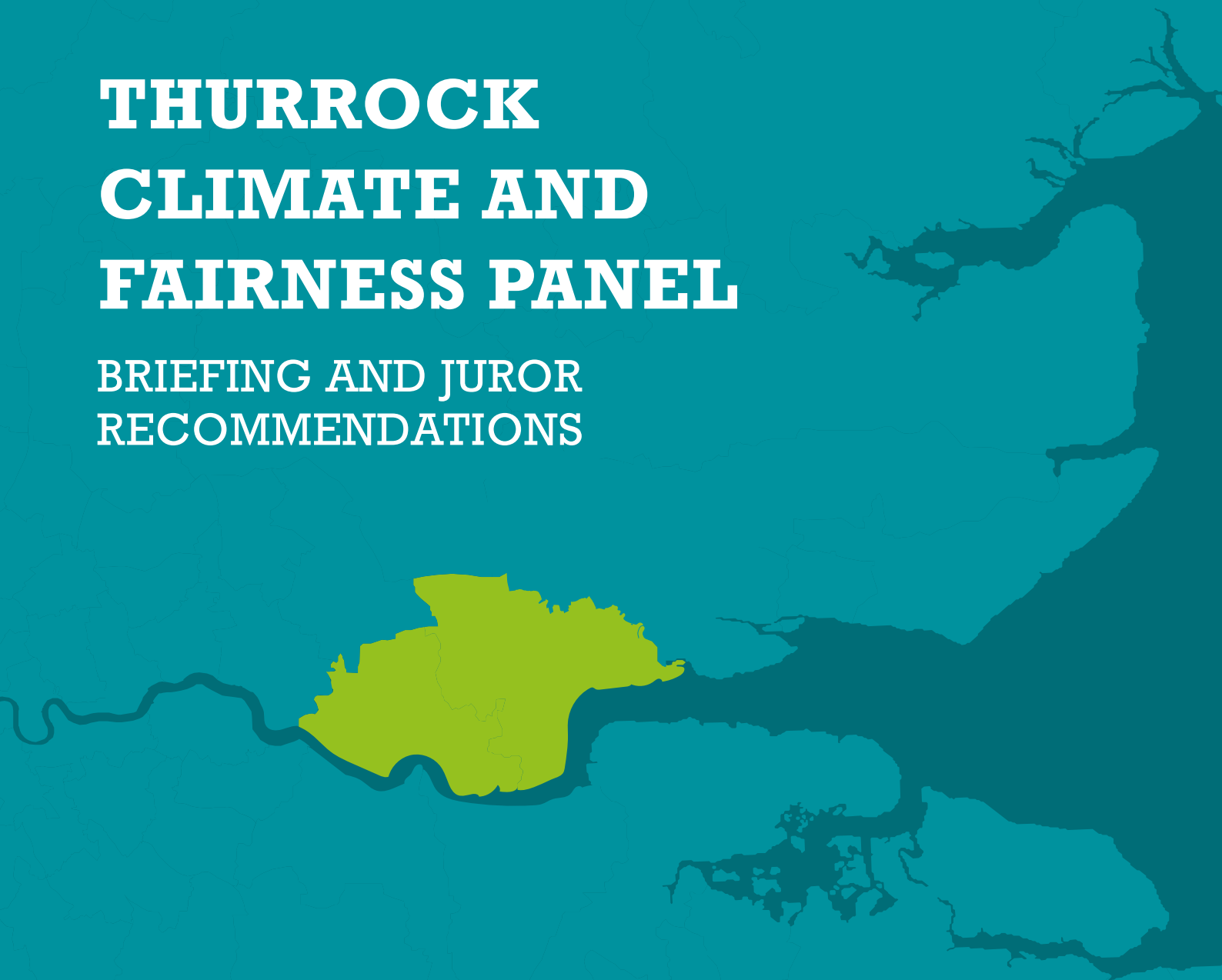


Institute for Public Policy Research



THURROCK CLIMATE AND FAIRNESS PANEL

**BRIEFING AND JUROR
RECOMMENDATIONS**



**IPPR and the Thurrock
Climate and Fairness Panel**

June 2021

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Thurrock 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 Thurrock Climate and Fairness Panel. Additional content was provided by IPPR's **Stephen Frost, Becca Massey-Chase, Luke Murphy** and **Lesley Rankin**.

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A summary of the panel's recommendations is published here:

<https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/citizens-jury-thurrock>

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

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SUMMARY

Thurrock and the surrounding areas are home to one of the largest development programmes in the UK. How and where this investment is spent will shape the future of these places for decades to come. There is an opportunity to focus funding on tackling the climate and nature emergencies and improving health and wellbeing, increasing fairness and improving quality of life. The conclusions of the Thurrock Climate and Fairness Panel are that these things can and should be done together.

Their recommendations, outlined in detail in this report, make it clear that everyone, across the whole of society, has a role to play. There needs to be strong leadership and clear targets from government, individuals need to be able to meaningfully shape the decisions that affect them, communities must be empowered to drive local action, and businesses should be either encouraged, or if necessary forced, to play their part in the transition to a low-carbon, nature rich economy. The costs of this transition should not fall to those that can least afford it.

To ensure fairness, the jurors want to see multiple solutions, sequenced so that there are positive, affordable options for people in advance of any sanctions or penalties. They want the actions taken to be transparent and they want local knowledge and expertise to shape these actions.



FOREWORD

from the co-chairs of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

We thank the jurors for this essential contribution to the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission.

We welcome the vision and recommendations set out in this report, recognising in them the commissions' founding belief that action to address the climate and nature crises is not about restricting people's ability to live a good life but about creating new opportunities for people to live happier, healthier lives.

The Thurrock Climate and Fairness Panel recognised the scale of the challenge ahead, and their recommendations demonstrate the need for leadership from government that matches the rhetoric and provides tangible support for communities keen to realise the co-benefits of ambitious action on climate and nature.

Our jurors are at the front line of plans for large scale, new housing development and transport infrastructure that will further reduce space for nature and that aren't planned with the needs and aspirations of local people in mind. Their clear message is that action on climate, for nature and to improve people's wellbeing has to be seen to be integral to all decision making and we cannot offset the losses of some communities through positive action elsewhere. This principle is central to a fair transition to net zero.

We are excited to take their recommendations forward, presenting them to local, regional and national decision makers over the coming weeks and months. The contents of this briefing will also inform the work of the commission, including the final report, which will be released in early summer 2021.

This briefing will be invaluable to policy makers and stakeholders in the region and government, as decision makers at all levels grapple with the implementation of a just, green transition.

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



Hilary Benn

Hilary Benn MP



Caroline Lucas

Caroline Lucas MP



Laura Sandys

Laura Sandys

FOREWORD

from the Thurrock Advisory Board

The Thurrock Climate and Fairness Panel was assembled to provide recommendations on the practical steps needed locally to address the climate crisis and repair nature in a way that is fair for everyone.

The jurors have set out a bold and positive vision for Thurrock and the wider region, making 32 strategic recommendations on topics ranging from investment in clean energy research, action to tackle poor air quality caused by road transport, transparency and community involvement in decision making.

The members of this panel come from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and, before they started out on this process, they also had a range of views on the seriousness of the climate and nature crises. Together, they represent a cross section of the communities of Thurrock and South Essex.

These varied life experiences have provided a unique perspective on fairness and a clear understanding of what a good quality of life should look like locally. As individuals, as well as members of our respective organisations, their recommendations and ideas excite and inspire us.

These ideas provide positive, insightful and tangible recommendations that can be taken forward by national and local government, as well as by companies and communities. The jurors have established a clear set of actions and principles for a rapid and fair transition, demonstrating the opportunity to improve economic and social justice at the same time as tackling the climate and nature emergencies.

Their recommendations make clear that decision making will need to be done differently if no people, and no places, are to be left behind in the actions taken to address the climate and nature emergencies.

Together, we commit to respecting and channelling this ambition as we take steps within our own organisations to tackle the climate and nature emergencies. We also urge politicians of all parties, policymakers, industry representatives and stakeholders to read this briefing and help us take forward these recommendations.

We thank the jury for this valuable contribution on the future of Thurrock and to the wider debate on climate and nature in the UK.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Thurrock 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 Thurrock 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 Thurrock 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 of how we respond to these emergencies – decision making and fairly sharing the costs
4. recommendations for travel and place
5. recommendations on nature, what we eat and how we use the land.

ABOUT THURROCK

Thurrock's position on the Thames estuary and proximity to London has shaped its history. Twenty miles east of central London and part of Essex's commuter belt, Thurrock's economy is tied to its three international ports and its ability to move people and goods into the capital and beyond.

With its reputation as the industrial gateway to the South East, Thurrock has been a focus for national growth plans. It sits at the heart of the Thames Estuary 2050 project, which sets out ambitious growth plans that could generate over a million new jobs across the region (Thames Estuary Growth Commission 2050 2018). Thurrock's population, estimated at around 160,000 in 2014, is anticipated to increase by 25.5 per cent (40,000) by 2037 (Thurrock Council 2018).

These plans for Thurrock create opportunities for the region; with the right strategy in place, job creation will help to tackle inequality. There are currently low numbers of people in professional or knowledge-based jobs and the unemployment rate is two per cent higher than the national average (ONS 2020).

