

Institute for Public Policy Research



TEES VALLEY AND COUNTY DURHAM CLIMATE AND FAIRNESS PANEL

**BRIEFING AND JUROR
RECOMMENDATIONS**



**IPPR and the Tees Valley and
County Durham Climate
and Fairness Panel**

February 2021

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel was organised by the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission.

The recommendations of the panel will be presented to local politicians and decision-makers and submitted to the major national cross-party commission, as part of a more detailed report on the process the panel has gone through.

The Environmental Justice Commission was created in 2019 with the aim of working with people across the UK to develop policies and ideas that will tackle the climate crisis and restore nature as quickly and fairly as possible, and that put people and fairness at the heart of the response to the climate and nature emergencies. The commission is co-chaired by Hilary Benn MP, Laura Sandys and Caroline Lucas MP, leading politicians from the Labour, Conservative and Green Parties.

ABOUT IPPR

IPPR, the Institute for Public Policy Research, is the UK's leading progressive think tank. We are an independent charitable organisation with our main offices in London. IPPR North, IPPR's dedicated think tank for the North of England, operates out of offices in Manchester and Newcastle, and IPPR Scotland, our dedicated think tank for Scotland, is based in Edinburgh.

Our purpose is to conduct and promote research into, and the education of the public in, the economic, social and political sciences, science and technology, the voluntary sector and social enterprise, public services, and industry and commerce.

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The progressive policy think tank

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The majority of this document is in the words of the Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel. Additional content was provided by IPPR's **Stephen Frost, Becca Massey-Chase, Luke Murphy and Lesley Rankin.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the jurors for their time, passion, and good humour. It has been a pleasure to spend our evenings and weekends with you all.

The panel would not have been a success without the significant input and active participation of the local advisory board. Likewise, a big thank you to all of the speakers for their invaluable contributions to the deliberation process.

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A summary of the panel's recommendations is published here:
ippr.org/research/publications/citizens-jury-tees-valley-county-durham

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This document is available to download as a free PDF and in other formats at:
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FOREWORD

from the co-chairs of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

We thank the jurors for their work and welcome this report as an essential contribution to the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission. From the outset, the Commission wanted to put people at the centre of its work by holding citizens' juries around the country to draw on the practical knowledge, experience and wisdom of people in very different places around the UK.

We were impressed by the quality of the debate, thoughtful contributions and challenging questions that arose over the course of the six weeks of the Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel. We hope others can see, as we do, this reflected in the recommendations that have been produced by the jurors, in their own words, in this briefing. We are excited to take these recommendations forward, presenting them to local, regional and national decision-makers over the coming weeks and months. The contents of this briefing will also be included in the work of the commission, including the final report, which will be released in early summer 2021.

This briefing will also be invaluable to policy makers and stakeholders in the Tees Valley and County Durham region, as well as national government, as decision-makers at all levels grapple with the implementation of a just, green transition.

Once again, we thank the jurors not just for their time, but for the energy, passion and commitment they have given to this process, and we hope, like they do, to see their recommendations enacted so that we may address the climate and nature emergencies in a way that is fair for all.



Handwritten signature of Hilary Benn in black ink.

Hilary Benn MP



Handwritten signature of Caroline Lucas in black ink.

Caroline Lucas MP



Handwritten signature of Laura Sandys in black ink.

Laura Sandys

FOREWORD

from the advisory board

The Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel brought together a diverse group of people, representative of our region. They come from all ages, backgrounds and walks of life and, before they started out on this process, they also had a range of views on the seriousness of the climate and nature crises.

Our jurors assembled to answer an important question:

“What practical steps should we take together in Tees Valley and County Durham to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone?”

In doing so, the jurors had a unique opportunity to hear a wide range of perspectives on how we should respond to the climate and nature crises, and what it means for the future of Tees Valley and County Durham.

As individuals, and within the work of our respective organisations, we are all too aware of the threat posed by these two emergencies. We also recognise that the action we need to take to respond will provide opportunities to do things better. Key to achieving that will be putting people at the heart of the policy making process in the way this Climate and Fairness Panel has done.

In their own words, the jurors have set out a vision for Tees Valley and County Durham and 32 recommendations on topics ranging from how we make decisions to the future of work in a greener economy.

At the core of these recommendations is the notion of fairness and an understanding of what a good quality of life in the region should look like. They provide a clear steer on the steps required for a rapid and fair transition, demonstrating the need to tackle economic and social injustice at the same time as addressing the climate and nature emergencies.

We urge politicians of all parties, policymakers, industry representatives and stakeholders to read this briefing and help us take forward these recommendations.

Together, we commit to giving prominence to the jurors' recommendations, as we take steps to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone. We thank the jury for this important contribution on the future of Tees Valley and County Durham and the wider debate on climate and nature in the UK.

Beth Farhat

regional secretary, Northern TUC and member of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

Paul Booth OBE

chair, Tees Valley LEP and member of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

Catriona Lingwood

chief executive, Constructing Excellence North East

Cllr Robert Cook

leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Jim Cokill

chief executive, Durham Wildlife Trust

Carol Botten

chief executive, VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North East)

Cllr Heather Scott

leader, Darlington Borough Council

Ammar Mirza CBE

chair of Asian Business Connexions

Louise Hunter

corporate affairs director, Northumbrian Water Group

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel was organised by the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission. Co-chaired by Hilary Benn MP, Laura Sandys and Caroline Lucas MP, from the Labour, Conservative and Green Parties, the Commission's mission is to:

“present an ambitious, positive vision shaped around people's experiences and needs, and develop a plan of action that integrates policy both to address the climate and environmental emergencies and to deliver economic and social justice.”

Key to this is the commissions' work with communities that will face unique challenges as a result of the transition.

The Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel is one of four citizens' juries around the UK held by the Commission in late 2020 and early 2021. This report documents the Tees Valley and County Durham Panel's considered view on the practical steps required to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone. This set of recommendations has five parts:

1. a statement on a fair response to the climate and nature emergencies
2. a wellbeing framework and vision for a better life for all
3. recommendations on the principles for the transition – decision-making and fairly sharing the costs
4. recommendations for work and industry
5. recommendations on nature, what we eat, and how we use the land.

ABOUT TEES VALLEY AND COUNTY DURHAM

Tees Valley and County Durham has many characteristics which make it a rich area in which to convene a Climate and Fairness Panel. The region has the potential to benefit from a transition to a net zero economy where nature is thriving. It also faces large risks if this is badly managed, with an insufficient focus on economic and social fairness.

FIGURE 1.1: MAP OF THE REGION COVERED BY THE PANEL BASED ON MIDDLE LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREAS (MSOAS)



© OpenStreetMap contributors

The UK's legally binding carbon reduction targets pose a real challenge for the energy intensive industries in the Tees Valley. Large firms working in basic metals, chemicals and manufactured fuels are responsible for a significant proportion of regional employment. Tees Valley currently generates 13 million tonnes of carbon emissions per annum – three times higher than the UK average – and 11 million of these are from industrial sources (O'Brien et al 2017). It is home to 60 per cent of the UK's energy-intensive industry (Tennison 2017).

