

CHAIR'S EDITORIAL

On 11 October at our Members Meeting we agreed to send the letter below to our MP. On 25 October we received a detailed response from Mr Largan which we will make available to Members. We look forward to our discussion of these issues when Transition Buxton Members meet with Mr Largan via Zoom on 8 November.

Open Letter to Mr Robert Largan, MP for High Peak

30th September 2022

Dear Mr Largan,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the directors and members of Transition Buxton CIC to express our profound concerns regarding the dramatic change of direction in Government policy as it relates to the environment. We could detail the specific policies and legislative proposals, but they can be summarised as:

- Proposals to abolish many of the current legal protections for our environment and wildlife, including the apparent intention to scrap the Environment Land Management Scheme (ELMS)
- Proposal to address the energy crisis almost exclusively by increasing the use of domestic fossil fuel production and consumption, which will merely substitute for previously imported fuels
- The specific action to remove the moratorium on fracking

We note that you have written recently for [CapX](#) on the importance of reducing energy waste by comprehensively insulating the UK's housing stock but note that the Government currently has very limited and narrow plans to incentivise or finance such actions.

The current twin issues of rapidly rising fuel prices and increasing general inflation will mean that individuals and families will have less ability to self-finance energy-saving measures, meaning that personal capacity to act will reduce, possibly dramatically.

We are profoundly disturbed that, despite your regular assurances to us and your constituents more widely that you are supportive of many of the actions we believe are necessary, you seem to have been completely silent on the Government's damaging intentions across a wide range of environmental policy.

Others, locally and nationally, including normally cautious bodies such as the National Trust and the RSPB have also made their views known in no uncertain terms.

For many people, the financial challenges are urgent. We think it is only right that we and your other constituents know your views, in detail, and in advance of our meeting with you on the evening of 8th November.

It is time to demonstrate your independence of mind.

Yours,

Ian Bowns, Chair, Transition Buxton CIC

Transition Buxton

Towards a sustainable community

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Dates For Your Diary

Wed 2 Nov, 7:30pm, Plastic Clever Meeting via Zoom for link email plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Tues 8 Nov, 6-7:30pm, Members Meeting with Robert Largan MP via Zoom – link will be emailed to Members.

10 Nov, 9am – 3:30pm, Together for Our Planet Youth Conference, The Octagon

Thurs 17 Nov, 8pm, [Green Drinks](#), The Old Sun Inn
8 or 13 Dec Christmas social TBC

Thurs 24 Nov, 5:30-6:30pm, Inform & Inspire Group Meeting via Zoom inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Sat 26 Nov, 10am – 2pm, last item in 1:30pm, Repair Café, 28 Jan, None in December, 10-2, Methodist Church on the Market Place
Sat 17th Dec, 8pm, The Old Sun, 8pm, [Green Drinks](#)

Tues 10 Jan, 7:30pm, Members Meeting, venue TBC
Sat 28 Jan, 10am – 2pm, last item 1:30pm, Repair Café, Methodist Church on the Market Place



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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ARE YOU A MEMBER OF TRANSITION BUXTON?



From our incorporation as a Community Interest Company at the end of 2013 with a membership of 65, our numbers have grown steadily over the years. We are pleased to tell you that, after a flurry of new members joining over the summer, we have now reached a membership of 150 individuals. We also send these newsletters out to approximately 400 supporters. This will be the list you are on if you just receive newsletters every couple of months. We would welcome you to become a member of Transition Buxton CIC by completing the form available here: [Become a Member – Transition Buxton](#). For more information contact members@transitionbuxton.co.uk.

On joining you will receive more regular communications about current activities and opportunities to get involved, but don't worry we won't bombard you with emails, they are typically sent out every couple of weeks.

You may also wish to interact with Transition Buxton via social media. Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TransitionBuxton currently has 650 likes and 743 followers, and 491 members of our Facebook public group www.facebook.com/groups/transitionbuxton would love to hear from you. Our Twitter account twitter.com/transitionbux will help you keep up to date with our wider network including 809 followers and we'd love it if you'd tag us and share our posts. We are considering what other platforms it might be worth us having a presence on in order to communicate even more widely.