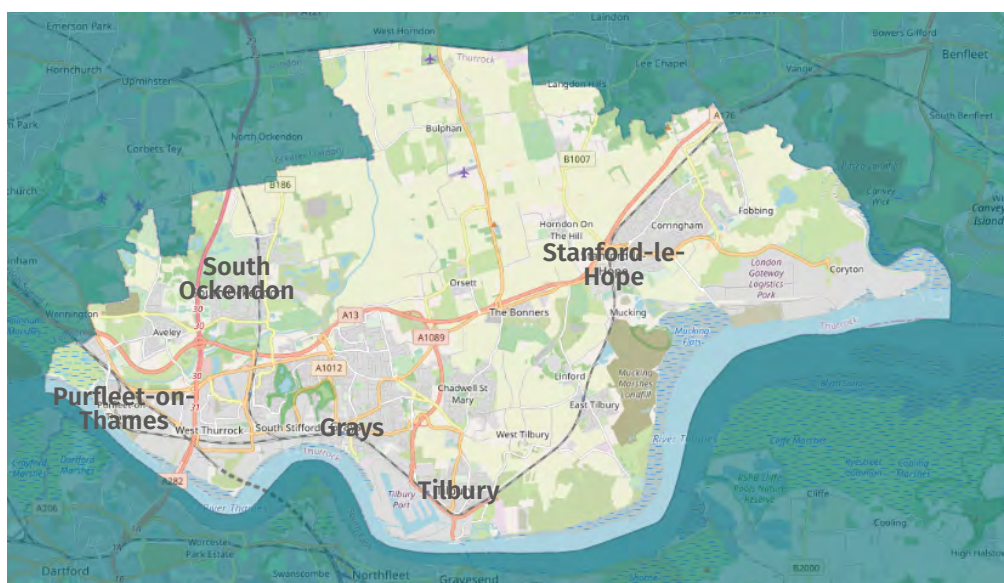
This development could also come at significant cost to the character of the area. The government target of 32,000 new homes for Thurrock over the next 20 years is putting increasing pressure on its green belt and attracting significant local opposition (Shaw 2020). The perceived need for extra road capacity to alleviate congestion at the Dartford Crossing, the busiest and most congested estuary

crossing in the UK, has led to plans for a new Lower Thames crossing (Stein 2019). Alongside additional new routes to the north and south, it is described by Highways England as "the most ambitious roads project for a generation" (Highways England 2021). Perhaps unsurprisingly, this project is currently subject to legal challenge due to its claimed incompatibility with the government's net zero targets (Transport Action Network 2021).

Of more immediate local concern is the impact that the current numbers of heavy goods vehicles and the high traffic flows on strategic roads are having on local air quality and levels of greenhouse gas emissions (Thurrock Council 2013). Transport caused 41 per cent of carbon emissions, 7,667 kt CO₂e, across the region in 2018 (Transport East 2020). This is two thirds more than the national average of 28 per cent of emissions from transport (ibid).

Thurrock has active travel challenges too. The very low levels of walking and cycling in the area contribute to high levels of obesity (Thurrock Council 2013), with 70 per cent of adults in Thurrock classified as overweight or obese, well above the national average (Thurrock Council 2017).

FIGURE 1: MAP OF THE REGION COVERED BY THE PANEL BASED ON MIDDLE LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREAS (MSOAS)



© OpenStreetMap contributors

More than half of Thurrock is designated green belt, but nearly a third of Thurrock neighbourhoods have poor access to green spaces, with small gardens and limited access to public green spaces (Friends of the Earth 2020).

As well as being foundational to the economy, the estuary is the focal point of Thurrock's natural assets, including mudflats, sandflats, intertidal creeks, saline lagoons and saltmarsh. These are home to thousands of wading birds, including internationally important numbers of ringed plover and avocet (Wildlife Trusts 2021). The Thames Estuary is recognised one of the top five estuaries in the UK for bird migrations (Austin et al 2008) and is at risk.

Despite being offered protection by conservation legislation, the saltmarshes of the Thames estuary have recently experienced rapid erosion and internal

segmentation (Van Der Wal and Pye 2004). Often overlooked for their potential role in carbon sequestration, active management and restoration of salt marshes could create carbon sinks and also provide much needed flood protection (Laffoley and Grimsditch 2009). There are currently approximately 11,000 properties at risk of tidal flooding in Thurrock, with the risk likely to increase as incidences of heavy rainfall continue to rise (Thurrock Council 2010). Thurrock faces a pressing need to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of the climate and nature emergencies, and is home to natural assets that can play a crucial role in this.

ABOUT THE THURROCK 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 the citizens' practical knowledge and experiences.

The Thurrock Climate and Fairness Panel was commissioned by the Environmental Justice Commission to examine the question:

"What practical steps should we take together in Thurrock to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone?"

20 residents¹ of Thurrock and nearby areas 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) and qualification level and started the process with a range of attitudes to climate change.²

The plans for the sessions were informed by insight into the current policy context from an advisory board (see appendix A). These local decision makers and sector leads also advised IPPR on relevant local contacts.

The jurors heard from 17 speakers, providing a grounding in the climate and nature emergencies, the local context, and positive, ambitious proposals for action across four topics: 'travel and place', 'nature, what we eat and how we use the land', 'how we make decisions', and 'fairly sharing the costs' (see appendix B for a full list of speakers). The panel also developed their own 'wellbeing framework' to help guide their recommendations.

These recommendations, written in the panel's own words, are an important contribution to the work of the commission and have been shared with the advisory board and other key stakeholders. More details about the process can be found at appendix C.

1 23 residents were invited to join the panel but three had to drop out for personal reasons either prior to the opening weekend or shortly afterwards.

2 We used national attitudes to climate change (source: Ipsos/Mori July 2019) as a proxy for attitudes within the area; this informed the range of attitudes represented.

STATEMENT FROM THE JURORS: A FAIR RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES³

We believe that a fair response to the climate and nature emergencies in Thurrock and the surrounding areas must ensure that action by local people and communities is not an alternative for government and businesses taking the leadership required.

Local and national government need to embrace their role in leading action on these emergencies. The action they take must be inclusive and responsive to the needs of local communities. The people who live in an area are the ones who know what is best for that area. They need to be empowered to make decisions and make the changes required, not just 'consulted'. Make the word consultation mean something - all consultation has to be meaningful and impactful. Government, at all levels, need to really listen to communities and give them the power and the tools to do things themselves.

We need to make sure that all decisions that are made are fair at the point of decision making and throughout their implementation. Decision making should be holistic. We have to ensure there is no unintended discrimination in the actions that are being taken. The decisions that are made should be transparent and explained in a language that people understand.

We need to be clear on the purpose of development. It needs to meet a clear need and be compatible with these emergencies. Government targets for developments that have an impact in local areas need to be agreed in partnership with those communities and based on their understanding of local need. The infrastructure and developments that are put in place need to be tailored to the needs of these people.

We cannot offset the impact of infrastructure that does harm to one community with more positive action elsewhere. Every community has the right to clean air and action has to be taken to improve the poor air quality in Thurrock. We need to ensure everyone has access to a healthy environment and protect green spaces and the green belt from further development.

Transport infrastructure must connect people to the places they need to go in a way that is safe and affordable. The poorest in society can't be left out of being able to afford to travel. We need to support people to make transport choices that are good for their health and the environment.

Housing needs to be affordable and meet local need. When affordable housing is promised as part of developments it needs to happen. We need to follow through with these commitments and hold developers to account for what they say they are going to do. There shouldn't be loopholes to get around the conditions that are agreed to improve people's lives and the environment. Developments must have infrastructure for nature and be planned to allow people to live well locally.

Ensure we are informing people about the action we are taking and why. Take this message to where people are and give them the chance to respond to the action that is being taken. All the parties affected (be that communities, businesses etc)

³ A small group of volunteer jurors worked with an IPPR facilitator to write this statement on behalf of the jury. All jurors had considered their individual views on 'fairness' and ideas were discussed by the full group ahead of drafting this statement. This was then reviewed and amended by the whole jury over the course of the final two sessions.

should be involved and consulted. Everyone should know how we are responding to these emergencies and have their say.

Education is crucial. We need to provide opportunities for people to be inspired to take action and be able to choose the kinds of jobs and future they want. People need to see that action on these emergencies is not going to stop them from making choices about their own lives and having a good life.

Recognise the existing needs of people and the ways they live their lives. A fair response has to be balanced between the wealthy and the poorest. We can't put too much demand on those who don't have the resources to act. Those with the money to do it, including large companies, can take more action for the environment immediately and start creating the conditions that others can follow.

Affordability has to really mean affordable for all. The things people need to live a good life, including housing and transport, must be genuinely affordable to the people who live here. These must be designed with the income levels of local people in mind.

We need to take urgent action to address the climate emergency. A fair response to this crisis has to address inequality and also provide the space for nature to thrive.



THE JURORS' WELLBEING FRAMEWORK: A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

We believe in a better life for all in Thurrock.

This means a future where everyone ...



... is **safe** and feels **protected from crime, antisocial behaviour and climate threats**.



... is able to **access the food and shelter they need**.



... is in **good physical and mental health**; is able to be **physically active** and to **relax**.



... is able to **access clean air, nature and green space** and is also able to **conserve nature**.



... is able to **get to different places safely and sustainably** to explore and work.