The North East as a whole has also experienced the largest percentage decline in emissions of any part of the UK over the past decade. This is due to closures like that of the SSI steelworks in 2015, which resulted in around 4,000 job losses. These closures have come about, in part, due to the high energy costs facing these companies (close to double the average energy cost across Europe) (Laybourn-Langton et al 2017). Establishing a globally competitive chemical and processing sector is integral to a zero-carbon circular economy and will provide continued opportunities to grow the regions' high-skilled workforce and bring vital economic benefit to the area (Tees Valley Combined Authority 2018).

The history of coal mining in the hilly landscape of County Durham shaped the infrastructure of the area. These mines still have an important role to play in the area's future; they provide opportunities for heat generation and sites that could provide new habitats for wildlife. The natural environment, too, has a role in the low-carbon energy sector, creating significant potential for wind generation and industrial carbon capture and storage. Meanwhile, over one-quarter of households in some built-up central areas of Stockton, Darlington, and Hartlepool currently suffer from fuel poverty (Baxter and Cox 2017).

The area's natural assets also play a key role in mitigating flood risk, if protected. The low-lying nature of much of the Tees Valley means it is susceptible to direct climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and flooding. Homes, businesses and the coastal and wetland habitats of the Teesmouth and North Tees marshes, and the Tees Valley chemical process industry and Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station are particularly vulnerable to flood risk.

Tees Valley and County Durham are home to wetland areas, including peatland, and significant bodies of water. Reflecting the value and beauty of its natural landscapes and wildlife, a large part of this region is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The scale and diversity of the region's natural assets provide huge potential, and their proximity to urban centres make them foundational to citizens' health and wellbeing. They are also an important carbon sink that could make a significant contribution to the UK government's net carbon target for 2050 (Hunter 2020).

ABOUT THE TEES VALLEY AND COUNTY DURHAM CLIMATE AND FAIRNESS PANEL

Citizens' juries are used all over the world to deliberate on policy issues. They bring together a small group of people, representative of the demographics of a given area, to learn about an issue, discuss ideas with one another and then make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change, drawing on their own practical knowledge and experience.

The Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel was commissioned by the Environmental Justice Commission to examine the question:

“What practical steps should we take together in the Tees Valley and County Durham to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone?”

23 residents of Tees Valley and County Durham came together online for over 20 hours of deliberation across eight sessions over six weeks. Collectively, they were representative of the area in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, locale (rural/urban), qualification level, and attitude to climate change.¹

They heard from a range of speakers (see appendix B) providing a grounding in the climate and nature emergencies, the local context, and positive, ambitious proposals for action across four topics: 'work and industry', 'nature, what we eat and how we use the land', 'how we make decisions', and 'fairly sharing the costs'. The panel also developed their own 'wellbeing framework' to help guide their recommendations. These recommendations are in the panel's own words.

Local decision-makers and sector leads provided valuable insight into the current policy context and advised IPPR on relevant local contacts. Please see appendix A for more information on the advisory board.

The panel's recommendations are an important contribution to the work of the commission and are shared with the advisory board and other key stakeholders. More details about the process can be found at appendix C.

¹ We have used national attitudes to climate change (Ipsos/Mori July 2019) as a proxy for attitudes within the area.

STATEMENT FROM THE JURORS: A FAIR RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES²

We believe that a fair response to the climate and nature emergencies in Tees Valley and County Durham must protect wildlife and ensure we have a planet where people and nature can thrive.

It must be swift and decisive, clear, and consistent. It has to educate, inspire and involve people in the change required.

There has to be lifelong learning about climate and nature – starting in school and then within communities.

People need to feel ownership of the action taken and committed to what comes next. The action we take has to be a beneficial change in people's lives - it is something they want to be involved in, and will improve their lives. We need young people to be educated in these issues as they will be most affected.

We need to recognise that action will take money. This needs to be provided for the long term and be strategic – government commitment can't be taken away.

Businesses and investors need to be part of the solution. Where they aren't willing to act in the way that's needed, they need to be regulated. They need to be incentivised to act, but there needs to be penalties if they don't.

No one can be left out. A fair response to the climate and nature emergencies needs to increase equality in society. Local people need to be empowered to act. Every area is unique and a 'one size fits all' approach isn't going to work. Local areas need to create their own plans and priorities based on their local assets. They will need the resources to see these plans through.

The cost of acting now is much less than the cost of inaction, both in the UK and worldwide.

² A small group of volunteer jurors worked with an IPPR facilitator to write this statement on fairness on behalf of the jury. All jurors had considered their individual views on 'fairness' and all ideas were discussed by the full group ahead of drafting this statement, which was approved by the whole jury, with no amendments made.

WELLBEING FRAMEWORK: A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

We believe in a better life for all in Tees Valley and County Durham. This means a future where everyone:



We believe that good physical and mental health is a foundation for other principles. In turn, many principles are connected and support each other.

DEVELOPING THE FRAMEWORK

The concept of wellbeing was used to frame deliberation on what constitutes a fair response to addressing the climate and nature emergencies.

This approach was introduced to jurors by Dr Katy Roelich, associate professor in the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds, with support from Dr Nathan Wood. The methodology is based on their research experience in participative decision-making.

Jurors developed a place-specific wellbeing framework that described the kind of lives they want to lead, in terms of what they are able to be and do.

This framework was used in two ways throughout the deliberative process: to support jurors in critically appraising evidence and proposals, and to highlight the significance of their own lived experience.

As a tool to support critical appraisal, jurors used the framework to determine how proposals would affect people's wellbeing. If a proposal had a negative impact on an element of wellbeing, this was deemed to be unfair and jurors discussed whether proposals could be altered to reduce any negative impacts.

The wellbeing framework also connected complex interventions and scientific information to the daily lives of jurors. This highlighted their crucial knowledge about how the nature and climate emergencies, including the action required to address them, would affect people's lives.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT TO VALUE IN TEES VALLEY AND COUNTY DURHAM

The jurors completed a 'visioning' exercise to answer the questions:

- what kind of 'beings' and 'doings' do you value?
- how can we describe these as simply a possible?
- how do these 'doings' and 'beings' support each other?

On the following page is a sample of the responses (grouped by Dr Roelich and edited to avoid repetition).



ACTIVITY AND LEISURE

Running, walking, visit local parks & nature reserves

Doing gardening

Playing sports, going for walks in the area

Fun activities to do

Enjoying good food

Appreciating the arts and music

Going to the coast, to be able to enjoy rest periods



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Having a healthy lifestyle

Being fit and healthy

Health remains stable

Good physical health



MENTAL HEALTH

Being happy

Good mental health

Being mindful



FREEDOM AND MOBILITY

Free to arrange my time and use my energy in a way that doesn't drain me

Being mobile

Being able to move about without assistance

Freedom to choose food (including meat)



SOCIALISING

Socialising with people that add to my life rather than drain my energy is also very important to me.

