

## CHORLTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP WRITE UP

### BACKGROUND

We held two public engagement public sessions on the environment in Chorlton ward. The first at the Great Get Together in June, the second at the follow up Get Together in November.

On both times, moving to a low-carbon transport system came through as the highest priority area of focus for citizens in the ward, with a desire to enhance our green spaces, trees and wildlife a strong second.

About 100 people responded across the two events.

### WHAT WE DID

The first session asked open 'visioning' questions about what people would like to see in the ward and the second session took the outputs from the first session, combined with a breakdown (as far as is possible from the ward-level data) of our Chorlton ward level carbon footprint, and asked how we could make an impact at scale on our carbon emissions.

People were asked to think about the five areas of our lives that will need to change, and answer two things:

- how could the community in Chorlton come together to make change?
- what would we need from the local authorities to help us do that?  
(see section 'our challenges and our ideas' for full list of ideas and suggestions)

### WHAT IS CHORLTON'S CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Ward-level data is limited but using census info and Manchester-level data from the Manchester Climate Change Agency, it's clear that the areas we need to tackle break down into these five areas of people's lives:

- The way we get around (transport)
- Our homes and the way we cook and heat them (heating, cooking and insulation)
- The stuff we buy and throwaway (consumption and waste)
- The food we eat
- The natural world - green spaces and wildlife, and how they can help

In Chorlton, our ward-level emissions are mainly caused by transport, domestic energy use, and indirect emissions embedded in consumption.

***Therefore, if we want to make an impact at scale on carbon emissions here - transport and domestic energy are the priorities to tackle.***

Of those - ***transport*** was the area citizens felt most strongly about - wanting to move away from car-centric planning to create a safer, cleaner and more pleasant low-carbon neighbourhood where walking, cycling and taking public transport are much easier and safer than they are now. But residents are also very proud and protective of the green space we already have here - and want more.

### WHAT DO WE CONTRIBUTE?

Chorlton is well served with a large wild space to the south of the ward (Ivy Green, Chorlton Ees - a 58 hectare site designated as Site of Biological Importance, a stretch of the River Mersey, part of Hardy Farm, and the borders with Turn Moss and Longford Park, Sale Water Park which are all in Trafford borough).

We have more trees in Chorlton than any other Manchester ward except for Didsbury West - around 30% tree cover according to an audit in 2009) - this is 10% higher than the average for Manchester (20%) and higher than the average for the leading borough, Stockport (25%). This is in large part due to the number of private gardens we have here.

So it's also important to acknowledge the things we contribute - and trees, plants and more green space came through as the second biggest priority for residents to protect and enhance.

## **THE PREMISE**

There are about 14,000 of us living here, in 6,000 homes, owning about 4,500 cars or vans. The main ways we can help the climate emergency are by reducing the amount we drive; insulating homes; switching gas to electric heating & cooking; buying goods and food with the lowest possible emissions; being informed and using our voice to demand change from business & political leaders, and **working together as a community to do our bit - it's easier together.**

## **THE FIVE BIG IDEAS**

While there are many things we believe we need in Chorlton from our leaders - see full list in appendix! - there are things we believe we could do if we worked together more. Here are five big ideas that came from the climate action workshop in November.

- **Chorlton Climate champions**
  - Appoint champions to help galvanise community action around key goals
  - Agree goals that will actually impact carbon footprint and make visible
  - Champions in every street!
  - Needs some funding to make viable
- **Chorlton Car-free campaign**
  - Choose a week when Chorlton commits to leave the car at home!
  - Everyone gets behind it with stickers and t shirts
  - Led by schools and surgeries
  - Find out our carbon footprint from cars so people can visualise how much they are saving
  - Focus on short journeys that don't need to be driven
  - Time journeys walking and cycling v driving so can show marginal differences
  - Sign walking routes better and clear up a bit in advance
  - Get businesses to support it - give discounts for non car users
  - Co-ordinate with clean air day
  - Apply for multiple street closures - all of central Chorlton!!!
- **Save Rybebank Fields!**
  - This is an important green space - we need to protect it and not build on it
- **Meat-free Monday campaign**
  - Every week!
    - local grown
    - Plant based or meat free
    - No packaging
    - No waste
  - Working with
    - Schools (incl packed lunches)
    - Community centres
    - Restaurants and cafes
    - Public spaces (picnics)
    - Work places
  - Provide assets like stickers, posters, info sheets, recipes ideas
  - Support from - events, training, cracking good food
  - Follow it up with Fossil Free Friday!!
- **No idling enforcement**
  - Small groups of four or five people take action to ask ppl to stop
  - Use printed materials to highlight the damage
  - Support outside schools