... is able to **access learning and opportunities to develop, create and pursue interests**.



... is able to do **satisfying work that helps others** and which offers opportunities for **personal growth**.



... is able to **engage in activities and decisions that contribute to change**.



... feels like they **belong to a place, with community spirit and pride**.



... is **free to express themselves**.

We recognise that the elements of this framework are interconnected and support each other. Local and national government action is essential to enable many of these elements and government should be seen to be acting to improve wellbeing. New policies should ensure that everybody has the same opportunity to achieve a better life.

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 describes 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.

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 THURROCK

The wellbeing framework is first introduced in the second session. During this meeting the jurors completed a 'visioning' exercise in groups 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 'beings' and 'doings' support each other?

The draft framework created from this session is then developed further through a survey of the jurors that is completed as a homework exercise, a brief revisit in session four and then finally agreed in the form of a vision in the closing weekend.

The below captures some of the jurors' thoughts on wellbeing from across these different activities and discussions. The comments cover their views on the barriers to wellbeing in Thurrock as well as the ways in which the local area supports people to live a good life.

Being and feeling safe was considered fundamental to wellbeing and many considered the area to have real challenges with crime, litter and traffic:

"Whilst I don't feel unsafe in my home, although I do have an alarm system and CCTV, I do find I have to be more aware of what I do and where I go outside..."

"The area has a high volume of HGV traffic and I often see rubbish falling off these vehicles which becomes unsightly on the side of the road."

The jurors also felt that tackling the climate and nature emergencies in the right way was part of ensuring safety:

"We're here to address the issues and Thurrock is one of the main places that have been hit badly with the climate."

"... I felt guilty about the failure of our species to appreciate our responsibilities to protect the environment for the benefit of nature and our own survival."

A key theme from the discussions was that Thurrock, and South Essex more generally, were constantly changing but still retained a strong sense of community:

"How much it's still got a community spirit [...] it feels like it's going back in time a little bit. Everyone knows each other and speaks to each other. It's a really nice environment to live in."

"I live in an area that has a good sense of community, I have made many good friends of all ages just from being out and walking my dogs. People are friendly and supportive and this is evidenced in the Facebook and WhatsApp groups during lockdown, and the efforts to look after the vulnerable. Community can only really be built when people have access to space and platform to do it."

Many jurors had moved to Thurrock from London to live in a less urban area, and others described the benefits of living rurally while being within very easy reach of London:

"We have the best access to everything, from seaside towns, to green space and easy access into farm shops to towns and high streets and London."

"Thurrock seems to be in such a nice bubble... between London and five minute walk to nature and fields."

However, there was a real concern that the things that make Thurrock special were under threat from increasing amounts of development in the area:

"... the actual local need is for affordable housing and social housing, which could be developed on existing brown belt. This causes tensions in communities and distress, as well as not addressing local housing problems, and will ultimately lead to Thurrock and Basildon becoming another London borough."

"Housebuilding that is allowed without any provision or consideration for required infrastructure such as parking, doctors and school places, or road traffic impacts."

Ongoing residential and industrial development is seen as having had a negative impact on the levels of traffic in the area, road safety and air quality:

"I have lived in Thurrock around 25 years ... there continues to be an ever increasing amount of traffic on the roads and it does not take too much for some to become gridlocked."

"Dangerous roads that are poorly maintained and inadequate or zero measures taken to reduce the potential for accidents."

"Poor air quality - meaning Thurrock and Basildon have one of the highest records of people with COPD [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease], asthma and other breathing problems."

Although proud of their area, this was challenged by poor maintenance of infrastructure and facilities and the limited options for safe walking and cycling:

"Lack of maintenance... If the council don't invest in keeping an area well kept, it hardly leads by example, or encourages pride in where we live."

"... public footpaths that start with a signpost but go nowhere, a seawall path unusable for months already awaiting some flood repair, limited safe cycling routes for those that can't afford travel to work, the progressive inability to find a long distance view that does not involve industry or housing, or light pollution in the evenings."

“ If we can make a safe, clean and friendly environment people will prosper

The green and wilder space of Thurrock were seen as one of its greatest assets:

"The main things we enjoy about the area is the open spaces, the farmland, the nature, the greenery. I've seen a lot of changes and a lot of building in the time that I've lived here [...] not always for the better, but as long as they don't take our farms away."

"We currently have access to lots of green belt and green space around us which is home to a wide variety of wild plant and animal species including a number of endangered, rare and protected species."

The connections between people's wellbeing and the quality of the natural environment were clearly expressed by the jurors:

"If we can make a safe, clean and friendly environment people will prosper."

"A healthy environment is essential to our current health and wellbeing and to our future."

2. HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- **There needs to be greater transparency in how decisions are made.**
 - The processes and language used by decision-makers should be clear and simple, not bureaucratic or inaccessible. There needs to be greater openness; this will lead to more accountability.
- **Communication from local councils should be more proactive.**
 - Trying to build a community in which everyone is invested is very difficult when people don't see how decisions affect them. There needs to be proactive, two-way communication and engagement, using multiple channels (including social media).
- **Decisions should prioritise wellbeing and nature over profit and there should be incentives for businesses which encourage this.**
- **Local communities should have a significant say in decisions which affect them.**
 - The more a community is understood and respected, the more voices within that community will engage in decision making.
- **Meaningful inclusion is crucial to good, fair decisions.**
- **We should learn from others**, including places around the world that are making progress on restoring nature and reducing their carbon emissions.

Recommendations

1. **Decisions on development must prioritise environmental and community needs.** The value of nature and wellbeing should be built into decision-making frameworks used by the council when considering development, and money for green space should be ring-fenced.
 - Section 106 funding should only be allocated to support nature and address community needs – these should be considered in both the specific conditions placed on developers and in the general allocation of this funding.
2. **Community Interest Companies (CICs) should be easier to set up.** These allow the opportunity for people to take ownership of local parks, and other natural assets. We shouldn't make it hard for the community to help take action in their areas.
3. **Reduce the barriers for all citizens to participate in decision making**, and provide multiple channels for engagement that work for a wide range of people, including those without access to a computer or without IT skills.
4. **Expert reports to inform decisions should be commissioned by neutral parties** – not those with a vested interest in making a profit.

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.

A central focus of the jurors' deliberations was on the community's role in leading and investing in projects that give them a greater stake in what happens locally, and even ownership over local assets such as parks, where accountability then sits with a community group.

There was a sense that Thurrock has a strong 'community spirit', which had become even clearer during the Covid-19 lockdowns, and that "community is so powerful when it does actually come together"; there was a lot of support for "bringing the community together so you're all part of one united force". One juror reflected that:

"Community power has a chance to influence local government rather than the power coming down the line [...] You know because we are the community in Thurrock, and we should have a decent amount of power."

The jurors reflected on examples of times when the community had come together and made a difference locally, drawing on their own experiences of how "brilliant" but also challenging it could be.

"The community can make a real difference. Don't make it so hard for them to help. Because it is!"

One juror felt that community interest companies can be:

"...such a benefit for the council because they can take on things like parks and recreation areas and woodlands and all of that. But in order for you to set up a community interest company it's so hard, so full of bureaucracy, that the community tends to fall by the wayside and think I can't do that."

The jurors' balanced hope with caution in their view of the local council. "I really hope that the council will take on board in Thurrock what the residents really, really, really want. But, a part of me feels a bit negative towards that." Overall, from every tier of government, they wanted "just two words – openness and accountability." Communication was seen as central to this, and they wanted more information and more opportunities for two-way dialogue:

"Central government, local government and individuals need to communicate with each other. Might have the opportunity to talk to an MP at a surgery every three months but that isn't enough."

The jurors wanted local people to be able to shape local decisions. "Those are the people who live in the area who know what the real needs of that community are."

Being listened to was essential to them, and they wanted more and different voices to be heard.

"A vibrant community is one that sort of represents everybody in the decisions they have to make within their area."

SPEAKERS ON HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

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

- **Lucy Stone**, Our Common Climate

"How do we fund local action?"

- **Dr Mark Davis**, University of Leeds

3.

FAIRLY SHARING THE COSTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- **We shouldn't put all the emphasis on consumers to change their behaviour** in the first instance but to change behaviour by **forcing large corporations to comply with stricter measures to meet climate change and nature targets**. They should be made accountable for achieving these targets. Then educate the consumer on smarter changes making suggested changes cost effective for all.
- **Costs shouldn't be passed on to consumers wherever possible**, and those on the lowest incomes should be protected.
- Where there are additional costs, like fossil fuel taxes, they should be phased in to **give people time to prepare and those on low incomes should be protected**.
- **The UK should seek to lead the world**, using things like its natural assets, to attract private investment.
- We need to **tackle the big problems** and not get distracted by small problems. We should act on the evidence of what's needed to address these emergencies – if dealing with something small now prevents it from becoming a bigger issue later then we should address it in a proportionate way.
- There needs to be **direction and investment from national government**, setting guidelines, ensuring that others, including councils, take action.
- **People have a right to know where their money is being spent by local authorities**. There should be transparency on where they spend money, including on climate and nature, and on the powers they have too. We need to know where investment is going but also what local authorities actually do.
- **There should be an annual vote for residents to input on council's spending**, adjusting how much is allocated to different 'pots' based on their priorities.