Socialising with friends



ACCESS TO NATURE

Being able to access green spaces

Visit local parks & nature reserves

Nature all around

Being able to enjoy the outdoors and nature

Being with nature

Being able to help restore nature

Appreciating nature and its beauty



MEANINGFUL WORK

Doing work which fulfils me and exhilarates me rather than just working to be able to afford basics in life.

Being satisfied with a purposeful job

Being valued at work



HELPING

Being helpful

Caring for others

Being useful to other people is important to me.



SAFETY, COMFORT AND SUSTENANCE

Being comfortable

Being well fed and nourished

Accessing clean water

Being safe, being secure

Having healthy food to eat



CREATIVITY

Something that stimulates my mind and interests me

Being creative



HAVING A NETWORK AND COMMUNITY

Being part of social network and support and being valued in relationships

Having good friends and family and sharing memories, thoughts and laughs with them



EDUCATION

Access to education

Being able to learn/ upskill



OTHERS

Being responsible

Living in pleasant surroundings

Doing well for myself and others

Doing my best

2. HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- Citizens must be involved in decision-making.
- Different voices need to be heard and brought together, and it takes a proactive approach to ensure this happens.
- We need non-partisan coordination across all different levels/ types of decision-makers. The climate and nature emergencies are too important to be made party political. We need a joined-up, collaborative approach if we are to see the scale of change required.
- There should be a greater dissemination of power at a local level, so that communities are invested with more power to take action on the things that matter to them.
- We should be learning from what is already out there. There are great examples of community-led decision-making and there are examples (such as parish councils) where we can learn from what doesn't work as well.

Recommendations

1. There should be citizens' juries in all local areas informing decision-making. These should be funded by central government. Funding should also be available for community groups to support action on the recommendations coming out of these juries.
2. Government and businesses should proactively share clear, understandable information with the public, to help us make green, fair decisions. There should be public information campaigns about the climate and nature emergencies, tailored to the local area.
3. There should be more community ownership of local assets, so that citizens have more control over and a greater stake in the decisions that affect them.

DELIBERATING ON HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

The jurors explored how decisions about the climate and nature emergencies are currently taken, some of the barriers to action and how things might be improved.

They discussed the most appropriate role for local authorities and local MPs in community action. They were enthused by localisation, stating that it seemed to be “the way to go”, and more likely to be effective than national action. One juror thought community action was “the only way to galvanise action on climate change”.

“ We need more information, more support and we need our voices heard ”

Some highlighted potential stumbling blocks, perceiving legalities that could cause delays and that should be streamlined: “less small print”. They agreed that appropriate funding was essential for local action.

The recommendations capture the jurors’ strong desire for community ownership and involvement in decision-making and the actions needed to achieve local change.

SPEAKERS ON HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

How are decisions made in County Durham and Tees Valley?

- Cllr John D Clare, Durham County Council’s climate champion

How do regional and national governments work together?

- Anna Round, senior research fellow, IPPR North

What is the role of communities in addressing the climate and nature emergencies?

- Lucy Stone, Our Common Climate

3.

FAIRLY SHARING THE COSTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- Those who can afford it should pay the most, whether that be individuals or companies.
- Wherever possible, public investment should seek to address the climate and nature crises, both at home and abroad. But this should not come at the expense of those most in need, whether at home or in terms of humanitarian aid abroad. Investment should not go to projects that make the problem worse.
- Where possible, green funding should be ring-fenced.
- Funding and resources should be allocated to be spent locally wherever possible.
- Government should seek to make investment as soon as possible. The government leading the way on investments means that individuals, communities and businesses are more likely to follow, rather than having to take the risks themselves of starting something new.

Recommendations

4. Companies must pay their fair share. This includes:
 - ensuring companies pay a fair share of taxation on profits and assets in the UK
 - minimising mechanisms which allow companies to move funds abroad or avoid taxation
 - those companies responsible for developments, from housing to commercial, must contribute financially to tackling the climate and nature crises in that area.
5. If the government has to raise taxation then it must be ‘progressive’ (increasing percentage of tax with increasing income or wealth) income and wealth taxation, reducing loopholes wherever possible.
6. Carbon taxation should be introduced but it should be incremental and targeted at those with the worst environmental impacts, such as the biggest carbon emitters. This money should go exclusively towards tackling the climate and nature crises.
7. Government at all levels should use green bonds to help raise finance for investment. These bonds must be available for ordinary people to invest in and benefit from, not just big businesses. It should also be done on a local basis wherever possible, giving people a say over how it is invested in their local area, on the things that matter to the community. Where bonds are issued locally, then central government should consider matching the investment pound for pound.
8. The UK should increase the amount it is spending to address the climate and nature crises. This should increase above the two per cent of GDP proposed by many. Where the government is investing, it should ensure any grants or investment are widely available and can benefit everyone. The government should make an annual long-term

commitment on how much it intends to invest in tackling the climate and nature crises.

9. The National Lottery should increase the share of charitable funds that goes on green issues. The government should consider introducing a new 'Green Lottery' where all charitable funds go to climate and nature issues.

DELIBERATING ON HOW WE FAIRLY SHARE THE COSTS

This cross-cutting theme covered the scale of investment required to act on the climate and nature emergencies, the cost of inaction and the range of actors involved in funding the required action.

In their deliberation, jurors were concerned that the cost of inaction was great, but government still wasn't doing enough, or acting quickly enough.

“The super rich should save this planet, not invest in discovering a new one”

They were concerned that government couldn't be trusted to take the necessary action, with one flagging a “need to sort out politics to address this”, another “climate breakdown should cut across party politics, but it doesn't. Climate change almost needs to be taken outside of that” and another highlighting what they felt was an ongoing trend: “bad governments and ineffective action are nothing new”.

Fairness was a consistent theme. Many jurors were in favour of increasing taxes on harmful activities, or a ring-fenced 'green tax' to support low earners, with one juror stating that: “the super rich should save this planet, not invest in discovering a new one”. Capitalist economies and the 'constant growth model' were also named as issues. Jurors also discussed the difference between the UK and other countries' investment as a percentage of GDP, with one juror commenting “it's just a political decision”.

Green bonds were a particularly popular option for raising finance to take action on the climate and nature emergencies, with one juror commenting “green bonds seem like a no brainer [as there is] lots of money floating around at low interest”.

SPEAKERS ON HOW WE FAIRLY SHARE THE COSTS

What is the cost of action on the climate and nature emergencies?

- Katerina Szwarc, policy fellow - sustainable finance, LSE (Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment)

How do we fairly share the costs?

- Stephen Frost, co-deputy head of the Environmental Justice Commission, IPPR

4.

