

Community Energy



A growing number of communities have schemes to generate renewable energy locally, which is used within their community. Think of New Mills and Torrs Hydro/"Archie" (<http://www.torrshydro.org/>). There are several organisations and companies helping establish schemes, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. TB directors think there's an opportunity for Buxton to learn from other people and start making a practical impact on local energy generation and use. This could reduce our carbon footprint, increase the resilience of our community to power disruptions, and reduce fuel poverty.

Collective Effort

Like-minded individuals pool their resources to initiate renewable energy projects creating local jobs, clean power and investment opportunities.



Social Returns

Jobs and economic activity are created as projects are built. Energy literacy and skills for local self-reliance are enhanced as people become involved.



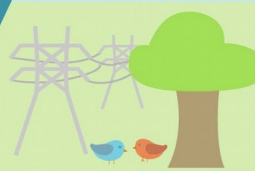
Economic Returns

The sale of power generates revenues for investment returns, lease payments and taxes, fuelling the local economy. Local benefits inspire further collective effort and re-investment in new projects, starting the cycle anew!



Environmental Returns

Zero emission power is produced where and when it is needed locally. Communities benefit from less pollution and a more reliable, diversified energy system.



THE COMMUNITY POWER ADVANTAGE

Community-led renewable energy projects provide triple-bottom line returns for greater social, environmental and economic resiliency.

OurPower.ca

We're hoping to use members' meetings in the New Year to describe the possible opportunities, for the

community and individual homeowners, together with some local feasibility studies into larger-scale solar generation.

We need a few other enthusiastic and/or knowledgeable people to help, so do get in touch if you are able.

Ian Bowns, Chair

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Big Buxton Conversation Two

Following the inspirational Big Buxton Conversation (BBC1) in April 2021 (online) and the clear appetite to 'keep talking' four active local groups; Transition Buxton, Buxton Town Team, Buxton Civic Association (BCA) and Vision Buxton came together to organise Big Buxton Conversation Two (BBC2). Roughly 80 people gathered in the well-ventilated Methodist Church on Monday 8th November 2021 for 3 hours of animated discussions.

The objective for the afternoon was to look at the 12 themes and associated '*glorious ideas*' and '*what if questions*' that emerged from BBC1 and look at how some might develop into projects, get incorporated into existing work, and start to bring about the positive changes that our community wants and needs.

The most important, and clearly interconnected, themes for people in the room were Young People, Public Transport, Nature, and Health & Well-being. Six potential projects emerged for detailed discussions on the day with five further themes for consideration later.

The full notes and Appendix have been circulated to participants and are available to view on the websites of the four organising groups including Big Buxton Conversation – Transition Buxton. A special email address has been set up to keep the conversation going and plans are already afoot for Big Buxton Conversation Three next year.

As a spokesperson for the organisers, Jean Ball from Transition Buxton said: "*The passion that people have for our lovely town and surrounding landscape came through loud and clear. The single loudest message to come from both these events so far is the value and importance of continuing to talk, ask questions, share ideas, and working together for our shared benefit. So, the Big Buxton Conversations look set to become annual or twice yearly events. We need to endeavor to attract more and different people, of all ages, to take part in the Big Conversations and the projects and initiatives that come out of them.*"

'Watch this space' for further announcements and do share your ideas, progress, and offers of support via conversation@transitionbuxton.co.uk



Serpentine Community Garden

Jean Ball



The recent frost and snow finally finished off the nasturtiums which had been adding lots of colour to the slowly emptying beds. On the plus side we collected over 500 nasturtium seeds for our 'Seedy Saturday' seed swap on Saturday 19th February at the Serpentine Community Garden from 10am. The parsnips, sprouts, broccoli and cabbages are all doing well (parsnips in particular need a good frost). We were also delighted to take delivery of our new shed, which is now being fitted out for storage.

Carole Garner



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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Library of Things

A Library of Things has been on Transition Buxton's wish list for sometime now. It seems an obvious next step in our efforts to make our town sustainable and to build community. Having a library of things, where people could borrow rather than buy items they only need occasionally, would reduce our impact on the planet and the clutter in our homes.