Recommendations

5. **The UK should invest in cleaner energy sources** (for example, tidal power), new technologies, and research and development so that:
 - We ensure we're going down the right paths for the future and choosing the right technologies.
 - We are able to lead the world. Where the government invests, business will follow, and it will attract investment here at home and from abroad.
 - We can build technologies that can be exported, which can create jobs for people in the UK, focusing on creating jobs is vital given the increase in unemployment as a result of Covid-19.
6. **A national green tax should be applied to carbon emissions**. The level of the tax should rise over time but those on low incomes must always be protected. This tax must be designed to ensure it is fair

to consumers and complemented by initiatives that help people to afford the alternatives. It must comply with our principles for who is responsible for acting on these emergencies.

– In a ‘yes or no’ vote conducted on the last day of the jury, 61 per cent of jurors supported this recommendation and 39 per cent did not.

7. The feasibility of community municipal investment should be explored by the local council. This could be a good option for supporting new community owned initiatives. They need to be designed to be inclusive to people with low incomes, including providing safeguards on the funding they commit to these schemes, and not be seen as an alternative to investment from government (local and national).

– In a ‘yes, maybe or no’ vote conducted on the last day of the jury, 44 per cent of jurors supported this recommendation, 22 per cent said ‘maybe’ and 22 per cent did not.

8. Funding should support and prioritise community groups and volunteering that address the climate and nature emergencies. This should include more support and investment for community energy groups.

9. A lot of companies are impacting the local environment so they should put back locally. There should be incentives and requirements for companies to invest in environmental schemes in their local areas.

10. Developers should be required to set aside funds or get incentives to tackle climate change and restore nature. These funds should be kept for residents to access on an ongoing basis to spend on schemes to enhance the local environment.

11. Councils should encourage business sponsorship for local green schemes.

DELIBERATING ON HOW WE FAIRLY SHARE THE COSTS

Discussions on this cross-cutting principle covered the scale of investment required to act on the climate and nature emergencies and who needed to provide this funding.

Central to the jurors’ deliberations, and clearly expressed within their recommendations, is how the costs of action can be shared fairly across society. The jury do not want to see the public, particularly those who are already struggling, forced to pay more for the things they need:

“Any costings need to be phased in gradually and give people time to prepare for changes

“Any costings need to be phased in gradually and give people time to prepare for changes that will need to happen for climate and nature.”

“Inequality is a big issue. For instance, BME communities are dying more during Covid-19 due to inequality. That is unfair. We are all in this together.”

The jurors had some concerns about the fairness and effectiveness of carbon taxation (as demonstrated by the vote on the recommendation on a national green tax, supported by 61 per cent). Several jurors argued that it would increase costs for those with the lowest income or with limited alternatives, such as people with disabilities. There were also questions about whether it would change behaviour or raise the funding required for investment:

"Taxes are a very primitive way of making money. No matter how you do it companies will still have the last say. They will put all the money they have off back on to the consumer, in one way or another... The companies will make sure they make their profit."

"I think that as much as possible we need to change the whole mindset and behaviours. That's the whole point of these policies and proposals. Changing the tax on things doesn't stop people doing it... We still drive through the Dartford crossing every day."

For advocates of this policy approach, the level of debate it raised reflected its potential to make a difference:

"I think it will make a difference. I think that is why people are so bothered about this. They are going to have to think about how they use their car, where they drive. Because people are bothered it shows it is hitting a nerve. That's what happens when you solve a problem. It doesn't always please people."

For the jurors, "transparency is a must." This related both to the need to know where money was being spent but also "transparency around how much power local authorities actually have." Several felt people might expect more from their councils than they can actually do but there was still room for improvement: "Council doesn't have enough money, and is spending it on the wrong things."

The vote on exploring the feasibility of community municipal investments in Thurrock reflected concerns about whether these schemes can be truly accessible to those on the lowest income, and how much protection they provided for people's savings and the community: "What happens if things go wrong when communities take responsibility?". Despite this, new opportunities to fund community action excited many of the jurors, with community municipal investments and the initiatives they could support being a focus for these discussions: "Community owned energy scheme is really quite interesting, cooperative nature of people coming together with an assured payback is attractive".

The jurors saw opportunities with the scale of development within Thurrock to invest in both community schemes and the infrastructure needed to support more positive behaviours. One juror argued that: "A lot of the big companies are impacting the local environment so they should put back locally."

The jurors wanted more investment in research, partly reflecting both the opportunities this could bring for the UK and a concern that the technologies being put forward as the solution, including electric vehicles, were not the right ones:

“ Covid-19 could teach us that having wealth and all that we need is not as important as having a community and people around us ”

"If we go down blind alleys there is no coming back. There's no time to go down blind alleys."

"Need to take the rest of the world with us. If you lead the world then business will follow and that will attract investment. If we can build technologies that can be exported, this can create jobs."

Some jurors felt strongly that "if we want to solve this issue we have to look at the economic system." One juror hoped that the events of the last year could lead to a change in priorities: "Covid-19 could teach us that having wealth and all that we need is not as important as having a community and people around us." Another juror agreed that tackling the climate crisis would require big changes in the economy and people's lives:

"The climate crisis is intertwined with economy. The idea of capitalism and profit and infinite growth and expansion can cause infinite disaster, this is about understanding or making decision to not always want more, but to be more economical in how we consume and live".

SPEAKER ON HOW WE FAIRLY SHARE THE COSTS

"How do we fairly share the costs of action on the climate and nature emergencies?"

- **Bianca Letti**, Climate Change Committee

4.

TRAVEL AND PLACE

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- There's no one answer to how we should change the way we travel to tackle the climate crisis and restore nature – we need multiple solutions, at the same time, to ensure that changes are fair.
- People need good alternatives to the car and those who really need a car should be able to use one.
- Action should be led by national and local government and those businesses which can afford it.

Recommendations

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

- 12. Public transport needs to be affordable, joined up, convenient and quick, and take people where they want to go safely.**
 - Invest in electric or hydrogen buses.
 - Improve the number and convenience of bus routes (this could include eco-friendly river buses).
 - Copy the TfL model for running buses so that bus companies get paid centrally rather than relying on making their own profit. This can help make bus fares cheaper for everyone and mean buses serve more areas.
- 13. The government should increase investment in both electric vehicles and in researching the other low-carbon alternatives, including hydrogen.**
- 14. Improve the provision of outstanding schools, with enough capacity for every child in the area, so you don't need to leave the area for education.**
 - School provision needs to be thought about within new developments - developing for local need means having this infrastructure in place.
- 15. Create low emissions zones and use the money to fund free transport for people on low incomes.**
 - Make sure there are exemptions for those that need to use large cars (for example, people with disabilities).
- 16. Implement surcharges for all large vehicles and HGVs that don't meet green criteria, both international (for example, lorries coming from ports) and domestic.** This money could then go on road maintenance and walking and cycling infrastructure.
 - Make sure there are exemptions for those that need to use large cars (for example, people with disabilities).

17. **Discounts for electric vehicles and bikes for disabled people.** Disability benefits for helping people to travel around should be spent on low-carbon options, as long as this is achieved fairly (eg through government investment or subsidy, rather than the cost being borne by the individual).
18. **Invest in cycle parking, storage and cycling lanes** so cycling is a safe and desirable option. This could be paid for by using money from surcharges for high carbon vehicles (for example, lorries coming from the ports).
 - For cycle routes, make sure to provide for disability adjusted cycling (for example, space for tricycles and mobility scooters).
 - Give farmers incentives to set up farm shops along cycle lanes to provide them with revenue streams but also increase attractiveness of cycle routes.
19. **The council should take more action on reducing congestion and safety during the school run.**
 - Help parents and children to understand the benefits of leaving the car at home.
 - Provide good, safe buses for children.
20. **Create weather-protected, secure community car parks for residents, with charging points for electric cars.** This would reduce on street parking and create more space for greenery and children playing on residential streets.
21. **Incentivise low carbon options through a combination of taxes and subsidies that do not penalise individuals but encourage more action from businesses who can afford it.**
 - There should be a national 10 per cent tax reduction on electric scooters and cars and other green vehicles.
 - There should be more affordable bikes and cycle hire schemes for people on low incomes.
 - Tax large businesses if they don't go green; give them benefits if they do.
 - Provide subsidies for individuals and small businesses to help them make green choices.

DELIBERATING ON TRAVEL AND PLACE

This topic covered better public transport, car use and electric vehicles, options for shared transport and mobility hubs, walking and cycling, creating space for nature and planning development around people being able to access what they need locally.

Reflecting the emphasis that the jurors placed on this in their wellbeing framework, safety and security was a key theme in their deliberations. This connected to road accidents, social safety and the security of parked vehicles, both cars and bikes. Interest in car sharing and car clubs was tempered with concerns about vandalism and "not knowing who you are with", although they saw the potential role for shared transport providing the public with an affordable introduction to electric vehicles.

The upfront cost of electric vehicles was considered a barrier for widespread adoption and one juror highlighted that those with "no other option but to use a car because of poor public transport" should continue to be able to. In addition

to wanting to see support for people with disabilities to access electric vehicles, they felt that the current priority for the move to electric vehicles should be on company fleets, including the public sector, not on the public:

"Let's see government and local government making changes first and leading by example but that's not what's happening and at the moment, it's requiring families to change their behaviour and that's not fair."