WORK AND INDUSTRY

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Recommendations for action at the national level

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

10. Raise taxes on high carbon industries to be ring-fenced locally, this must be done carefully to ensure it is fair and doesn't 'offshore' the problem.
11. Create a national blueprint for low carbon work, with scope to amend this strategy locally and in response to the evolving context. Diverse groups should be represented in creating this strategy. The strategy:
 - must be tailored to local circumstances; it can't be decided at a national level, though it should be guided nationally
 - must have a clear division of responsibilities between local, regional and national government
 - should have a national body (with local/regional voices) to map what is needed/produced in different regions, and to allocate resources accordingly.
12. Give local areas more control over education, to target education at nature and low-carbon industries in those areas, and raise awareness and aspiration through the national curriculum, awards and scholarships. Specific ideas for this are:
 - creating an 'Attenborough Scholarship' – a scholarship scheme to encourage young people into low carbon jobs
 - or, similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, an 'Attenborough Award', starting at primary school level
 - creating a 'National Nature Service' to provide work and volunteering opportunities.
13. Provide quality lifelong learning from apprenticeships to retraining. Create better apprenticeship schemes and well-resourced retraining with good communications, providing a lifelong training plan.
14. Raise the national living wage.
15. Provide a green job wage guarantee and income tax relief for those in low carbon sectors, being mindful of implementing this in a fair way.

Recommendations for action at the local level

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

16. Prioritise producing clean energy jobs and greener industrial practices. For Tees Valley and County Durham, this will mean focussing on the industries where we have the most knowledge, expertise, and assets. This should include:
 - a local industrial strategy which focuses on the resources, knowledge and expertise of the local area

- investing in opportunities like hydrogen, infrastructure for heating water in mine shafts for homes and renewables. Companies should be encouraged to issue green bonds to support these opportunities
 - supporting the manufacture of goods for the low carbon economy within Tees Valley and County Durham
 - using disused land in the area as sites for renewables, such as wind and solar. This should include encouraging companies and private landowners to use their land for such projects
 - priority should be placed on encouraging community, cooperative, and worker ownership, as part of all projects. These might include community or cooperative energy projects
- 17.** There must be support for education, re-skilling and re-training for workers in existing industries and older people more generally. This must include:
- the creation of a specific programme for existing workers and older people (similar to apprenticeships) open to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities
 - re-training must be paid at a good wage to support those going through it
 - a good wage for those workers in the new jobs to be able to support them and their families
 - the freedom to choose the type of work to move into
 - ongoing training and education should be provided to reflect changing circumstances and as industries evolve.
- 18.** There should be local policymaking panels inclusive of local government, industry, workers, and unions and public representatives.
- 19.** Investment in carbon capture storage (CCS) should take place only where it is essential for industries like chemical processing. CCS cannot be used to delay action on cutting emissions more generally nor should it be considered as a long-term solution. Information must be provided about the use and potential risks of CCS, and this must be accompanied by strong reassurances and guarantees around safety and endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive (or appropriate body).³
- 20.** There should be requirements and incentives to create apprenticeships for young people and existing workers in the local area. This should mean:
- guarantees that apprenticeships can be completed and not ended early
 - providing a realistic prospect of a good job at the end of the apprenticeship
 - requirements and incentives for companies to take on apprentices
 - apprenticeships should be open to young people and existing workers
 - apprenticeships should be open to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- 21.** There should be provision of education focussed on the local area. This could be coordinated by the combined authority, county council, and local councils in concert with local education authorities. Local groups like scouting and guiding groups, youth clubs, and others should also be involved in this process.

³ Note: 43 per cent of the jurors did not support the principle of investing in carbon capture and storage.

DELIBERATING ON WORK AND INDUSTRY

Jurors covered a broad set of issues related to good work, education and training and the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

There was strong support for playing to the area's strengths and unique assets, such as using mine water for heating.

The jurors saw training and finance as key. Apprenticeships should be available and properly paid, people should be paid to (re)train, and companies should be incentivised to support this. People of all ages should be helped to gain the right skills for new jobs. One juror called for "bringing back the National Careers Service... for proper impartial advice and guidance to help people find the right job suitable for their skill set".

They wanted to see action joined up between different sectors: "Plenty of ideas but how to join up? How to get scale up?". Better coordination would also support faster action and allow for some organisations to be frontrunners in the transition process: "We should choose sectors and employers that we know can move quickly ("make it bitesize"), these show us how it can be done for the harder sectors. Skills and training for these employees should be more straightforward."

One juror suggested: "With interest rates at a record low with no sign of things getting better, could local councils set themselves up as investment banks".

There was support for trade union involvement, but one juror raised the fear and stigma of membership, as he felt frightened of losing his job in a 'low skill' environment: "they could get rid of you at any minute". He felt, however, that there was a need to "get the message across that unions are there to help you, as hardly anyone is in one".

Some jurors questioned the role of work in our lives, and whether we could work less overall.

“ [There is a need to] get the message across that unions are there to help you, as hardly anyone is in one

SPEAKERS ON WORK AND INDUSTRY

What is a 'just transition' and what are the unique opportunities in Tees Valley and County Durham?

- Professor Jon Gluyas, Durham University

Perspectives on what needs to change in the Tees Valley and County Durham to help workers whose jobs might be at risk and create new, good quality jobs in their place.

- Rachel Anderson, assistant director – policy, North East Chamber of Commerce
- Beth Farhat, regional secretary, Northern TUC
- Chris Beck, director of business and skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority
- Maggie Bosanquet, carbon and climate change team leader, Durham County Council

5.

NATURE, WHAT WE EAT AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Overarching principles

- Make it accessible for everyone – disabled people, convalescing Covid patients, older and younger generations.
- Involve all parts of society. Bring everyone on board including companies. We should take natural resources as seriously as human resources.
- Educate people on their responsibilities as well as rights.
- Take strict action on extremely harmful practices (like aerosols in the past).
- Amplify at the national level: build on existing positive activities already happening at local level.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

22. Protect green spaces and wildlife. We should do this by:

- legislating to prevent new building on green belts and green spaces (which makes access to green spaces less fair)
- requiring developers to make a ‘net gain’ on nature where they’re building
- providing green corridors for nature and maximising unused areas for wildlife such as rooftops
- restricting activities, such as hunting, that aren’t helpful for nature through banning them or increasing the costs through taxation
- launching a national campaign with coordinated activities to clean up a local area, promoted on social media and celebrated at the national level. Local authorities can provide equipment like litter pickers and dispose of rubbish at the end of the day.

23. Launch a national tree planting campaign. This is more effective and systematic to do as a nation, and people take notice of leadership and authority. A national or local organisation could be established to make it work. Options include:

- involving unemployed people and young people as both employees and volunteers
- encouraging farmers to support nature on their land and get existing wildlife trusts involved
- involving companies to donate tree saplings and wild plants and involve local schools to plant and nurture wildlife, perhaps in derelict areas
- national companies could fill resource gaps where communities don’t have existing local resources. We can incentivise donations by recognising donors through plaques and in newsletters to local businesses.