## **THE FIVE BIG CHALLENGES - incl. people's ideas for change (collated from both sessions)**

### **1. THE WAY WE GET AROUND; TRANSPORT**

Transport is the biggest source of carbon emissions in Manchester - it accounts for 31% of Co2 - and it's the same in Chorlton (extrapolated from census and ward data). Traffic also causes congestion which makes places less pleasant, more dangerous and polluted. In Chorlton we have more public transport than some places but we also like our cars; 74% of us own one (higher than most places in the city) and 42% drive to work, while only 17% take public transport and 12% walk or cycle\*. Yet by 2038 at least 50% of all journeys will need to be by foot, bike, bus, tram or train to meet carbon-zero targets. We know where to start: a third of journeys of 1km or less are by car. That's a 10 minute walk - which is good for us and saves the NHS money too. (NB There are around 23% who work from home - a high figure.)  
\*based on 2011 census before tram extension

### **POTENTIAL VISION FOR CHORLTON (summarised from below feedback):**

Residents want a cleaner, greener neighbourhood where people are prioritised - where walking and cycling is easy and safe - on roads where the needs of walkers, wheelchair users, buggy pushers, scooters and cyclists come ahead of car users, and where pavements are clear and wide and free of parked vehicles, where speeds are low (and breaches of both are enforced), where it is easy to choose not to drive - for instance to drop the kids at school or the supermarket - because walking or cycling is easy and enjoyable - public transport is more available (especially at peak times) and cheaper than it is now, and cheaper than driving. We do need space for cars - and we want to support electric vehicles with public charging points (not at the expense of pedestrian space) - but we want people to come first in public spaces.

### **WHAT PEOPLE SAID WE NEED**

- Car-free zones around schools
- Close rat-runs
- Back the cycle plan
- Enforce 20mph speed limits for cleaner air
- Encourage 'Playing-out' schemes - make it easier to close roads off!
- The Poynton model of traffic/pedestrian infrastructure
- I would like to see easier access to public transport links
- Non-car options to be more attractive and affordable esp public transport
- NO CARS (a few electric ones, maybe), awesome public transport
- Longer trams!
- Bus reregulation
- Better information on journey times with different modes
- Safe cycle routes
- Bee Network delivery
- Pedestrianised areas
- Safer side streets
- Better school transport
- Improve pavements
- Active neighbourhoods - close roads so pedestrians, cyclists, pushchairs, wheelchairs can get about safely and easily
- Make one-off road closures cheaper and easier to apply for 'job lot'
- Zebra crossing on High lane near Brundretts Road
- Schools to incentivise kids to walk/cycle every week of year - pester power!
- Stop traffic lights at junctions

- No idling campaign and enforcement
- Law changes!
- Car insurance incentives - to drive fewer miles per year
- Electric charging points for vehicles - but not in the way of pedestrians!
- Make environment education part of national driving test
- Integrated transport eg one ticket across all transport
- Bike hangers on the streets
- Crackdown on pavement parking
- Car share projects

## **WE COULD**

- Quantify local journeys - how much carbon do we emit locally from our car journeys?
- Bells on bikes!
- More shared car ownership
- Fewer private big vehicles
- More car-free days and closed roads
- Encourage more walking
- Encourage people to switch engines off
- Get stickers - I'm supporting car free day! Leave your car at home day!
- School walking buses/cycles
- Apply pressure to local supermarkets to enable walk/cycle trips to shops
- Pool knowledge locally on good routes
- Report idling
- Go door to door to offer advice to neighbours and businesses
- Direct action regarding pavement parking - education and report to the council - in small groups of 4 or 5 ppl
- Knowledge of safe bike storage spaces
- Campaign to make cycling and walking appear mainstream!
- Make connections to schools through governing bodies to ask for support to improve air quality - establish park and drop off zones
- Set up walking buses groups run by parents
- Challenge yourself to leave your car at home
- Close roads on a regular basis for 'Play-roads'