Remember the more members we have the more we can undertake for the benefit of the local and wider environment! Thank you.

Veronica Hawthorn, Membership Secretary

LET'S BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

There is so much more that we could do if more of our Members and supporters were able to give a little time and energy to work on positive sustainable community actions. If lots of people do a little it really does add up.

Could you take on a task or role as a Transition Buxton volunteer, and help our community travel in the right direction? Whatever you are passionate about, enjoy, or skills you have, you can be part of the solution. Please get in touch if you could spare some time or have an idea you'd like to take forward.

Our biggest plea just at the moment is for a new Webmaster



Webmaster Wanted!

Working as part of the Inform & Inspire team you would lead on an overdue re-vamp of the Transition Buxton website, then on managing it. Our website is 12 years old and, whilst regularly updated with new info, is looking tired and does not represent us as well as we'd like. Our website is a key window and access point. Could you help? Contact: inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk



We're moving forward slowly but hopefully, with our aim to set up a **Library of Things**.

I've submitted an application for a grant of around £3,000 to the Transition Together

seed funding programme. If successful, this will cover our set up costs, including buying items that we can't get by donation, as well as publicity and software. We're also planning a crowd funder.

But first, we really need to find some premises to operate out of. We're hopeful that High Peak Borough Council might be willing to support our initiative by accommodating us in unused space that they own. Meanwhile, any offers or suggestions of central, secure space where we can base the Library would be very gratefully received. Temporary space is fine as we can move in due course.

Zink have expressed interest in working with us to provide work experience for some of their clients. If you'd be interested in helping get this project up and running, please get in touch.

Jane Reynolds 07511 043124



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GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK IN BUXTON

As part of a nationwide climate action campaign residents of Buxton were able to take part in 3 local events during Great Big Green Week between 24 September - 2 October.

The climate action campaign known as the Great Big Green Week saw thousands of people across the UK organising local events and activities. The campaign aims to draw attention to climate change and destruction of the natural world, while also making a connection with these issues in communities like Buxton and showcasing actions to tackle climate change. Creating a better world, for us now and for the next generation.

Repair Café on 24 September joined in our host, the Methodist Church's Giving Day, helping them achieve their fundraising goal to fix the leaky roof over the community rooms. The Repair Café returns on the 4th Saturday of every month except December and July.

On 28 September Transition Buxton hosted an open meeting to enable anyone interested to meet the recently appointed Climate Change & Biodiversity Officer at High Peak Borough Council, Gillian Wright. With thanks to BCA for the use of their café area, to Gillian for a well prepared session, and the engaged group of local folks who turned up to hear what she had to say. Our work with our local authorities continues both directly and through two collaborative forums: We Are Buxton, and High Peak Green Network.

Finally, on 1st October, with thanks to a Great Big Green Week grant, we tried an experiment; The Big Swishy Swop. We learned that we can trust people – plenty of people brought stuff, no one took more than they brought. We revealed the scale of excess 'stuff' lurking in cupboards and drawers – we got lots of 'stuff', most of it good quality. We provided a therapeutic service to some members of our community – people were delighted to reduce their clutter and know that it would go to good homes. Those who took items away were very pleased with their new things and the local groups and charities who received the leftovers were grateful for the contributions. However, it was quiet all day, the venue (Buxton Community School Lower Dining Hall) was not in the town centre, and there were a number of other events on in town that day. Probably not worth repeating as a standalone event, but could be worth incorporating into other activities when there is capacity. A few new volunteers joined in for the first time – thank you for helping us try something new.

The Great Big Green Week is organised by The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change, whose members include the National Trust, WWF, Women's Institute, Oxfam, and RSPB.



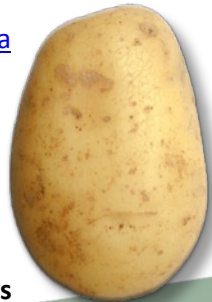
POTATO DAY 2023

Are you a home potato grower, or considering it for 2023? Transition Buxton are partnering with Transition Chesterfield to bring you seed potatoes for the 2023 season. We've looked at a number of commercial suppliers and think this is better as you can order in small quantities, not 1kg plus as with commercial sites and we calculate the cost to be as low as 60% of commercial prices, depending on what you order.