A survey that we conducted showed that people are interested and would like to see items such as carpet cleaners, DIY and gardening tools available for borrowing. Most would like to see a physical library in a central location in the town but many would also be happy to use an online format that would put lenders and borrowers in contact.

Obviously, there are challenges with setting up a physical library – finding premises and people to staff the library. An online format would be easier to set up and manage and could be a first step towards the more ambitious physical library. I spoke to Pam Cohen who manages the New Mills Lend a Hand Facebook page and was inspired by some of her ideas about how the project could go beyond lending and borrowing items to lending a hand with skills, such as gardening, baking, sewing and knitting. I really liked the ideas of building a sharing community. Managing the page isn't too much work, though Pam has ideas of producing an inventory of the items that have been offered so far.

We haven't given up on the idea of a physical library though. There's a possibility of space for the library at the Zink project if they can get additional space in a building next to their new premises. This solution would be a really good fit for us, as Zink would be keen to see some of their clients take part in the running of the library and to include borrowing from it at a reduced rate in the services they provide for food-bank users.

To follow up these ideas, we really need people to step up and help. If you think you could help with any aspect of planning and running the library of things, either the online or physical version, please contact us at inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk.

Jane Reynolds



Could you help?

As this newsletter illustrates Transition Buxton has lots going on and ambitions for much more. Our ability to do more to build our local resilience is only limited by the amount of time and energy local people are willing and able to give. We have ongoing roles, one off tasks, and dormant project ideas awaiting people to make them happen.

As well as the satisfaction of contributing to the solutions to our global challenges at a local level, you also get to work with some lovely people, gain skills and confidence, learn from each other, and to feel a part of a supportive community.

Whatever your talents and availability you, your ideas, and your time are wanted and needed – please come along to a members meeting or drop us a line at contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk and let us know how you would like to contribute.



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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Education Outreach

Buxton Schools COP26 Conference

44 Buxton School Students from 5 schools attended our COP26 event on 4 November with lively discussion, debate and decisions about climate issues. A summary of what concerns them and their ideas and actions to address these was put together. The event was funded with our Great Big Green Week Grant.

Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum

COP26 activity – some CPYF members worked with Friends of the Earth on their National Youth Summit and hosted a break out room for participants at their national event. One of our younger members was interviewed by Victoria Derbyshire about Climate Issues for young people and what CPYF is involved in on her Radio 5 Live programme <https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aj1ul24CGSSP5FlZo3RCUZbjYAUY?e=BDZCni>

In December the CPYF members met with High Peak MP Robert Langan to question him with their concerns. Topics discussed included renewable energy including for schools and sustainable farming. They asked Robert Langan to write to Environment Secretary George Eustice about support for High Peak farmers to adopt more sustainable methods and also to write to High Peak Borough Council to join No Mow May and stop all their mowing and use of pesticides on verges and in their school grounds.

Scouts and Guides have been reviewing their Carbon 'Foodprint' looking at what they eat, food production and packaging, food miles and what they can individually do to reduce their carbon footprint. Some groups have been 'thinking outside the bin' and exploring the 10Rs of Recycling.

Frances Sussex



✉ Frances education@transitionbuxton.co.uk



Buxton Wild Weeks – Spring and Summer 2022

Please get in touch if you would like to support Transition Buxton's involvement in this year's Buxton Wild Weeks during Spring and Summer. Whatever your interests and skills or time availability you will be very welcome and a great asset.. If you are very involved in other Buxton organisations and would help promote our BWB community activities then please let me know if you would like to find out more:

Travels of our Buxton Billie Bee

Billie Bee has been to Fairfield to meet pre-school children and help them learn about Bumblebees and also to Girl Guiding Brownies and Rainbows.



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Dispersed Community Orchard

13 more trees planted plus 2 bonus mystery arrivals.