24. Education about climate and nature from an early age. We need to be educating people in climate and nature from an early age – including an understanding of ecosystems. We can do this by:
- encouraging schools to participate in outdoor activities and get involved in citizen science monitoring of wildlife
 - inspiring people throughout their lives by encouraging the media to showcase local success stories
 - education on growing, preparing, and composting a plant-rich diet – for example, with school vegetable patches and food technology lessons
 - public education, such as TV ads for the Countryside Code/'Keep Britain Tidy' to reduce risk of excessive/unsustainable recreational use of nature.
25. Enable local, sustainable farming and food networks. We need to make it easy for people to buy simpler, more local food supplies to avoid food miles and support local farmers. We can do this by:
- national action (financial incentives and skills training for farmers) to incentivise sustainable farming practices, rather than intensive farming
 - making local markets affordable for local producers and communities rather than only supermarkets, and disincentivising international produce, especially when it's less carbon efficient than UK-grown produce, or harms local agriculture
 - ensuring that the meat we eat is high quality and low carbon. We could consider taxing imported and high carbon meat, with funds raised going back to farmers, and we should incentivise buying UK produce as our standards tend to be higher than elsewhere. We consume too much meat and, to avoid the risk of 'protein poverty', people should be encouraged to eat alternative sources of protein
 - making plant-based foods cheaper
 - providing information on how much carbon is used to produce and transport foods.
26. Create stricter rules on use and disposal of materials. Ban single-use materials, things should be designed so they don't become waste, but used for something more productive.
27. Give everyone access to nature. Protect local nature areas and make them accessible to all. Provide opportunities and experiences to understand what needs to be done to conserve nature, such as hands-on volunteering. We need to reduce barriers to volunteering in nature and make use of people's skills and qualifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Overarching principles

- We need to provide access and opportunity for more people to care for and increase/improve nature.
- We need to provide access and opportunity for people to buy locally and only what they need (this shouldn't be prohibitively expensive, people shouldn't be incentivised to buy more than they need).

Recommendations

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

28. More local control over planning from the community, so that the community has a greater voice in planning decisions. If land is neglected and not developed, then it should transfer into community-ownership.
 - ensure that there are demands on developers to protect nature and reduce carbon emissions (such as green corridors, wildlife gardens, heating and energy production and usage) and timeframes for using land
 - all land should be assessed for the potential opportunities to support nature.
29. Funding for community and education-based projects that protect wildlife and restore nature which provide both local employment and learning experiences for schools and others.
30. More protected land in Tees Valley and County Durham – some of this should be accessible to the public, but some should be ‘undisturbed’.
 - council-owned derelict land should be ‘rewilded’
 - there are specific industrial sites that could be turned into spaces for nature and community-assets.
31. Subsidise retail space for local growers, including using existing assets in outdoor ‘market-places’ in town centres.
32. Councils need to be funded to provide better recycling facilities, especially for food-waste at a household level.

DELIBERATING ON NATURE, WHAT WE EAT AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

This topic covered conservation and biodiversity, land use, recreational green space and how we design our urban areas, farming, and the food we eat.

“ I was ignorant until taking part in this process – I now care more about these things ”

The jurors had a visible passion for this topic, rooted in their belief in the intrinsic importance of nature and wildlife and its great value to their own lives, including their love of local beauty spots. They were emphatic that everyone should have access to a good quality green space near their home, regardless of the kind of housing they lived in or whether they were in an urban area. One juror’s attitude to nature had changed over the course of the sessions: “I was ignorant until taking part in this process – I now care more about these things”.

There was a sense that profit was the reason that green space was being built upon – either farmers selling or developers building new properties. The jurors thought that existing derelict sites should be renovated rather than taking away further green space: “councils shouldn’t be approving things in their areas that don’t improve nature”.

Jurors supported making former industrial sites hospitable for nature in a way that respected the area’s heritage (“why not show it off?”), for example, using the structures in the Redcar steelworks as part of a nature park, along the lines of a similar site in Germany. Another juror said: “we should be turning disused quarries into spaces for nature”. On a smaller scale, jurors wanted to see gardens and verges managed differently to support wildlife better.

The jurors felt agricultural policy should be reformed so that farmers could earn a living doing work that was valuable for nature and people, with a long-term financial plan to ensure this.

SPEAKERS ON NATURE, WHAT WE EAT AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

Introduction to nature

- Indra Thillainathan, Committee on Climate Change

What's the state of nature in the Tees Valley & County Durham and what are the options for restoring biodiversity, wildlife and improving access to nature?

- Jim Cokill, director, Durham Wildlife Trust

The role of farming in reducing emissions and restoring nature

- Fraser Hugill, farmer and independent environmental advisor (CFE)

The role of land uses other than farming in reducing emissions and restoring nature

- Jim Elliot, senior policy adviser, Green Alliance

How changing the types of food we eat, and the way we consume food, can reduce emissions and restore nature

- Lucy Bjorck, senior policy adviser, RSPB

JUROR CONNECTIONS TO NATURE

Between sessions the jurors were encouraged to think about their own relationship with nature. The following pages showcase their photos of 'nature they feel a connection to' and 'something they would like to improve for nature'.

FIGURE 5.1: 'THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE NATURE' WORD MAP



Source: IPPR analysis of jurors' responses

JUROR IMAGES OF 'A PART OF LOCAL NATURE YOU FEEL A CONNECTION TO'



"River Leven"



"Cod Beck Reservoir,
North Yorkshire"



"The ingenuity,
diversity and
resilience of
nature left to
thrive"



"Moth from moth trapping
in my back garden. One of
170 species spotted!"



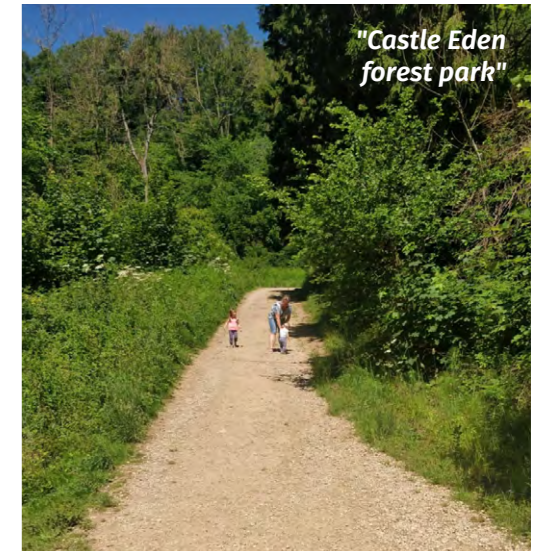
"West Park Darlington
Nature Reserve"



"Trees I've watched grow from
saplings over the years"



"Local parkland"



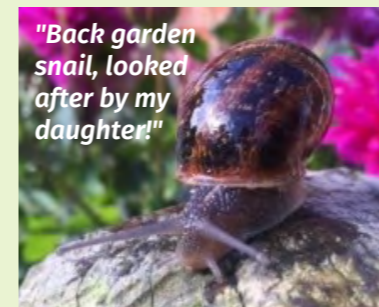
"Castle Eden
forest park"



"Hill End, Frosterly"



"Back garden
hedgehog box and
nature camera!"