Ordering is a very simple online process and you can select from over 30 different types. The order quantity is one seed potato so you could try out a few different types. The process is very simple and the website is well documented. Ordering is open now and closes on 23rd November. If you select the delivery location as Buxton we will receive your order to save you travelling to Chesterfield to pick up your order.

Our page: <https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/potato-day-2023/> provides an overview and link to the ordering process. We will update our page with Buxton Collection details closer to the delivery date, which is expected to be around the end of January, in time for chitting.

Robin Edwards



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HARD TO RECYCLE UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2022

While we continue to recycle significant amounts of items collected from the various sets of bins located around the town, we also continue to receive fair amounts of unsuitable material placed in our bins. The new 'soft plastics' recycling container at Morrisons, which takes a wider range of items than the previous 'plastic bag' bin, has added to the possibility for confusion. To try to clarify the situation, the table here shows which container can currently be used for various types of materials. You will see that some items can go in either container and, of course, the most important thing is that materials are recycled rather than going into landfill. Morrisons have informed us that items from Buxton go to a sorting facility in Leicester where they are separated into different types of plastic. About 80% of the output is recycled into products like bin bags at a site in Nottinghamshire. The remainder is turned into lower grade products like boards. Details of Terracycle's recycling process are available here: [Discover our recycling process · TerraCycle](#). We are assured by them that none of our bin collections go to landfill. Also remember that using our bins increases the support we can give to local charities, so far payments totalling £418 have been made to 4 local charities/schools with a 5th due to benefit shortly.

Where to recycle various types of items at Morrisons

Type of plastic	Transition Buxton bins	Morrisons container
(For details of what can be included in these categories click on the appropriate link on our website: Recycling – Transition Buxton).		
Writing Instruments	✓	✗
Dental products	✓	✗
Pringles Cans	✓	✗
Crisp packets	✓	✓
Biscuit Wrappers	✓	✓
Confectionery Wrappers	✓	✓
Cheese Wrappers	✓	✓
Hygiene Home packaging	✓	✓
Bakery items packaging	✓	✓
Coffee pouches	✓	✓
Food pouches	✗	✓
Plastic carrier bags etc. (see: Local recycling Recycle Now).	✗	✓

OUR COMMUNITY ORCHARD



In September a working party of 8 people cleared around the orchard trees at Brown Edge Road. Great progress was made clearing around the trees and paths between the trees. There are currently seven trees; four apple and three damson, at the Brown Edge Road site. It appears that a number of suckers have come from the damson root stock and we've decided to return later in the year to transplant them to give the original trees and the suckers more room to grow.

An enjoyable morning was spent working to improve the site and we were treated to some lovely homemade cakes brought by some of the workers (Thank you). If you are interested in helping with the orchard please drop an email to orchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk and we will keep you up to date with plans and let you know when our next working party is.

To find out more about the orchard including what trees are planted where, take a look at our web page:

www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/what-we-do/food/community-orchard/

Finally, have you considered sponsoring a tree for the orchard? More details can be found on our [web page](#). It could be a nice way to make a contribution to a more sustainable Buxton or as a lovely forever gift for a friend or family member.

Ben Evens and Robin Edwards



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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HPBC GREAT BIG GREEN EVENT

This event, organised by the HPBC Climate Change officer, took place in New Mills Town Hall on 20th October. Those attending were updated on what HPBC is doing so far to reduce our impact on the natural environment, for instance;

- Retrofitting the least energy efficient council houses.
- Submitting a bid for a fund to help lower income house owners with their own retrofitting.
- A bid for funding to help rural businesses to reduce their impact on climate change.
- Waste company, AES, has taken a re-fitted wagon to numerous primary schools to give interactive lessons in recycling to children, trialled an electric refuse vehicle and plan to use recycled vegetable oil in place of diesel in our current vehicles later this year.
- Leaving some areas unmown.
- Most Council meetings are now conducted on-line, which has reduced officer and councillor travel drastically.