The jurors wanted to see a reduction in the need for trips and felt that rejuvenating town centres could play a key role in this: "The elephant in the room is also that the high street and town centres are dying"; "losing our high streets is causing isolation and impacting on wellbeing". One juror was particularly concerned by the reducing number of free public toilets across Thurrock: "Public conveniences in Stanford le Hope, Corringham Town Centre and Old Corringham have all been closed, there is no access to toilet facilities in any of these areas" and this "unacceptable" situation provided additional barriers for people who "may not be able to afford the cost of refreshments [to use a toilet in a café] on top of the cost of the family shopping".

“The elephant in the room is also that the high street and town centres are dying

They wanted to see key services located within local areas, schools in particular. The school run was a cause of significant concern: "We have to have a system for getting children to school safely". They also reflected on the wider challenges for working parents, particularly women, who struggle to manage the school run and work: "We have to get women out of the cars, getting to work still, and unblocking [the roads] near schools".

Many jurors were concerned about plans for the Lower Thames Crossing. One juror said: "Locals don't want a crossing at all - the cost to towns and green space is too high." Others felt that the job opportunities it would bring were important. Overall, several felt disheartened by the plans for development in the area, including the crossing, and their ability to shape them: "There's a lot more of us coming up with ideas and comments than there ever are people listening".

Jurors' deliberations also focused on tackling the congestion and air pollution caused by traffic from the ports, in particular heavy goods vehicles coming from abroad: "We've been killed by the lorries for years now!". One juror highlighted the wider impact on land use and air quality of industry in the area: "There is a lot of industrial areas in the borough especially Purfleet and North Thurrock. We don't need any more of our green space going. Also our air quality is not good at the moment and especially in Tilbury due to the port."

The jurors wanted good, convenient, affordable alternatives to car travel. Walking and cycling was seen as playing an important role in this, and they wanted to see much better infrastructure, better cycle routes and improved bike storage options. Alongside improving things for people, one juror suggested that 'greening' roads and streets through wild flowers on verges and tree planting was a quick win for nature.

“ We need to challenge the likes of the recipients of these reports to consider all ways of getting us out of our cars, walking more

Overall, there was a strongly shared view that "It's about the availability and affordability of public transport. Plain and simple." They wanted to see cheaper public transport for people on low incomes and a much more joined up service:

"Living in a commuter area ... I used to drive to the station ... from a time perspective, from affordability and safety, driving to the station was my easier option, and I would have quite happily used other alternatives if there was a better bus service, more reliable ... and also cycling, if I felt I could cycle safely and park my bike in the station I would have happily done that."

"We need to challenge the likes of the recipients of these reports to consider all ways of getting us out of our cars, walking more."

Frequently returning to concerns about fairness, the jurors wanted to ensure that large families, people with disabilities and people on low incomes were supported rather than disadvantaged by transport policies.

SPEAKERS ON TRAVEL AND PLACE

"Understanding the action required on travel and planning"

- **Prof Jillian Anable**, University of Leeds

"Policy proposals on travel and where we live"

- **Fiona Blackley**, Sustrans
- **Richard Dilks**, CoMoUK
- **Isabella Krabbe**, Royal Town Planning Institute
- **Dr Rachel Lee**, Living Streets

5.

NATURE, WHAT WE EAT AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- We must prioritise **social justice concerns as highly as we do sustainability**, including for food.
- **Education** is key.
 - Make interventions for healthy eating at the earliest possible age – primary school onwards.
 - Public education will help social issues as well as the climate and nature crisis.
- There must be **a fair balance between action from the council and residents. In practice this means:**
 - encouraging pride in the local area to reduce littering and fly-tipping
 - public education and local pride must be met with council action and investment to maintain public areas and social housing areas. Local residents can only do so much on their own, and without council support there can be a downward spiral
 - addressing the inequality between investment and decisions taken for areas with higher and lower incomes. We should be looking after all areas, not just those with the loudest voice. Often social housing areas are poorly maintained, left to fall apart and abandoned.
- **When development is necessary, it should meet the needs of local people and not damage nature or the climate, and even seek to have a positive impact.** This should include:
 - improving the planning process so that unnecessary development is prevented
 - protecting green space and the green belt, as damage from development is often irreversible and has an impact on climate, environment and wellbeing.
- **There should be access to green space for everyone, but this means genuine access for local people, not an excuse for developments such as ‘green villages’.**

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. **Local farmers’ markets should be supported and produce made genuinely affordable** (based on the income levels of local people). They could be made ‘celebrated’ events to attend where local authority investment supports educational about climate and the environment. These events could help create a profit for the local community.
- Make local farmers’ produce available locally. This extra income could help them to help nature on their land. Increase marketing

and promotion to ensure it's worth farmers' while, for example through free advertising and radio slots to promote local businesses and farms.

- Sell local produce to local schools and companies.
- Revisit rules that would hinder this (eg farmers not allowed to slaughter their own livestock).
- Reintroduce 'grow your own' and 'pick your own' farming in Thurrock and the surrounding areas.

23. Incentives should be provided by the government for farmers to make practices more nature and climate friendly. This should include incentives for farmers to turn unusable areas over for nature.

- Energy crops should be used mindfully (they take land away from food production and are water intensive).

24. There should be education to support the public to change mindsets, to help people make more nature and climate friendly food choices.

- This should include a focus on the social justice aspects as well as the environmental aspects of food. With high local obesity levels, education on healthy and sustainable food options is needed to reduce diet-related diabetes (which has particularly affected BAME community during the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Make farm visits part of the school curriculum so children learn how food is produced.
- Teach healthy eating and recipes to children through cookery classes in school.

25. Existing green space and green belt must be protected. Protect areas like hedgerows and introduce replanting policies for things like road widening and other infrastructure schemes.

26. Introduce schemes to reduce food waste and increase the recycling and reuse of plastic and other packaging. This should include the following.

- Schemes and requirements for supermarkets to reduce the level of food waste and of all forms of packaging
- A new incentive scheme for food delivery companies, such as Deliveroo, to encourage the return and then recycling or reuse of packaging by their customers.

27. Increase public education on nature including on reducing fly-tipping and littering and protecting green spaces.

- Reduce irresponsible waste disposal – fly-tipping, littering.
- Reintroduce park rangers and have them deliver talks in schools.

28. Healthy and nature-friendly food should be made more affordable and accessible.

- There should be a focus on local shops to carry local produce, as well as farmers markets, but supermarkets should also create sections for UK food and local farmers' food.
- Encourage seasonal eating.
- There should be more options in the quantities of foods for sale, so people aren't forced to buy more than they need.

29. Invest in programmes and projects for restoring nature that create jobs. This could include 'nature in the community' education jobs.

30. Introduce greater regulation, including on a local level, to reduce junk food consumption, including that of children.

- Reduce demand for takeaway shops and junk food through education – through schools and government marketing campaigns.
- Use advertising to educate and reduce demand for unhealthy and unsustainable food (use success of cigarette packets).
- Educate and empower community groups to protect and restore nature in their areas, such as a speaker programme.

31. Introduce employer schemes where workers are given time off to restore nature in local areas of unused and degraded land. Use employees' suggestions and local expertise to direct action.

32. Improve the rules around recycling centres to reduce landfill and encourage re-use of items by local residents.

- Provide more options at recycling centres – rename to 'reuse centres'.
- Change the rule that items at recycling centres cannot be taken away by residents.
- Introduce a scheme for electric appliances to be reused at recycling centres.
- Increase transparency about where profit from recycling centres goes to.

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

This topic covered the action needed for nature to thrive, the benefits to people of being able to access nature, the role of diet and the potential for farmers and communities to respond to the climate and nature emergencies.

As is clear from the jurors' wellbeing framework, the natural assets of Thurrock are highly valued. This value has been heightened by the experience of lockdown, and over the last year many jurors had put more time into connecting with nature:

"...we had time, time to plant up the garden with absolutely loads of plants and flowers that specifically attract insects, we fed the birds and watched as they became braver each day getting closer to the open back door. We found more places to walk and still walk our favourites..."

Deliberations frequently returned to one juror's question of "how do you avoid where you live determining the quality of the green space near you?". The jurors believed that addressing inequalities in access to nature was an important part of action on the environment. The region has "amazing footpaths and cycle paths by the river but have to drive there", which "defeats the point". There was considered a clear need to improve signage and mapping to make people aware of what they could access on foot locally. By improving access to nature and supporting the local community to take on ownership of natural spaces the jurors saw the potential to inspire people, particularly young people, to have a new respect for nature as well as achieving wider social benefits:

"Getting people involved in greening streets has two benefits – to nature, and then for community cohesion and connection with different people."

The jurors discussed the ongoing need to protect nature from development and were clear that new housing or other infrastructure shouldn't come at any cost to nature; "leave nature alone so [you] don't have to replace it in the first place". They felt it was unfair to the people of Thurrock to see their green spaces taken away with the promise of action being taken elsewhere in the UK to mitigate the impact of harmful schemes:

"As well as action for nature, [there] needs to be a halt on activities damaging nature – new roads and developments. Positive steps can't mean damaging things is allowed."

"I've witnessed the destruction of wildlife over time – dredging of the cockle beds, salt flats destroyed by 'clean rubbish' dumping and habitats destroyed. I watched a digger destroying the ditch a family of voles lived in."