"Back garden
snail, looked
after by my
daughter!"



"My garden/haven"



"Low Barns Nature Reserve,
created from a disused quarry,
Durham Wildlife Trust where
my partner volunteers"

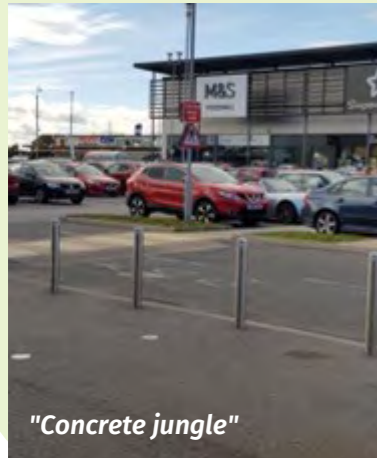
Source: Jurors' photos

JUROR IMAGES OF 'SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE FOR NATURE'



"Eston Hills, a place I would like to be improved as there are many fires set in it and walking up it you can often see burnt out cars"

Picture: Francis Hannaway



"Concrete jungle"



"Himalayan Balsam that is choking out indigenous plants"



"Westgate Park where my family and I collect litter"



"Decline in the pheasant population"



"Grass verge"



"Disused quarry that could be turned into a nature reserve"



"Local site that could be transformed into a place for people to enjoy nature"



"Portrack Marsh Nature Reserve, which is not taken care of very well"



"Redcar Steelworks – embrace the past and turn it into a park for everyone to enjoy!"

Source: Jurors' photos

6. EVALUATION

Members of the Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel were asked to complete a brief survey in the week following the final session. The full response to this survey is detailed in appendix D.

The jurors were clear on how much they valued and enjoyed being part of the citizens' jury.

FIGURE 6.1: 'THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE' WORD MAP



Source: IPPR analysis of jurors' responses

As emphasised within their recommendations, jurors were keen to see similar panels established on a wider range of topics of relevance to the area.

"I enjoyed the experience which has taught me that we should have more such panels and pertaining to more diverse issues."

"Even when people don't necessarily come from the same background and beliefs, we have similar thoughts about the importance of positive action and trying to change for the better. We need more information, more support and we need our voices heard."

They reflected on their own increased awareness of climate change and its impacts, the speed at which action is needed to restore nature and the surprising degree of consensus between people on these issues.

“The action on environment must be taken seriously by everyone who lives on this planet. It is the responsibility for all of us to take.”

“That an already complex problem becomes even more difficult when you add the views of a range of people into the equation. Despite that, enough consent can be achieved to make useful and meaningful progress that can then persuade others of the need for change.”

Being part of the panel had a significant impact on many of the jurors. This included changing their opinions as they became more aware of the interconnections between the environment and other parts of their lives. There is a desire from many to share their knowledge with others and change their behaviour.

“It was an informative, educational and rewarding experience. It challenged some of my pre-conceived ideas and inspired me to be more aware of some issues, even things I thought I knew about!”

“I am more likely to discuss the issues with others and encourage them to learn more, coming to their own conclusions and taking action in at least some small way.”

“I already did things that I thought helped but now [I’m] more focussed on what does and more able to suggest things to others. Examples are supporting less use of vehicles in day-to-day life. More informed choices in consumer products. Assessing the value of replacing products or not based on a whole life cost. Knowing where food comes from and making better choices. Caring more about my immediate environment and positive changes that I can make or contribute to.”

“ I am more likely to discuss the issues with others and encourage them to learn more

Most of the jurors felt more optimistic about the future after taking part in these deliberations, although for some the scale of the challenge still feels too great and there is a lack of confidence that governments have made this a high enough priority.

“Because there are more people that care about the environment than those who don’t. I’ve met lots of passionate people and they offer lots of easy advice. I can see changes within my community but hopefully this will speed up in the near future and we’ll see more drastic changes taking place.”

“Seeing that there are so many things that can make things better, technologies, behaviour changes, forward thinking and planning and just this process in itself having an impact on what could happen and involving everyone.”

“Because the scale of the problem is now clearer to me, and the action needed to change the projections seems quite out of reach without huge changes – and I don’t have faith in world governments to put it at the top of the priority list.”

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APPENDIX A: ADVISORY BOARD

The board guided the process by ensuring information presented to jurors reflected local concerns and opportunities, and was presented in as balanced a way as possible. They helped to identify, select and invite speakers.

The advisory board represent a cross-section of regional decision-makers and those with a stake in the area's response to the climate and nature emergencies.

TEES VALLEY AND COUNTY DURHAM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Farhat, regional secretary, Northern TUC and member of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

Paul Booth OBE, chair, Tees Valley LEP and member of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

Cllr Robert Cook, leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Cllr Heather Scott, leader, Darlington Borough Council

Ammar Mirza CBE, chair of Asian Business Connexions

Catriona Lingwood, chief executive, Constructing Excellence North East

Carol Botten, chief executive, VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North East)

Jim Cokill, chief executive, Durham Wildlife Trust

Louise Hunter, corporate affairs director, Northumbrian Water Group

APPENDIX B: SPEAKERS

THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES – AN INTRODUCTION

- **Dr Cat Scott**, University of Leeds
 - What are the emergencies? (a basic introduction to the science)
 - What are greenhouse gas emissions and what causes them?
 - What is the cause of biodiversity loss and the wider nature emergency?
 - What are the impacts of global heating and the nature crisis?
 - How are the emergencies linked?
 - What happens if we do not act?
- **Professor Rebecca Willis**, Lancaster University
 - What must society do to address the problem?
 - Why are we aiming for 'net zero'?
 - What is already being done to tackle emissions and restore nature?
 - Why is action so difficult?

THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES IN YOUR AREA

- **Dr Tracey Crosbie**, Teesside University
 - Detailed look at emissions and impacts on nature and their causes.
 - What are the main sources of emissions and sources of impacts on the natural environment in Tees Valley and County Durham?
 - How much of a connection is there between our lifestyles and these emissions and impacts on nature?
 - What is already being done to tackle emissions and restore nature in the area?

WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS

- **Dr Katy Roelich**, associate professor in the School of Earth and Environment

HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

- **Cllr John D Clare**, Durham County Council's climate champion: "How are decisions made in County Durham and Tees Valley?"
 - How are decisions made on the climate and nature emergencies locally?
 - How do different scales of government (local, regional, and national) interact to make decisions?
 - What are some of the existing key commitments to addressing these emergencies locally?
 - What are the main barriers to action?
- **Anna Round**, senior research fellow, IPPR North: "How do regional and national governments work together?"
 - How does devolution work and what is the relationship between regional bodies and the national government?
- **Lucy Stone**, Our Common Climate: "What is the role of communities in addressing the climate and nature emergencies?"

