

Totnes Town Council informal meeting

Totnes Town Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency workshop to discuss next steps.

13th April 2019

Guildhall, The Ramparts, Totnes.

10am – 12 noon

Attendance: 10 people with collectively very wide-ranging expertise and experience on this matter attended this third scoping meeting. Most had attended a previous meeting.

1. Cllr Jacqi Hodgson who had convened the meeting on behalf of the Town Council, welcomed everyone and outlined the draft agenda.
2. The **Totnes Alive! – Community Festival** scheduled for 8th June 2019 was discussed as very relevant to the Climate Emergency and an opportunity to have conversations and other interactions with members of the public attending and network with other groups involved in the event. Some illustrative concepts and ideas for an interactive 'stall' were floated:
 - Door / Threshold to step across (maybe Narnia wardrobe)
 - Elephant in the room
 - Get away from feeling guilty / helpless
 - Flooded room
 - Tipping points / have we gone too far? Important to address & understand

To be discussed further.

3. What can individuals do?

- Individual advocates / connect to people / e.g. Chris Packham & Wildlife Extinctions
- Manage resources better
- Need a manifesto
- Important to connect people up to increase their influence

4. Visual reminders / reference – ideas brainstorming session

Use image of estuary with tributaries flowing into river and flowing out to sea (as per SW River Catchment / Estuaries project) = useful model for partnerships, impact of collective actions and mapping what is happening in this area towards mitigation

Illustrate Tipping Points

Systems change

Library – reference section (previously for TTT prior to new library). Need to reinvigorate + reference section on-line

A strong, more connected community will energise deep adaptation; i.e. not linear

Things to relinquish, things to restore, community resilience – need for community ownership

Technological advances: very energy dependent & vulnerable

EU role – possible funding – linked with Bologna model

Need community ownership (Can have dire consequences e.g. surveillance / hostile state)

Need community assets to enable building new infrastructure

Universal income – could free up individual's time to be able to build their resilience and respond to rapid and unprecedented change (Obama wanted this)

All need access to a new system – to avoid individual response at expense of others ("I'm alright Jack")

Need equal access to off grid.

We need to be consensus caretakers

5. Models for System Change – reference and other models

- **Drawdown:** The most comprehensive plan ever produced to reverse global warming. Ed Paul Hawkins. ISBN 978-0-14-198843-6 (Penguin)
- Transition Town Totnes' **Transition in Action: Totnes & District Energy Descent Action Plan 2030**. Out of print. Available as a pdf on TTT website EDAP page: <https://www.transitiontowntotnes.org/groups/building-and-housing/energy-descent-action-plan/> The energy descent pathways provide linked routes to reduce energy by 2030.
- **Schumacher College**, Dartington. Advocates for sustainability. Events taking place about climate resilience in December
- **Local Agenda 21** – useful model from UN Earth Summit 1992 – still valid and in practice in some places. Led to Partnerships for change. Could be resurrected.
- **School strikes** at County Hall – children as young as 4 years old have been speaking
- **Citizen Assemblies** – who is listening to this request?
 - For sharing ideas in a bigger way

- This worked in Southern Ireland – we could invite a speaker who was involved
- Involves providing few experts and spreading ideas
- **Ecochallenge.org** has a tombola of 20 things people can do – lucky dip
- **Resilience Summit** – Nov 2020 – local area already involved

6. Totnes TC Declaration

Need to avoid people being divided into two camps – very adversarial

We are trying to implement the TC Declaration of a Climate Emergency – not save the world (well maybe that too?)

Then act as exemplar

What can be done locally?

Needs skilled facilitator(s)

Use Totnes TC annual town meeting on 23rd May to inform and launch ideas to the public:

1. Invite 100 people to be guinea pigs for 3 months.
They will have their carbon footprint assessed
Each invited to select from a fairly large menu of new measures to implement in their lives (incl their households)
They will need to meet every two weeks to feed-back and share ideas and try new measures
3 month later assessed and carbon footprint assessed
Spread out to a new group of 100 people...
Use Festival on June 8th to invite people to sign up
2. Map the project – who should be here and what is already happening & practical roles– use estuary map (as above)
3. Establish a Backcasting project – as per public workshops for TTT EDAP
4. Access Lab – to access scientific information and how to use it – perhaps in Library
5. Inspiring People – Totnes Alive! Festival
6. Totnes Library Section (possible)
7. Young People – very powerful:
 - a. The Golden iris Project at Redworth
 - b. Space Youth centre at rushbrook
 - c. Living Project at Dartington
 - d. School Strikes
8. Exhibition in Guildhall as reference point and information for local people to get information and involved
9. Speaker events to inspire & inform – incl before TC meetings

7. Next Steps

- Prepare for TC annual meeting on 23rd May (Jacqi to discuss with T.Clerk etc and propose to TC the items above)
- All participants to bring back to the group proposals for actions that could be taken forward and start the plan and process in parallel.
- **it was agreed to reconvene on 18th May 2-4pm at the Guildhall** (nb later time than previous meetings)