“The cost of a better food system cannot go to consumers – some people can't afford basic needs as it is

Fairness was a central theme in the jury's deliberations on food. They recognised the need for diets to change but felt that "the cost of a better food system cannot go to consumers – some people can't afford basic needs as it is". The increasing use of food banks, particularly as a result of Covid-19, had highlighted to many in the group how precarious people's lives are. The jurors recognised the global significance of the food system:

"Global food chains and getting food from other countries – need to think about the impact of getting that food on the countries distributing food. There is a responsibility to everyone, globally and locally."

"Eating food that's in season is something I have done for a while. The supermarkets should buy into this idea. Society expects everything 'on tap'. The environmental impact on having fresh produce imported from miles away is huge. We have enough fresh produce right here in the UK to go around. It seems that international trade takes priority."

Supporting farmers to make changes to the way they manage the land was considered an important part of action for climate and nature. This would need a "long term strategy from government, with involvement from farmers, communities and consumers" with the right actions taken in the right places. Ultimately, the jurors felt that there needed to be "a more prominent role for local food and farming" and healthy options needed to be "abundant, cheap and readily available" in order to shift people's behaviours.

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

"What is the environmental impact of our current approach to land use?"

- **Indra Thillainathan**, Committee on Climate Change

"What's the state of nature in Thurrock?"

- **Andrew Impey**, Essex Wildlife Trust

"Policy proposals for nature, what we eat and how we use the land in Thurrock"

- **Andrew Gouldstone**, Rainham Marshes, RSPB
- **Cathrine Baungaard**, WWF-UK
- **David Lord**, Nature Friendly Farming Network

JUROR EXPERIENCES OF NATURE, WHAT WE EAT AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

Between meetings jurors were encouraged to think about their experiences of nature and the impact of Covid-19 on this. They completed a short survey on the topic and the below summarises their responses.

FIGURE 2: WORD MAP BASED ON JUROR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION 'WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE WHAT NATURE MEANS TO YOU?'



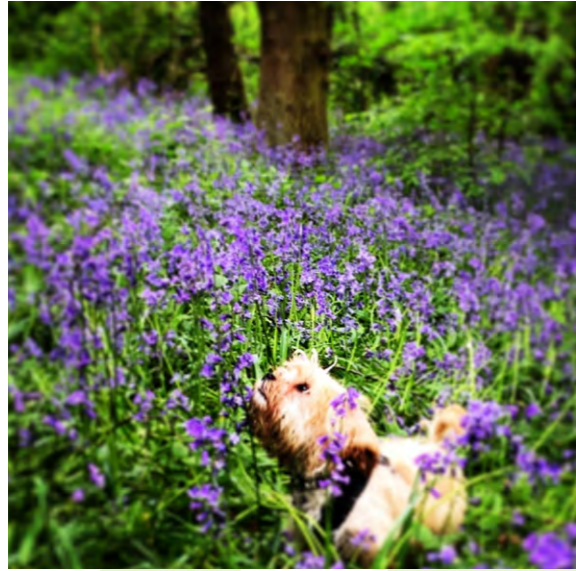
Source: IPPR analysis of jurors’ responses

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON JUROR EXPERIENCE OF NATURE

Jurors were asked whether their attitude to nature had changed due to Covid-19, here are a selection of their responses:

- "A lot more chances to engage with the outdoors and **explore what has been on my doorstep for years.**"
- "During the first lockdown ... **I found a new love for nature and being outside.** I appreciated my external surroundings much more."
- "More of an appreciation for nature and how the 'natural' works. **I started growing vegetables and it made me pay more attention to the weather, soil, insects and how these and many other things in nature work together.**"
- "I feel **far more protective of the green space around me** and I am more aware than ever of the impact of humans on their environment and just how completely selfish and clueless people are to how important nature is to our health and survival... **it is the society we have created that needs to be educated to understand its impact on nature and how nature is important to our future.** We need to learn that when the trees and plants are gone - we are next."

JURORS' CONNECTIONS TO NATURE IN THURROCK AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS



“ My dog, Dylan, smelling the Bluebells on Bluebell hill, Langdon Hills

“ Footpath walks on a glorious sunny afternoon well maintained by the farmer and respected by all users

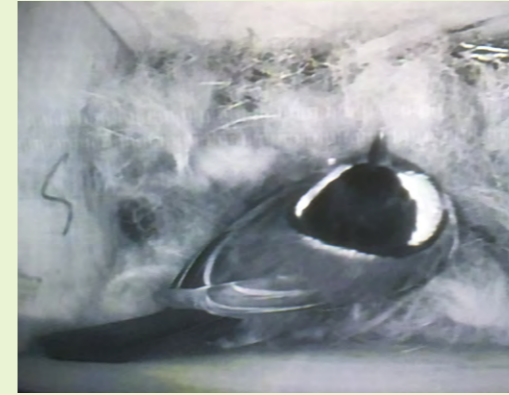


“ Our local 'oasis of nature' in the middle of a housing development called Chafford Hundred

“ This is the church in Grays covered in snow, there's usually a lot of squirrels and birds around here



“ I feel connected to bees as they are not recognised for the work they do for our ecosystem



“ My bird box last year, observing the work and care that these little birds undertake to reproduce”



“ Giraffes are my favourite animal and I felt really happy at this time as I saw a giraffe in real life for the first time

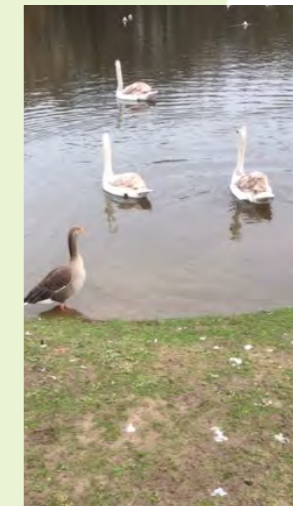


“ In my garden, I feel a strong connection to the big bushes to the right, although they are not mine. They're full of sparrows and I often feed them

“ This is one of my favourite views in Purfleet as it captures the river, and as the river meanders you can see a view of Canary Wharf and the city



“ A scene at work at Tilbury riverside from 2016



“ Swans and a goose. Always lovely to see them on the lake

Source: Jurors' photos

WHAT JURORS WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE FOR NATURE LOCALLY

“ This was when I went on a hike with my cousin, niece and sisters in Luton. I think green spaces like this could be improved a lot more, for example, fresh grass and meadows/flowers



“ The amount of litter discarded is disappointing, unsightly and harmful



“ The avenue of trees planted around 100 years ago, represent the stability of nature if left alone, for me they are a pathway leading to the future despite our human endeavour. I have always found this avenue of trees inspirational



“ There are vast marshes that sit between A13 and the river where I feel improvements can be made

“ Small rows of shops. Could this wide pavement be half cycle path and walking with say five trees?



“ My biggest concern for the area and our nature and green space is development. I chose this photo, because I felt it demonstrated the relentless hunt to find land to build on



“ I would like to see more natural grass verges to encourage wildlife back to their natural habitat



“ Rubbish seen on my daily walk. Something to improve for nature. Tidy up our open spaces

6. EVALUATION

Members of the Thurrock 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 below provides a summary of the feedback received from the 14 jurors who completed the survey. This summary focuses on the respondents' views on the impact of taking part on them and the full evaluation also includes their thoughts on how our approach to delivering citizens' juries could be improved in the future.

The jurors enjoyed the experience of being part of the citizens' jury and, as well as finding it educational, many found it inspiring to be part of such a collaborative process.

FIGURE 3: 'THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE' WORD MAP



Source: IPPR analysis of jurors' responses

Many of the themes from the panel's recommendations were emphasised within these final individual reflections, particularly on the need for more people to be involved in the response to the climate and nature emergencies and to be listened to in local decision making:

"That maybe, just maybe, there is enough time and opportunity to make a difference to what we do in our local area, to have a really positive effect on the climate and nature emergency, that IS real, IF enough people join those who are already prepared to get engaged and show they care."

"The area needs the help of not just civil authority; it needs the input of local people with on the ground experience to share with those who have responsibility to make things happen."

Jurors gained confidence in talking about the climate and nature emergencies. Key to this was a growing awareness of these issues:

"I have learned, listened, and been stimulated and become prepared to be more active in voicing my concerns."

This citizens' jury encouraged many to make changes in their own lives and inspired to be part of addressing these issues in Thurrock:

"Being more active about local issues and being prepared to act on issues that affect the local environment."

"...try to cycle more from a health perspective and reduce the use of the car for short journeys."

"[it]...reminded me to challenge myself in my day to day decisions to try to take a little more responsibility for choices that impact the environment."

For some, the scale of the challenge and the lack of firm commitment from decision makers to take the kind of action necessary meant they felt no more optimistic about the future after participating in the process:

"Sadly, I still don't think enough people care or will be made aware enough to care and I doubt that local councils will get the authority and appropriate budgets needed to address the issues ... It may come but not soon enough."

Picking up on one of the key themes from the jurors' statement, one was still particularly concerned that:

"...everything seems to lead back to individuals doing their bit, which is important, but change needs to start on a much wider scale than that, and the driving factor at the top is money . It is large businesses and corporations that need to make the big changes to have the biggest impact. My fear has always been that recommendations are used to offset activity that is damaging to local environments, particularly in relation to the continued development and destruction of green space and green belt... any changes will likely result in those with the most wealth being able to continue to undertake activity that is damaging and polluting and everyone else having to make changes at cost."