## **2.OUR HOMES AND THE ENERGY WE USE**

Heating, cooling, lighting and cooking in our homes accounts for 29% of Manchester's carbon emissions. In a typical house, about 2/3 of its emissions are spent keeping it warm, and much of that heat is wasted due to poor insulation. So before we think about the type of energy we use - eg switching gas boilers to solar-powered electric heat pumps - we need to make sure our homes are efficient. It's estimated that more than 60,000 houses in Greater Manchester need to have walls, floors, windows and ceilings properly insulated ('retrofitted') every year for the next 19 years, costing up to £40k per house.

### **POTENTIAL VISION FOR CHORLTON** (summarised from below feedback):

We want a community where our homes are warm and run on renewable energy wherever possible - we want help to make that switch - with financial incentives but also with information, advice and support from experts as well as from each other. We want to support local jobs by growing skills locally to do the work and we want to make sure the less well off are supported in this transition too.

## **WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

### **WE NEED**

- Zero carbon heating rollout plan
- Renewable energy rollout plan

- Advice tailored to individual homes/ streets
- Knowledge/info on how to share heat pumps or solar panels
- Support for tenant communities
- Council to put local companies first when putting out to tender like Preston has done
- Training people in construction and skills locally
- Free advice on how to audit your house/benchmark yourself
- Financial incentives - rewards for green households
- A Green New Deal to train lots of ppl to do the work to make homes energy efficient!
- Make fuel more expensive the more you use rather than cheaper
- 'Advice/open days info about how to make old houses more energy efficient'
- 'Getting back the Feed-In tariff for Solar Energy is really important'
- Re-visit the 'housing need data', not as many needed as data suggests?'

## **WE COULD**

- Switch to greener energy supplies
- Buddy systems to help ppl do simple DIY to insulate etc their homes
- Learn how much your appliances use so you use less/switch off more
- Community working groups feeding into ward co-ordination of energy and insulation
- Have named street contacts / 'go to' people you know and can help with tips
- Lobby private landlords to make green energy changes and report if they do not
- Support tenant communities
- Help stimulate a local retrofit supply chain in Chorlton and generate local jobs
- Set up community-owned renewable energy schemes
- Those able to afford it, start upgrading their homes
- Buy LED lightbulbs
- Some basic draft insulation so we can turn down heating

## **3.OUR CONSUMPTION AND OUR WASTE**

An average household in Manchester creates 436kg of waste every year - and with 6,000+ households in Chorlton that's nearly three million tonnes of rubbish. We only manage to recycle 39% of it in Manchester (in Trafford it's 60%) -much of the rest is burnt, releasing Co2 and other gases. Those 400 kilos of rubbish include about £700 of food which the average household in Greater Manchester tips in the bin every year. Meanwhile a lot of our shops want to sell us throwaway goods not designed to last - like cheap clothes. Clothing and shoe production accounts for about 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions - that's as much as the total impact of all of Europe

## **POTENTIAL VISION FOR CHORLTON** (summarised from below feedback):

A place where borrowing costly items is easier than buying them, where we reuse, repair and swap things, where it is easy to recycle because everyone knows the rules, we switch to reusable packaging rather than single use - and we know the carbon impact of what we buy.

## **WE NEED**

- Sustainable baby hygiene products
- Sustainable children's toys
- Easier recycling rules - eg yoghurt pots!
- One consistent GM recycling policy not different across boroughs
- Regulate so stuff is easier to repair
- Tougher waste and recycling targets and better facilities
- More visibility of the carbon footprint of products we buy
- Produce market in the precinct for locals to sell produce

## **WE COULD**

- Some way for ppl to share big things like lawnmowers and ladders etc
- Set up a cloth nappy library and drop in
- Set up a toy exchange
- Set up a stuff exchange
- Use the repair cafe more - and to mend not discard
- Become a single-use packaging free community
- Buy less new stuff
- Buy second hand clothes.
- Avoid single use packaging (whether paper, plastic etc)

