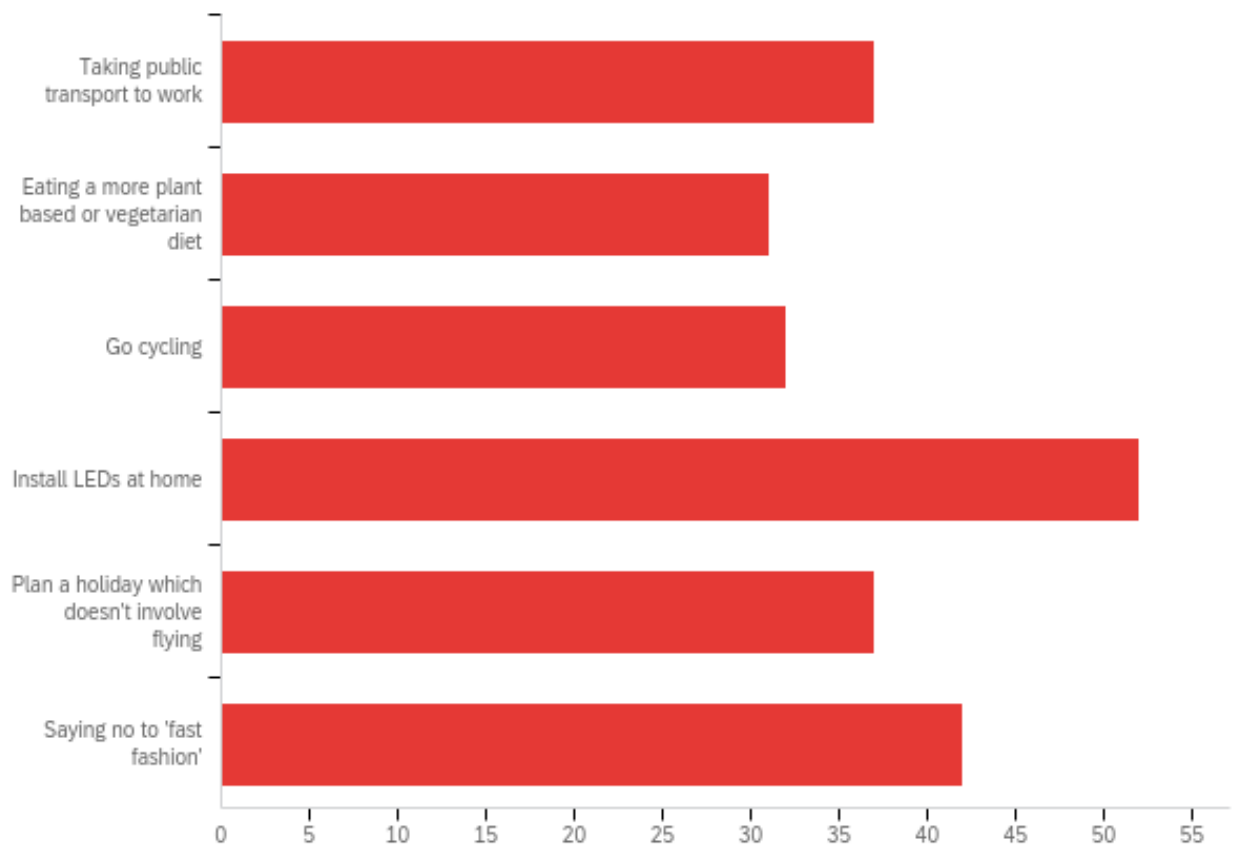
Q3- Which age bracket do you fit into?



Q4 - How concerned are you about Climate Change?



Q5- What action are you most likely to take to help reduce your own carbon footprint?



Q6 - What action would you like to see from Stevenage Borough Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment?

What action would you like to see from Stevenage Borough Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment?

Cheaper public transport needed, ok where we are but lots of places in Stevenage really badly connected

Do alot more to promote cycling, underused cycle paths, no places to chain the bikes up which is sheltered which is a deterrent for riders, encourage older people to take up cycling

Not sure

Covertng street lights to LED, better recycling

Improved Recycling facilities - too small at the moment

Better recycling

More recycling space, at the moment always full

Improve recycling pick up

Don't build on the floor plain, reduce use of plastic

Better recycling management and reduce the use of diesel vehicles

Plant trees

Promoting cycle ways and fairlands valley park so that more people use them without driving there. Using fairlands to promote environmental issues as it gets a lot of visitors

Car free town centre and free public transport to the town centre

SBC to use electric powered tools as opposed to petrol powered tools

More electric charging points to encourage more people to buy electric cars

Na

Na

More recycling from houses

Electric Busses

Electric Busses

Plant more trees and improve cycle paths

Improve bus routes to Bragbury end

Maybe introduce electric buses

I don't know

More trees

Better cycling tracks

Recycle everything. Government to help with electric vehicles costs. Underfloor heating with solar panels power

Space for bee keeping. Wild flower planting

Better bus service. Bike carrying on busses.