"It needs the input of local people with on the ground experience to share with those who have responsibility to make things happen"

Despite the scale of the challenge, the citizens' jury gave many involved more optimism for the future. The fact that their recommendations would be heard by government and they now knew more about the range of organisations who are taking action on these emergencies was a cause for hope for one juror:

"I didn't realise how many agencies were helping the crisis. It's comforting to know that people actually want to change for the better and that our recommendations would be heard by local and national government."

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APPENDIX A: ADVISORY BOARD

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

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

THURROCK ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Andrew Gouldstone, senior site manager – Rainham Marshes, RSPB

Andrew Impey, chief executive, Essex Wildlife Trust

Ian Lewis, director, Opportunity South Essex

Andrew Summers, strategic director, Transport East

Simon Walsh, cabinet member for environment and climate change action (Con), Essex County Council

APPENDIX B: SPEAKERS

THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES – AN INTRODUCTION

- **Dr Cat Scott**, University of Leeds
 - What are the climate and nature emergencies? A basic introduction to the science.
 - 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?

THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES

- **Dr Simon Lyster**, Northumbrian Water Group and member of the Essex Climate Action Commission: "An introduction to the climate and nature crisis in Thurrock and Essex"

WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS

- **Stephen Frost**, co-deputy head of the Environmental Justice Commission, IPPR: "What does 'fairness' mean in the context of the climate and nature emergencies?"
 - Ways to define it
 - How it is thought about in terms of the nature and climate emergencies
 - What questions do we ask when thinking about 'fairness'
 - Links to social justice
 - Different perspective on fairness through videos of Kirsten Leggatt of the 2050 Climate Group addressing the UK Climate Assembly, Wanjira Mathai speaking on Earth Day 2020 and Sir David Attenborough interviewed on BBC Sounds.
- **Dr Katy Roelich**, University of Leeds: "Developing a vision for the future: Wellbeing and a better life for all"

HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS AND FUND LOCAL ACTION

- **Lucy Stone**, Our Common Climate
 - 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?
 - Where is there a good example of this action already underway?
- **Dr Mark Davis**, University of Leeds
 - What are the challenges of funding local action on these environmental emergencies?
 - How can action be funded?
 - How do we ensure the costs of action and shared fairly?

FAIRLY SHARING THE COSTS

- **Bianca Letti**, senior analyst, Climate Change Committee: "How do we fairly share the costs of action on the climate and nature emergencies?"
 - What is the affordability of the net zero transition?
 - What are the costs of inaction?
 - What is the pace of change required?

TRAVEL AND PLACE

- **Prof Jillian Anable**, University of Leeds: "Understanding the action required on travel and planning"
 - What is the environmental impact of the current transport system?
 - What do we know needs to change?
 - What are some of the ideas put forward to achieve this change (including those related to the planning system)?
 - As well as environmental, what could some of the other benefits be of changing how we travel?
 - What are some of the key 'fairness' issues associated with how we travel now and the transition required?
- **Policy proposals on travel and where we live**
 - **Fiona Blackley**, head of neighbourhoods and networks, Sustrans
 - **Richard Dilks**, chief executive, CoMoUK
 - **Isabella Krabbe**, climate change research officer, Royal Town Planning Institute
 - **Dr Rachel Lee**, policy and research manager, Living Streets

NATURE, WHAT WE EAT AND HOW WE USE THE LAND

- **Indra Thillainathan**, land use analyst, Climate Change Committee: "What is the environmental impact of our current approach to land use?"
 - What do we know needs to change to address the level of carbon emissions from land use?
 - What are some of the ideas put forward to achieve this change?
 - As well as environmental, what could some of the other benefits be of changing how we use the land?
 - What are some of the key 'fairness' issues associated with how we use the land?
- **Andrew Impey**, chief executive, Essex Wildlife Trust: "What's the state of nature in Thurrock?"
 - What is currently being done in the region to protect and restore nature?
 - What are some of the key 'fairness' issues associated with this topic locally?
 - What are the options the jury should consider for restoring nature and improving access to nature in Thurrock?
- **Andrew Gouldstone**, senior site manager – Rainham Marshes, RSPB
 - What are the links between Thurrock and the estuary?
 - How could the coastline be managed better for nature and provide more natural protection from flooding.
 - How can nature be considered within urban developments (e.g. Purfleet)?

- **Cathrine Baungaard**, food services sustainability advisor, WWF-UK
 - How can we develop sustainable food systems?
 - What are the actions that needs to be taken to shift people's diets to address the climate crisis and restore nature?
- **David Lord**, sustainable farmer; member of the Nature Friendly Farming Network
 - What are some policy ideas for sustainable agriculture in Thurrock?
 - What is the farmer's perspective on the action needed to ensure that the transition to more nature and climate friendly farming practices is fair?

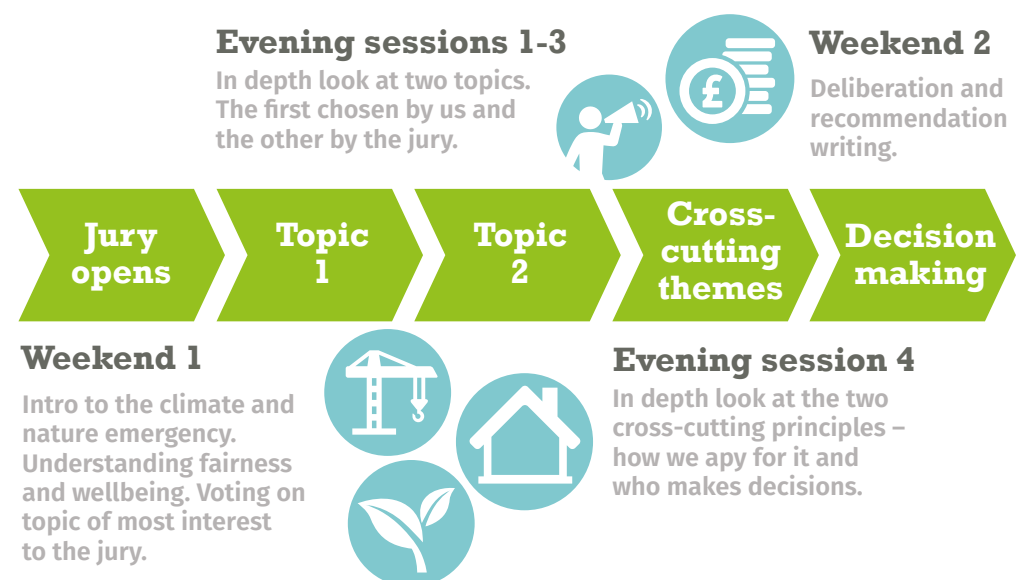
APPENDIX C: PROCESS DETAILS

20 residents were recruited from across Thurrock and nearby areas, 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 January to February 2021, with some light work in between sessions (less than one hour per session). There was also up to 30 minutes of optional, informal discussion at the end of each session to talk through extra questions and ideas.

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 extent of planned development within the area and the transport challenges associated with balancing the needs of local people with those of the port, IPPR selected 'travel and place' as a topic to explore in detail with the panel. The second topic was put to a vote. 'Nature, what we eat and how we use the land' was chosen as the second topic for discussion. The options not chosen were 'our homes' and 'work and industry'.

Sessions were open to guests, such as the advisory board and the commissioners of the Environmental Justice Commission, to attend; observers only viewed the plenary sessions, not the breakout discussions.

APPENDIX D: EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION

The citizens' jury was comprised of 20 residents from Thurrock and nearby areas. Over the course of the eight sessions the average attendance per session was close to 20 jurors. Almost all the jurors (18, 90 per cent) attended every session. The full jury was present for the final weekend of deliberation.

Between the formal sessions, the jurors who could not attend a meeting participated virtually – this included watching recordings of the sessions, completing homework and sharing reflections with IPPR staff.

EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT ON THE JURORS

The members of the citizens' jury were invited to complete a short evaluation survey after the final deliberations. 14 jurors (70 per cent) completed this survey. Results are presented as a percentage of total responses.

Below is a summary of the 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 8.6 out of 10. The score appears to have been influenced by one juror reading the scale for this question the wrong way around, but at the time of writing this had not been confirmed.

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 responses were 'educational' (five jurors), 'interesting' (three jurors) and 'inclusive' and 'informative' (both from two 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	93% Agreed or strongly agreed (13 of 14 respondents)
The process was impartial	64% Agreed or strongly agreed (9 of 14 respondents)
The evidence presented was balanced	71% Agreed or strongly agreed (10 of 14).
The evidence was accessible to me	100% Agreed or strongly agreed (14 of 14 respondents)
There were enough opportunities for me to share my views	93% Agreed or strongly agreed (13 of 14 respondents)
I felt comfortable sharing my views	100% Agreed or strongly agreed (14 of 14 respondents)
The panel was representative of the local area	92% Agreed or strongly agreed (12 of 13 respondents)

COMMENTARY

The jurors were largely positive about the quality of the process and felt that it had largely met the standards assessed in this survey.