- What role can communities play in leading action to restore nature and tackle the climate emergency?
- What support do they need to take this role?
- What is a good example of community-led action?

FAIRLY SHARING THE COSTS

- **Katerina Szwarc**, policy fellow – sustainable finance, LSE (Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment): “What is the cost of action on the climate and nature emergencies?”
 - What scale of investment is required to address the climate and nature emergencies in the UK?
 - What are the potential ways this funding could be raised?
 - What funding is already committed, and by who?
 - What are the economic costs of not acting on the climate and nature emergencies?
- **Stephen Frost**, co-deputy head of the Environmental Justice Commission, IPPR: “How do we fairly share the costs?”
 - Introduced different perspective on fairness through videos of Kirsten Leggatt of the 2050 Climate Group addressing the UK Climate Assembly, and Sir David Attenborough interviewed on BBC Sounds.

WORK AND INDUSTRY

- **Professor Jon Gluyas**, Durham University: “What is a ‘just transition’ and what are the unique opportunities in Tees Valley and County Durham?”
 - What is the impact that climate and nature policy may have on jobs?
 - What does a ‘just transition’ mean?
 - What industries could offer opportunities for good quality jobs?
 - What are the risks to jobs?
- **Rachel Anderson**, assistant director – policy, North East Chamber of Commerce (employer perspective)
- **Beth Farhat**, Regional Secretary, Northern TUC (union perspective)
- **Chris Beck**, Director of Business and Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority (regional/local government perspective)
- **Maggie Bosanquet**, carbon and climate change team leader, Durham County Council (regional/local government perspective): “Perspectives on what needs to change in the Tees Valley and County Durham to help workers whose jobs might be at risk and create new, good quality jobs in their place.”
 - What needs to change to maximise the opportunities for Tees Valley and Country Durham?
 - What do you see as the assets and strengths of Tees Valley and County Durham in terms of maximising the job opportunities of the low carbon transition and restoring nature?
 - What do you see as the risks?
 - What needs to be done in terms of policy or actions by government (at all levels); business; civil society; and individuals?

NATURE, WHAT WE EAT, AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

- **Indra Thillainathan**, Committee on Climate Change: “Introduction to nature”
 - An overview of nature and sources of emissions – land use, food, and farming.
 - An overview of what the solutions to this might be.

- What are the aspects of fairness to this issue?
- **Jim Cokill**, chief executive, Durham Wildlife Trust: “What’s the state of nature in the Tees Valley and County Durham?”
 - What’s the state of nature in Tees Valley and County Durham?
 - What is currently being done in the region to reduce emissions, protect and restore nature, wildlife, and biodiversity? What needs to be done?
 - What are the aspects of fairness to this issue in Tees Valley and County Durham?
 - What are the options for restoring biodiversity, wildlife and improving access to nature in Tees Valley and County Durham?
- **Fraser Hugill**, farmer and independent environmental advisor (CFE): “The role of farming in reducing emissions and restoring nature”
- **Jim Elliot**, senior policy adviser, Green Alliance: “The role of land uses (other than farming) in reducing emissions and restoring nature”
- **Lucy Bjorck**, senior policy adviser, RSPB: “How changing the types of food we eat, and the way we consume food, can reduce emissions and restore nature.”

APPENDIX C: PROCESS DETAILS

23 residents were selected from across Tees Valley and County Durham and together are representative of the area in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, locale (rural/urban), qualification level, and attitude to climate change. IPPR worked with the Sortition Foundation in the recruitment of jurors. Jurors were paid £310 for attending all sessions.

The panel met online for eight sessions, on weekends and evenings from September to November 2020, with some light work in between sessions (less than one hour per session). There was also 30 minutes of optional, informal discussion at the end of each session to talk through extra questions and ideas, to mirror an in-person event as closely as possible.

This totalled around 20 hours of deliberation across eight sessions over six weeks.

FIGURE A1: OVERVIEW OF THE CITIZENS' JURY PROCESS



Source: Authors' analysis

The jurors were provided with an introduction to the climate and nature emergencies, internationally and locally. Due to the region's industrial history and the challenge that a transition presents for local employment, IPPR selected 'work and industry' as a topic to explore in detail with the Panel. The second topic area was put to a vote. 'Our world around us' was chosen as the second topic for discussion. The options not chosen were 'our homes', 'our travel' and 'what we eat'. Recognising the interconnections between topics, during the process the topic of 'our world around us' grew to incorporate nature, what we eat and how we use the land.

Sessions were open to the advisory board and the commissioners of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission to attend.

APPENDIX D: EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION

The citizens' jury was comprised of 23 Tees Valley and County Durham residents. Over course of the eight sessions the average attendance per session was greater than 21 jurors. Three-quarters (17 people, or 74 per cent) of the jury attended every session. Only two jurors were not present for the final weekend of deliberation.

EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT ON THE JURORS

The members of the citizens' jury were invited to complete a short evaluation survey after the final deliberations. 19 jurors completed this survey. Results are presented as a percentage of total responses.

Below is a summary of survey responses.

1. Enjoyment

Jurors were asked to score their experience based on a rating of one ('not at all') to 10 ('enjoyed every part of it').

The average response was 9.4 out of 10. No jurors gave a score lower than seven.

2. Describe the experience

Jurors were asked what three words they would use to describe the experience of taking part in the panel.

The top three responses were 'interesting' (nine jurors), 'educational' (six jurors) and 'informative' (five jurors).

3. Quality of the process

Jurors were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements related to the quality of the process. The below presents the level of agreement for each statement.

Statement	Responses
The purpose of the panel was clear to me	84% agreed or strongly agreed (16 respondents)
The process was impartial	74% agreed or strongly agreed (14 respondents)
The evidence presented was balanced	58% agreed or strongly agreed (11 respondents)
The evidence was accessible to me	89% agreed or strongly agreed (17 respondents)
There were enough opportunities for me to share my views	84% agreed or strongly agreed (16 respondents)
I felt comfortable sharing my views	74% agreed or strongly agreed (14 respondents)
The panel was representative of the local area	79% agreed or strongly agreed (15 respondents)

COMMENTARY

Jurors were largely positive about the quality of the process and highlighted the “good range of speakers” and “lively discussion and input of ideas from several perspectives”.

The area of lowest agreement was the balance of the evidence presented. This was described as either being due to the omission of “oil and gas companies” or that “there could have been other evidence which was not presented for some reason”.

In terms of balance and impartiality, it was a particular concern for one juror that no speaker presented arguments against carbon capture and storage:

“We didn’t hear from any speaker opposed to this idea, and it kept being represented as a possibility even when it appeared to be clear most of the panel was against it.”

The level of agreement on whether the panel was representative was informed by the lack of knowledge of their background: “As we knew nothing (quite rightly) about the other panel members I have no idea if it was representative”.

Jurors highlighted that they would have liked a bit longer for some of the discussions:

“Some of the discussions passed very quick and a bit more time would have been welcomed. I felt awkward in the first few sessions but comfortable towards the end of the process.”