The orchard group of Tree Guardians and other volunteers have been busy. Plantings have been carried out successfully on three sites during November and December. Four trees were planted in the green area at the far end of Sherwood Road. Thanks to the inspiration of Frances Sussex, we were joined by several children, who worked enthusiastically at the various tasks. The Cote Heath planting was postponed because of 7" of snow, but four trees were planted the following Saturday. We were surprised to find three trees had been planted by persons unknown, just where we had intended our four to go. One had fallen over and was later removed. The two remaining trees appear to be an apple and a damson. We would be happy to include donations of trees from people's gardens, but with prior notice, please!



If you know what the mystery trees are please let us know so we can include them in the orchard documentation. Another Saturday morning found us working at Sherwood Road again, two more trees in followed by an afternoon putting in three trees at Gadley Lane. Thank you to all involved. We would love to have more people to act as Tree Guardians. Training can be

given. Would you like to sponsor a tree? Sponsorship costs £25 per tree. If you are interested drop us an email.

Finally, if you know of a possible new site for the orchard, please contact us. In whatever way you would be prepared to help, we would love to hear from you. The orchard is a community orchard, We plant and look after it and the fruit is free to anybody who wishes to take some.

Offers of help, sponsorship requests and other ideas are all gratefully received at orchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk



Robin Edwards / Ben Evens

Dates for your Diary

At the time of going to press our plan is to hold all meetings via zoom. Repair Cafés will go ahead face to face using our Covid safe plan that worked well before. Please check our website and social media for updates as circumstances may change.

Tuesday, 11th Jan:

Members' Meeting, 7:30pm via Zoom

Saturday, 22nd Jan:

Repair Café, 10am-2pm, Methodist Church

Wednesday, 26th Jan:

Plastic Clever Meeting, 7:30pm via Zoom

Thursday, 27th Jan: **Inform & Inspire**

Meeting, 5:30pm via Zoom

Tuesday, 8th Feb:

Members' Meeting, 7:30pm via Zoom

Saturday 19th Feb:

Serpentine Seedy Saturday, 10am-12:30pm, SCG, Burlington Rd. Admission free.

Thursday, 24th Feb: **Inform & Inspire**

Meeting, 5:30pm via Zoom

Saturday, 26th Feb:

Repair Café, 10am-2pm, Methodist Church

Shared Celebration with Buxton Town Team,
delayed from 14 Dec, new date TBC

SCG - Serpentine Community Garden



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



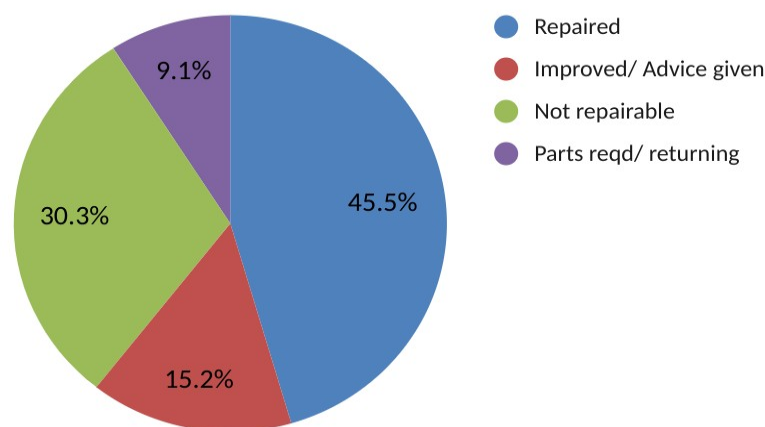
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Repair Café

Thirty-three items were seen at the October Repair Café, of which more than two-thirds could be repaired or improved. The electrical items repaired included 2 hairdryers, 2 sets of bathroom scales and 3 vacuum cleaners, where a part from a fourth was used to make one of them work! Also, a broken earring was re-soldered, a broken stool was put back together and 3 pictures were re-aligned in their frames. Unfortunately, the November Repair Café had to be cancelled at short notice because 7 inches of snow had fallen overnight. There will be no Repair Café in December because the 4th Saturday of the month is Christmas Day. The next Repair Café is scheduled for 22nd January 2022 in the Methodist Church.