Less traffic, more care over our green spaces especially fairlands

Less traffic

good cycle routes, walking and use tip

clear cycling paths of glass, re ycling not collected Lincoln Road

recycling not being taken Lincoln road

keep us informed

nothing

no do ok

realistic on the programme of achieving change, allow time.

education around climate change in schools

increase the safety of street lighting to encourage walking

electric vehicle infrastructure

encourage wakking and public transport

encourage walking

Cheaper public transport

Electric cars

Improve cycle paths to encourage cycling

Bus fares

Not drive and walk aroindm

Don't know

Stop building more houses for poor people

Install good insulation to private homes including modern treble glazing

Install treble glazing and good insulation to homes including private homes.

Put more buses on the road reducing car useage

I don't know

Don't know

Lower bus fares

Install more electric charge points for electric vehicles

Don't know

Lower bus rates

Plant more trees

Don't know

Improve recycling

Aid residents in installing electric car charging points.

Lower bus fares

I would like to see SBC perform EPC on all their properties

Less landfill more recycling and reusing, collecting items for charities such as milk bottle tops

Supply more electronic vehicles

Better bus services. Buses running exhaust fumes without moving

I don't know

I don't know

Not sure

Should put more water fountains in that are clean and not use of plastics

Not replacing Windows and roofs etc during major refurb that don't need doing

Don't know

Not sure

Encourage people not drive on small journeys

No idea

Bulk buying refill shops to reduce plastic

Recycling could be improved

Better bus service to avoid cars

I don't know

Do something about the high bus fares in Stevenage.

Proper use of recycling bins

Not sure

Abolish council tax

Address public transport electric encourage people to get their bikes

Electric vehicles

Electric buses

Bigger recycling bags

Easier recycling

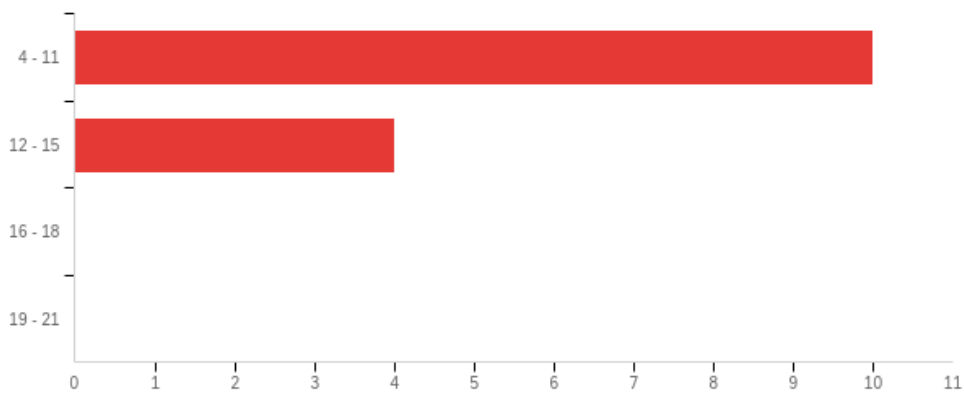
Appendix C – Climate Change Young People Questionnaire

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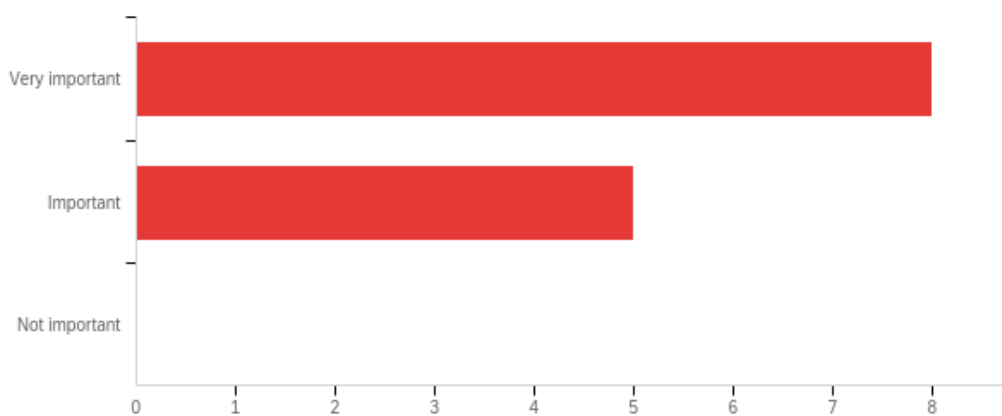
Climate Change Engagement (Young People)

April 3rd 2020, 10:17 am BST

Q1 - How old are you?