1. Amount of time

The jurors were asked whether enough time was provided for the following: “learning and hearing from speakers”, “discussion and deliberation” and “decision-making”.

Most jurors were happy with the amount of time provided for learning (58 per cent, 11 responses) and discussion (68 per cent, 13 respondents). Jurors were less sure about decision-making – 42 per cent (eight respondents) said there was enough time for this and a further 42 per cent said “maybe”.

Comments by jurors on the issue of the amount of time given to specific areas of the process reflect the overall desire for more time for individual speakers and a longer decision-making process.

2. Support

18 jurors felt they had received enough support and information before the first meeting of the panel to be able to take part effectively, with the one other respondent saying “maybe”.

All jurors felt supported in using the technology on which the meetings were hosted. Many commented that it had gone “remarkably well” and highlighted they had learned to use Zoom through the process.

3. Improving the process

As highlighted in a previous question, the main desire from the group was for more time – for speakers and decision-making. In a statement of support for the process this juror highlights the desire for more such opportunities – ones that last longer and cover a more diverse range of issues:

“I enjoyed the experience which has taught me that we should have more such panels and pertaining to more diverse issues. These panels should work on a regular basis. The process itself is good, however you can tell it is very much squeezed within the confines of time and budgeting. I felt it was rushed and although great stuff was produced a lot was also overlooked and I believe we can do better given more time and more diverse set of specialists.”

On a more technical note, there was mixed views on the use of the ‘chat’ function during meetings as it could be confusing when trying to engage with speakers.

4. One thing learned

The jurors were asked to consider “what one thing have you learned as part of the panel that you would like others in Tees Valley and County Durham to know?”.

The responses to this varied but centred on the raised awareness of climate change and its impacts, the speed at which action is needed to restore nature, and the surprising degree of consensus between people on these issues:

“A greater appreciation of all topics discussed, the need for more intensive debate, and the need for action [to] start NOW.”

“That we all agree it’s time to act and that people really do value nature.”

“The action on environment must be taken seriously by everyone who lives on this planet. It is the responsibility for all of us to take.”

“The fact that we can help the environment for the better, it’s not just a pipe dream.”

“That an already complex problem becomes even more difficult when you add the views of a range of people into the equation. Despite that enough consent can be achieved to make useful and meaningful progress that can then persuade others of the need for change.”

“How high the carbon output is and how serious the consequences are in Tees Valley.”

5. Quality of speakers

Jurors were asked to rate “how helpful were the speakers in developing your knowledge of the steps needed to address the climate and nature emergencies in a way that is fair everyone?” on a scale of one to five.

11 jurors scored speakers a five and the remaining eight gave a score of four.

6. Changing opinions

When asked whether their opinions changed during the process eight jurors said yes, five said maybe, and six said they hadn’t.

Those whose opinions had changed highlighted the growing sense of how things were interconnected and the need to act urgently as the key reasons for this.

7. Sharing knowledge and personal confidence

Jurors were asked whether “being part of this process made you more confident in sharing your knowledge and opinions about the climate and nature emergencies?”. 15 jurors said it had, two said maybe, and one said it hadn’t.

8. Impact on the jurors

Most jurors felt that the process had an impact on them. When asked to rate the “extent you think being part of the panel has had an impact on you?” on a scale of one to five, seven jurors gave a five, and 12 gave a score of four.

These impacts range from feeling “much more informed and educated” to a growing sense of personal responsibility: “It’s made me realise that I need to do more to change things”.

Reflecting responses to previous questions, one juror highlighted their desire to share what they have learned:

“I am more likely to discuss the issues with others and encourage them to learn more, coming to their own conclusions and taking action in at least some small way.”

9. Likelihood of taking personal action

Jurors were asked whether “being part of this process made you more likely to take action on the climate and nature emergencies?”. 15 jurors said yes, and the remaining four respondents said maybe.

The responses highlight the desire to both make personal changes in behaviours and to engage with wider action on these emergencies:

“I already did things that I thought helped but now more focussed on what does and more able to suggest things to others. Examples are supporting less use of vehicles in day-to-day life. More informed choices in consumer products. Assessing the value of replacing products or not based on a whole life cost. Knowing where food comes from and making better choices. Caring more about my immediate environment and positive changes that I can make or contribute to.”

“I have submitted questions to my employer about plans to reach carbon neutral targets. I’m considering writing to my MP and local council on some of the issues.”

“Not much I can physically do, but I will definitely be a greater, more active petitioner, probably actively sourcing the issues rather than waiting on them calling on me.”

“I’m planning to turn part of my garden into an allotment. I’ve bought a bird feeder and will be learning to grow fruit, veg and herbs. I’ve been researching local farmers and buying from them. I really like the idea of being more self-sufficient, empowered and environment friendly.”

10. Optimistic about the future

Jurors were asked whether the process had made them more or less optimistic about the future. 13 jurors said they were more optimistic, three were less optimistic, and three felt no different.

For those who felt less optimistic the barriers presented to change felt too big:

“It’s a massive challenge both physically and financially, there are people who will drag their heels to avoid change.”

“Feel government is not taking the subject as seriously as it should.”

“Because the scale of the problem is now clearer to me, and the action needed to change the projections seems quite out of reach without huge changes - and I don’t have faith in world governments to put it at the top of the priority list.”

“I’m concerned that the current Covid crisis will cause governments to cut back on their green commitments.”

However, the majority felt optimistic, partly because of what they had heard from speakers but also due to the impact of reaching agreement on the need for action amongst themselves:

“I have witnessed the speaker’s professionalism and dedication and also how a group of individuals can come together to debate and discuss suggestions to make things work.”

“Because there are more people that care about the environment than those who don’t. I’ve met lots of passionate people and they offer lots of easy advice. I can see changes within my community but hopefully this will speed up in the near future and we’ll see more drastic changes taking place.”

“Seeing that there are so many things that can make things better, technologies, behaviour changes, forward thinking and planning and just this process in itself having an impact on what could happen and involving everyone.”

“There are more solutions out there than I realised to reverse the damage.”

“It was good to see that a random selection of people all had positive and constructive ideas and opinions. If we can all influence just a few others to think the same way then there is hope that change will come.”

“People do care and are willing things to change now.”

11. Final thoughts

Jurors were provided one last question in which to share any thoughts they didn't feel were covered elsewhere in the process. This was largely used by jurors as an opportunity to thank the team involved in convening the panel and reflect on the importance of the process:

“Just what a fantastic job IPPR did especially during such challenging times. It was an informative, educational, and rewarding experience. It challenged some of my pre-conceived ideas and inspired me to be more aware of some issues, even things I thought I knew about! A great experience and one I would be happy to participate in again.”

“Even when people don’t necessarily come from the same background and beliefs, we have similar thoughts about the importance of positive action and trying to change for the better. We often focus on the negative aspects of almost everything, partly media-led, but we need to get across the opinion that things can get better but we need more information, more support and we need our voices heard.”

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