Helen Brown

Outcomes October 2021



We Are Buxton

‘We Are Buxton’ is a new forum for collaboration and communication that emerged from Big Buxton Conversation 1 in April 2021. It is made up of representatives from Transition Buxton, Vision Buxton, Buxton Town Team, Buxton Civic Association (BCA), Buxton Street by Street (Connex), Accessible Buxton, Churches Together, Harpur Hill Residents Association, Fairfield Residents Association, High Peak Borough Council, and Derbyshire County Council. The group, which hopes to ensure that the community is able to harness all our resources for maximum shared benefits, will meet for the third time on 22 January and every 6 to 8 weeks thereafter. The group ‘Chair’ will rotate around the group members every six months or so, and our own Jean Ball, who is currently Chair, can be contacted on inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Jean Ball

Plastic Champions

PLASTIC FREE
-BUXTON-
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

As part of working towards Plastic Free Community status through the Surfers

Against Sewage scheme we need to recruit at least 10 businesses and 30 local groups and organisations as Plastic Free Champions. This entails signing a pledge to reduce the use of single use plastic from operations (in the case of a business at least 3 items have to be identified). Since our last newsletter at the beginning of November Pig & Pepper Bakery have become our 7th Business Champion and 4 more community groups have taken the pledge: Skills on the Grillz, Connex, St Anne’s Roman Catholic Church, and Buxton Parish Team. That takes us over half way. We’d love to see every business and organisation in town commit to reducing their use of single use plastic, so even when we reach the minimum for the scheme we won’t stop there. Let’s step this up in 2022 – the simple pledge form is available on our website – do you belong to a community organisation – would you get them to sign up? Would your business or employer take the pledge? – it’s not a big ask. Make it one of your New Years resolutions to do what you can to sign organisations up and to protect our environment from further degradation through local action.

Contact: plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Derek Bodey



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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Why Shop Local?



'Every pound you spend is an investment in the kind of world that you want to live in.'

A world of huge warehouses, fleets of delivery vehicles and excessive packaging fuelling environmental destruction and the fantasy lifestyles of a few billionaires? Or varied thriving local enterprises providing vibrancy and livelihoods for you and your neighbours?

Quite simply if we don't buy from businesses they cease to exist. Local businesses create local jobs and build resilience in our local economy. Indeed, smaller businesses employ a higher number of people in proportion to their turnover than larger companies. By purchasing locally we

are investing in our local community and economy.

Whether it is a business purchase or personal shopping, start your search locally. Resist the tempting easy convenience of buying through the big aggregating websites. Even if buying online, try to buy direct from the business and choose one as close to home as possible. Consider asking a local business to source or make something for you if they don't already provide it.

Obviously locally produced as well as locally bought is even better. Don't be afraid to ask *'where was that made / grown?'* Product miles matter environmentally, but also culturally – supporting local producers means you are supporting local families. If you'd like to dive into this topic deeper you can read the Buxton Economic Resilience Study here

[Buxton Economic Resilience Study – Transition Buxton](#)

Think about the kind of world that you want to live in and invest your money where it will make the kind of difference that you prefer.

Jean Ball

Hard To Recycle

We have continued to collect items from the various categories listed in the table and send them off to Terracycle for recycling. While there are moves by some supermarkets towards collecting waste plastic packaging themselves for recycling, these are, as yet, limited in Buxton, so we will continue with our collection points around the town for now. A further recycling bin has recently been placed in the parish centre on Bath Road.

We were pleased to redeem our third batch of points awarded as a result of sending off waste shipments and use these to make a donation of £97 to The Breadline. This charity was selected by members of the Plastic Clever Buxton Steering Group. To get involved in the Plastic group contact plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk.

Totals for each range of products collected

Scheme	Total collected (kg)	
	To date	Since last newsletter
Crisp packets	270	25
Writing Instruments	56	2
Dental products	49	6
Kids Food Pouches (Ella)	33	2
Biscuit Wrappers	26	2
Confectionery Wrappers	16	2
Pringles Cans	12	5
Cheese Wrappers	7	1
Hygiene Home packaging	0.6	0.1

Veronica Hawthorn



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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