Q2- How important is the fight against Climate Change to you?



Q3 - What action are you taking to fight Climate Change?

What action are you taking to fight Climate Change?

walk to school grow fruit and veg, use bike and recycle.

stop using plastic regularly, eat less meat, grow vegetable and flower patches in gardens for food and attract bees because their death is increasing at a fast rate. Walk / cycle / scooter to school.

Try to plant vegetable and fruit in my back garden

using less technology

I walk to school, I recycle

I walk to school, I recycle

meat free since feb

I walk to school everyday, I cycle as much as I can as long as I have free time, I recycle, I turn off my devices when they reach 100%

Reducing my amount of plastic daily

I am reducing the amount of plastic that I use daily.

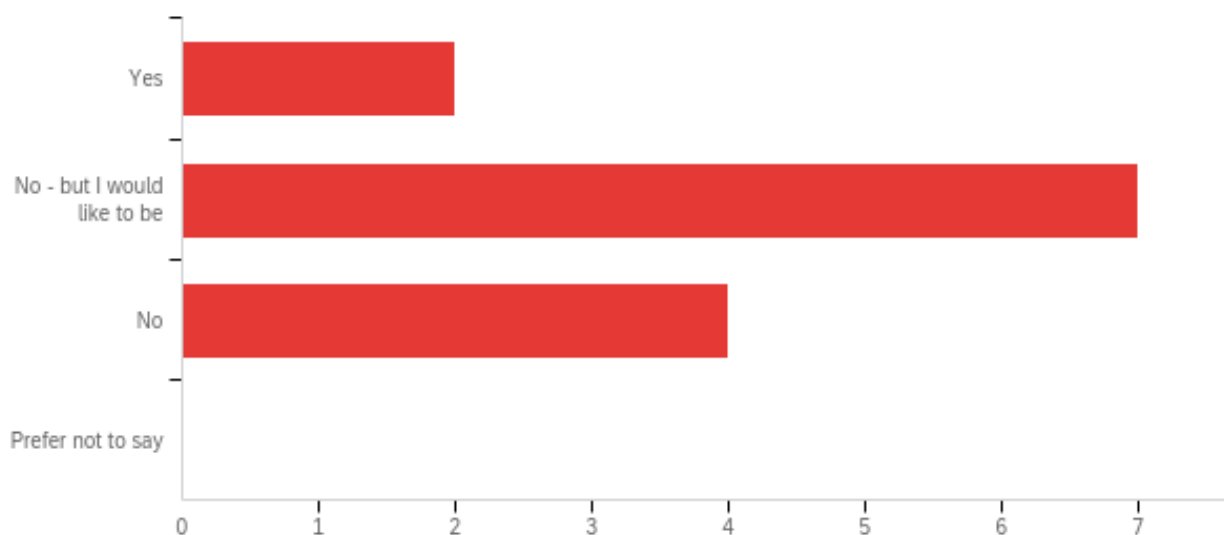
None at the moment but would like to start growing my own vegetables and turning my phone off when fully charged

None but I would like to grow my own vegetables

I going to walk to school more, Turning your engine off when waiting for someone, meat free monday

Cycling to school, getting parents / carers to turn engine off

Q4 - Are you involved in any activities around the subject of Climate Change?



Q5- What action would you like to see Stevenage Borough Council take to fight Climate Change?

What action would you like to see Stevenage Borough Council take to fight Climate Change?

Make busses electric and stop smoking, make trains cleaner so people will use it more than cars which make pollution

make electric cars, buses and trains

They use less technology and grow more plants

start using shampoo bars and bubble bars

Shampoo bars, instead of bottles so therefore using less plastic

electric buses

Make more things that are recyclable so we can recycle more plastic. Create more things that are not in plastic liuke soap bars, which could be something people could try. People could also try vegan food and find something they like.

more bins placed around, more litter picking

More bins and a litter - picking service

More electric cars

Get more electric cars

Give us vegetable seeds so we can grow our own veggies

A meat free monday, Litter pick, a no smoking and engines zone, maybe give us some vegetable seeds. Have electric buses.