## **4.OUR FOOD AND HOW WE PRODUCE IT**

Food production is responsible for a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions but the impact of different foods varies hugely. Meat and other animal products are responsible for more than half, despite providing only 1/5 of calories we consume. But knowing how and where your food is produced is also important, as the same food can have huge variations in environmental impact. Eg beef cattle raised on deforested land causes 12 x more greenhouse gas emissions than cows reared on natural pastures. Beef from S. America causes 3 x more greenhouse gases as beef from Europe using 10 x as much land. But even the most climate-friendly meat still produce more greenhouse gases than veggie protein sources, like beans & nuts.

### **POTENTIAL VISION FOR CHORLTON** (summarised from below feedback):

A place where we support traditional growing - where we support local, seasonal produce, where going meat-free is easy because of the options available and where our community is aware of the carbon footprint of what we're eating.

## **WE NEED**

- Starter business rates for food growers
- Distribution support
- Make all catering in councils including schools vegan

## **WE COULD**

- Run community allotment spaces
- Run simple sessions on veg growing
- Cut down meat - especially beef and lamb - and dairy
- Switch to an entirely plant-based diet
- Buy local produce and when in season
- Find out more about sustainable food at [www.feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/](http://www.feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/)

## **5.THE NATURAL WORLD THAT KEEPS US ALIVE**

Nature is an essential life-support system that recycles air and water; captures & stores carbon; prevents flooding; purifies waste - it hosts all life. The region's peatlands hold masses of fresh water & prevent flooding - but much needs significant help. We have 2500km of waterways - but 70% are in a poor state. And we're losing thousands of acres of greenbelt every year. In Chorlton we have lots of green space - 30% is tree covered, through gardens, parks & Chorlton Ees, a 58-hectare nature reserve full woodland, meadows, ponds, streams, and the Mersey. We need more trees still but they take years to mature. Most importantly we need a new relationship with nature so development leaves the natural world in a better state than before

### **POTENTIAL VISION FOR CHORLTON** (summarised from below feedback)

We want to live in a place with trees and green spaces throughout our community not just in the 'green bit' and where we are known for our love and knowledge of nature. We want it to be pesticide-free and full of plants and trees that support insects including bees, including in our gardens. We want to make sure we're protected from any Mersey flooding.

#### WE NEED?

- Understanding that grassland is as important as trees!
- Don't cut and mow grassy areas so much - saves money and is way farmers would do it
- More knowledge about nature - most rulers are born and bred and live in cities and can't think outside a city street
- Central Chorlton to be greener with more planting and birds/bees
- Easier access to our green spaces and more connections between them
- Flood risk assessment/ protection
- More knowledge of traditional ways of farming and growing
- Preservation to be beneath everything
- Management and expansion of green spaces in Chorlton
- Coppicing - existing science of how to manage land for good
- Legal protection for green space
- Stop spraying lawns and verges with pesticides
- Even greener! - less plastic!
- More green spaces around Chorlton with less cars, so it becomes a safer place
- Coordinate with "Patch-Park" - other green spaces to maximise their use
- More communal allotment spaces / tip-sharing sessions on how to grow your own food
- Sharing of home grown food eg fruit trees - courgettes
- Rotherham-style wildflower verges
- More community tree planting
- Plants - everywhere!

#### WE WILL

- Save Ryebank Fields!
- Grow native flowers and shrubs to provide food for wildlife
- Learn about permaculture
- Launch community planting schemes
- Link up and support existing nature groups more
- Rewild our gardens
- [www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/wildlife/rewild-your-garden](http://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/wildlife/rewild-your-garden)
- Pledge to plant a tree
- [www.woodlandtrust/bigclimatefightback](http://www.woodlandtrust/bigclimatefightback)
- Campaign to keep greenbelt wild - Ryebank, Carrington etc

---

#### Sources

- MCCA 2019 report (emissions for Manchester)
- GM Green plan 2019
- Local government census 2011
- Carbon footprint at [wwf.org.uk](http://wwf.org.uk), via [www.cdp.net/en/ companies-discloser](http://www.cdp.net/en/companies-discloser) and for food at [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714)

CS, 4/12/2019