There were particularly high scores given to the accessibility of the evidence and the level of comfort people had in sharing their views. With one juror noting:

"I thought all sessions were well organised and everyone had the opportunity or was encouraged to provide input."

Many jurors felt strongly that the panel was a good reflection of Thurrock and the surrounding area:

"This was a totally well-balanced panel... age range, ethnicity, gender and representative of the local area. Some very good panel members with great knowledge of Thurrock and the surrounding area."

Although the majority of the jurors that responded to the survey felt that the sessions were impartial and balanced, these were also the areas of most disagreement. One juror was concerned that the experts "beat the same drum" and another reflected that:

"Inevitably all of the speakers have good reasons to be advocating the urgency for addressing the climate and nature emergency and you are hardly going to find ones who would look to argue that there is no cause for concern."

One juror offered a critical view on whether the process lived up to the 'jury' label. The evidence presented often felt to them as if it was unchallenged and the "case for the alternatives" were missing. In particular they felt more information on the wider environmental costs of electric vehicles needed to be provided and potential negative impacts of large-scale shifts away from meat eating required more discussion.

One juror felt that the geographic scale for action being considered could have been more consistent throughout the process. Another strongly favoured the use of homework to provide more structured input onto the process and valued the opportunities this provided them to reflect on 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 (79 per cent, 11 of 14 responses) and discussion (64 per cent, nine of 14 responses). Jurors were least sure about decision making – 50 per cent (seven of 14 responses) said there was enough time for this.

Jurors were asked to consider whether there was a specific activity they felt more time could have been given to. Although most people felt the time for different activities had been well balanced there was significant support for more time to be spent on the final decision making process.

One juror was concerned that the pace of the final session meant that some points "may have been lost in translation" and they also felt a more point by point process to agreeing the recommendations may have been "more robust".

Two jurors highlighted that the speaker sessions felt constrained by time. With one reflecting on whether "not being in a conventional audience played a part in it

being more challenging to take in the information provided and consider questions".

Generally, jurors found the process had been well thought through with one reflecting that:

"The timing of the whole period we spent together was excellent. Each session was filled with excellent speakers and information to help us all in our deliberations, no need to change that which is not broken!"

2. Support

11 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 other two respondents saying no and maybe.

Most jurors felt supported in using the technology that the meetings were hosted on. One juror thought "the use of technology worked really well" and another commented on their experience as a beginner:

"As a novice I was helped on several occasions due to my lack of knowledge of the Zoom technology and [staff were] very supportive and helpful."

3. Improving the process

Jurors were asked what "one improvement would they make to the process" to improve how IPPR approach delivering similar events in the future.

Many jurors felt there was little to be done to improve the process but several reiterated points raised elsewhere on the potential to give more time to the final recommendation writing:

"Perhaps work should start on this a little sooner and prepare the juries more in advance on what is expected. Ask before the final session for volunteers to work on the wording of the statement."

"A better detailed idea of the agenda should be sent out in good time with a requirement for advanced consideration by us panel members to get their comments, ideas or questions on all the issues to be discussed in order to gather as many well considered inputs from everyone as possible."

One juror went on to provide detailed thoughts on how the contributions made throughout the process and via homework could have been used to strengthen the recommendations. In particular, having reviewed all of the summary content prepared by IPPR to inform the final weekend, they reflected that "too much of its content never got included in the recommendations report."

One juror had a clear idea on how the process could be improved in the future. They would have liked to see more diverse facilitators, beyond just gender, and greater use of local knowledge:

"...diversity amongst the facilitators as well as ensuring that a local government representative or official / community representative was included into the facilitators, either as a guest for each session but ideally the same person throughout would be good, and who was fully versed on the jury process."

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 Thurrock to know?".

The responses to this varied greatly but centred on the potential for people to work together to address the climate and nature emergencies and the value of processes such as this:

"That maybe, just maybe, there is enough time and opportunity to make a difference to what we do in our local area, to have a really positive effect on the climate and nature emergency, that IS real, IF enough people join those who are already prepared to get engaged and show they care."

"The area needs the help of not just civil authority, it needs the input of local people with on the ground experience to share with those who have responsibility to make things happen."

"How enjoyable it is to participate in events such as the panel because the participation is also a valuable learning curve."

Beyond those themes one juror highlighted that "Thurrock are taking an active role in improving the area" and another "the importance of protecting local green areas".

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.

The average score for speakers was 4.6 with the lowest score given being a four.

6. Changing opinions

When asked whether their opinions changed during the process three jurors said yes, four said maybe and four said they hadn't.

For those whose opinions changed they highlighted that "fairness changed my views" and that during the first weekend "I started to become more aware of the issue we all face."

One reflected that:

"I think it endorsed what I have always thought about climate change and fairness in dealing with the major issues, but did not realise it could be put forward in such a powerful way by the involvement of just a few people, not necessarily expert in any way other than residency and a will to be involved."

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?". Nine jurors said it had, two said maybe and three didn't feel it had.

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, the average score was 4.2 and the lowest score was three.

The jurors were asked how they would describe this impact and their responses touched on a wide range of topics, including the value they placed on being involved in the panel:

"Being part of this panel was a great privilege, I have learned, listened, and been stimulated and become prepared to be more active in voicing my concerns."

"Being part of the panel made me feel that my opinions were respected and valued."

"Being more confident in what the crisis is and knowing what I can do to address it."

Jurors also reflected on the impact it would have on their day to day lives:

"To appreciate even more the nature around me."

"...reminded me to challenge myself in my day to day decisions to try to take a little more responsibility for choices that impact the environment."

One juror concluded that although the process hadn't changed their view on the scale of the challenge: "No change in the opinion that it is not going to be easy."

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?". Nine jurors said yes, three said maybe and two said no.

The responses highlight the desire of many jurors to engage more with the local community and take action together on this topic as well as considering making changes in their own lives. The below quotes give a sense of how different jurors have been inspired to act through this process:

"Talk to people in my community more about climate and nature."

"Plant more trees and re-engage with my local councillor."

"Once Covid-19 has receded, I would like to volunteer to help green spaces improve and to be more mindful of my own household waste/recycling."

"Seriously consider changing my car to either hybrid or electric when this becomes more reliable and affordable. Try to cycle more from a health perspective and reduce the use of the car for short journeys."

"Buy home produce to help local farmers."

10. Optimistic about the future

Jurors were asked whether the process had made them more or less optimistic about the future. Seven jurors (50 per cent of responses) said they were more optimistic, and the remaining seven felt no different.

Many of those who felt no different reflected on the barriers to action feeling too high and that their own recommendations would not be heard:

"Sadly, I still don't think enough people care or will be made aware enough to care and I doubt that local councils will get the authority and appropriate budgets needed to address the issues ... It may come but not soon enough."

Other jurors reflected that the scale of the challenge was daunting:

"In some ways I feel more optimistic as I have a much better understanding of the issues we face and what can be done to address some of them. However, equally I feel less optimistic due to the enormity of what is required to bring about change."

"I so wish I could say I was less pessimistic! Whilst I am encouraged by the fact that the IPPR is even doing these panel sessions across the country, and that voices are getting louder ... I am still pessimistic about the future. Sadly, I do not feel that we are doing enough to even achieve net zero in a reasonable timeframe let alone make adequate reductions to go below zero... I fear there will simply be a progressive spiral toward the plughole of doom even as the good people make some progress to a cleaner and safer world."

The potential for more and more responsibility for changes to need to be made by individuals was a strong concern for one juror:

"My concern throughout is that everything seems to lead back to individuals doing their bit, which is important, but change needs to start on a much wider scale than that, and the driving factor at the top is money. It is large businesses and corporations that need to make the big changes to have the biggest impact. My fear has always been that recommendations are used to offset activity that is damaging to local environments, particularly in relation to the continued development and destruction of green space and green belt... any changes will likely result in those with the most wealth being able to continue to undertake activity that is damaging and polluting and everyone else having to make changes at cost."

The same juror also felt strongly the fairness issue could have been better understood by other members of the panel and that "any changes will likely result in those with the most wealth being able to continue to undertake activity that is damaging and polluting and everyone else having to make changes at cost."

Despite these concerns, many of the jurors felt more optimistic about the potential to engage communities and having heard about the range of people taking action on these emergencies:

"I didn't realise how many agencies were helping the crisis. It's comforting to know that people actually want to change for the better and that our recommendations would be heard by local and national government."

"I think when the local people know and are prepared to act on the knowledge they have of the community, they become a strong advocate for best practice to be encouraged at council level."

"People power can work."

11. Final thoughts

At the end of the survey, jurors were provided with the opportunity to share any thoughts they didn't feel were covered elsewhere. One juror used the opportunity to make a final recommendation on how to improve the evaluation process, by suggesting the evaluation survey was also proactively provided in an offline format to make it easier for answers to be considered.

This closing question was largely used by jurors as an opportunity to thank the team involved in convening the panel and make their final points on the value of the process:

"Let's keep talking about the subject so that people's mindsets can be changed regarding climate and nature."

"I loved every moment of it and have made some good colleagues along the way."

"I was delighted to have been selected to be part of the panel, and so grateful to be part of a very important document that may have a long term effect on Thurrock."

"I have to say that I found it overall an enjoyable, informative and motivational experience and you guys made it fun too which helped us to get through all those hours in front of a screen."

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