Advice was available from a range of local organisations on energy saving, how to recycle and reduce waste, repair cafés, retrofitting homes and active travel. Some of those attending were groups who profited from the HPBC Community Climate Change fund which aims to give support to volunteers who run projects that help to alleviate the impacts of climate change. When HPBC put on another event like this we would like to see many more people come along to share their ideas, discuss thorny challenges, find common ground, and create collaborations, as well as gain a little more knowledge.

CLlr Jean Todd HPBC Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Community Safety



TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET

We are now half way through our year of using our National Lottery Grant to offer education, activities and opportunities for children and young people in Buxton. During Great Big Green Week some schools took part in a High Peak Green New Deal climate competition, submitting posters or poetry about caring for our planet. The winners in Hayfield Primary School and Padfield County Primary School are now designing two projects to use £100 awarded to each school from our Climate Action grants. Buxton Girl Guides are planning to get creative with their climate action grant by using what they collect whilst litter picking to educate Buxton residents through 'something' they create with the rubbish.



Student Conference 10th November Pavilion



Transition Buxton Members are currently planning our 2nd student conference that again takes place during the COP season. Students will spend a day discussing issues that matter to them. They will be meeting HPBC and DCC staff and local organisations who are helping protect our planet and local environment. Thank you to all of them and our TB Members who are supporting this event for our local children and young people.

Frances Sussex education@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Might you be interested in helping us carry our Home Energy Surveys? We visit homes with our infra-red camera showing the residents where heat is being lost. We can then point out how energy savings can be made. It is a valuable service but we are running short of volunteers to do the surveys. If you might be interested please email: heatloss@transitionbuxton.co.uk.



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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BUXTON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS LABORATORY

The Buxton Climate Change Impacts Lab (BCCIL) at Harpur Hill is the UK's longest running climate manipulation experiment, and the second longest running in the world, making it a globally important site for research and understanding long term climate impacts on biodiversity? The experiment at BCCIL is looking at how climate change will affect grasslands in the future, through a series of drought and warming and watering treatments applied to grassland plots.

Dr Raj Whitlock and Andrew Askew, two of three academics from the University of Liverpool running science and outreach at the site, kindly hosted a Transition Buxton visit.



They are working closely with other scientists and research programmes and are keen to share their learning so far. On Friday 21 October a group of 14 people were treated to a fascinating explanation of the detailed work that has been going on just up the road all these years. For example, did you know that some grasses put hormones into the soil to make it more hospitable?



Sadly, after nearly 30 years of manipulations funding has nearly run out, endangering the continuity of this vitally important resource. Fundraising is underway to secure the continuation of this valuable work which we are lucky to host here in Derbyshire. We hope to organise another visit in the spring for those who were unable to make it this time.

If you'd like to know more follow this link www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org/bccil

REPAIR CAFÉ

Our monthly Repair Cafés on the 4th Saturday of the month in the hall of the Methodist Church on the Market Place continue to provide an excellent service to our community and helps to reduce waste. By keeping things working and in use, we not only save some money and the environmental impact of throwing it away, but also the cost / impact of making, storing and buying a new one. We also have the privilege of helping to restore and keep treasured family items with great back stories in loving use. By the time this newsletter goes to print we will have held the October session, but the statistics won't be ready in time, in September we dealt with 31 items with outcomes as follows:

Outcomes Sept 2022	Repaired	Improved /advice given	Parts required	Not repairable	Total
Ceramics	1				1
Electrical	12	2	4	3	21
General	1	1	2	2	6
Sewing	3				3
Total	17	3	6	5	31

This included 4 sewing machines, 2 music boxes and a wind-up gramophone (sadly not repairable).

We will be repairing things again on Saturday 26 November and 28 January. Do please be aware that there is no Repair Café in December when the 4th Saturday is Christmas Eve when our wonderful Volunteer Repairers have other priorities.

Helen Brown, Buxton Repair Café

repaircafe@transitionbuxton.co.uk



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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