

Patrons: Jonathon Porritt, Joan Walley, Jeremy Lefroy

Report of AGM 24th May 2022

Attendance: 41 including patrons, Joan Walley and Jeremy Lefroy.

Representatives from: Councils - Staffs County, East Staffs, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, and Staffs Moorlands. ABC Stoke/YMCA. Changes Health Wellbeing; CPRE; Globe Foundation. Green Network; Moorlands Climate Action; North Staffs Friends of the Earth; NS Green Party; North Staffs News; North Staffs YMCA; SBEN; Staffs Wildlife Trust; Stoke North & Kidsgrove Constituency and Newcastle Constituencies Labour Party; Support Staffordshire; Sustainable Society; Transition Lichfield; VAST and individuals



1. Welcome by Michaela Fyson Chair gave an overview of activities February 2020 – May 2022. Jonathan Porritt though retiring from Keele University will remain as a patron of CMS. During summer 2021 CMS organised 4 Climate Forums in Leek, Lichfield, Rugely and Stoke-on-Trent and a Conference in October 2021. Reports on these are on our website. The film 'DO SOMETHING' launched at the Conference was overall winner at the Staffordshire 2022 Film Festival. Working with Keele University a two day Citizen Assembly was held focusing on emissions from homes, asking participants what actions our Councils should take, the outcomes to be presented to the County Council as report and a short film Progress had been made on producing a Green Banner. A climate commission for Staffordshire and Stoke- on- Trent led by Keele University is being created and will be launched at the Staffordshire Climate Expo '22 in Uttoxeter.

2. A Finance Report was presented by the Treasurer Ian Trippier. A written report was circulated. Income was mainly from a grant from Middleport Environment Trust (£19,000,) the project with Keele (£6400) and Staffs County Council (£500). CMS has £9805 funds for ongoing work. Expenditure was payment for the project officer, events, films and the costs for the projects.

3. CMS Patron Joan Walley Chaired the Election process for the Committee Nominations from the floor and the following were agreed: Chair Michaela Fyson, Vice Chair Jeremy Lowe, Treasurer Ian Trippier and Committee members, Tom Bedford, Kristie Charlesworth, Kate Copeland, Neil Dawson, Joe Porter.



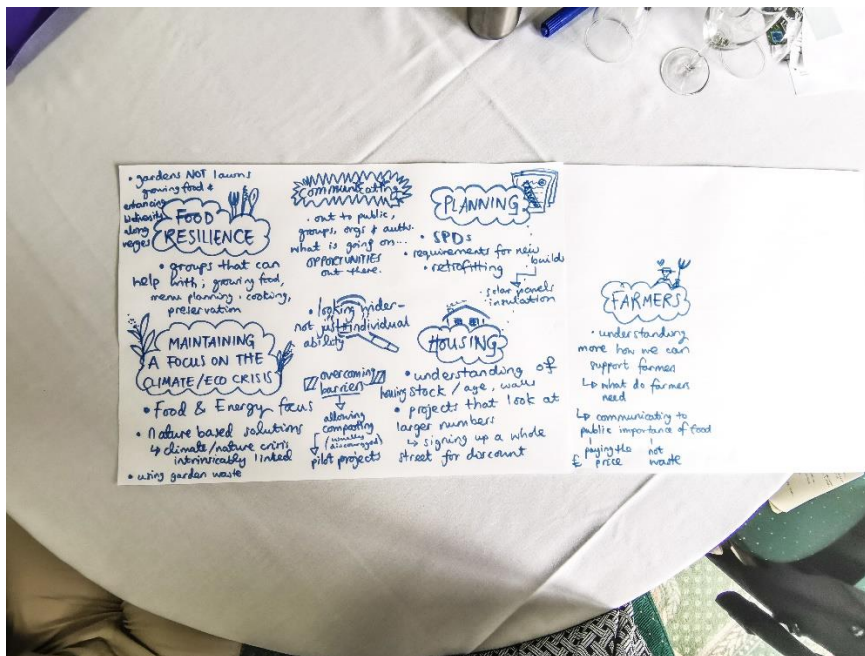
4. **Speakers** – addressing the climate and ecological emergencies during a cost-of-living crisis.

- Jeremy Lowe, NFU - spoke on Food production, particularly the impact on the war in Ukraine. He explained the importance of food production with the present concerns and how we could move forward with sustainable farming but with the appropriate support and understanding from the Government.
- Chris Crean, FoE - identified Planning policy as a driver for tackling climate change Local planning rules could work if given the opportunity and with the real opportunity of proper involvement of local people. There is a need of a process where we can all work with partners such as NFU, CPRE, Wildlife Trusts, to create sustainable and environmental progress. Neighbourhood plans with the appropriate skill support are an opportunity to link with Council Local Plans.
- Our speaker Angela Ghadery was ill so her presentation focusing on Citizen Action was read by the Chair.

5. **Round table discussions** took place with feedback from each group. Topics included the following, but all ideas were welcomed.

- What do people want from Climate Matters Staffordshire?
- What priorities should we focus on?
- How to maintain a focus on the climate and ecological emergencies during a cost-of-living crisis?
- What targets should we aim for?
- How do we hold those in power to account

There was common agreement on bringing people together, supporting collaboration, an annual reporting event, sharing best practices, publicizing local initiatives, increasing engagement of people and groups.



6. **Special guest:** Katie talked about a new children's book, **Have you seen Bruno?** about climate change written, illustrated and produced by a group of passionate students from the group ACT (Action Today) at Alleyne's Academy in Stone. The book is made from recycled material and produced by ACT (www.actionchange.today.co.uk). Copies of the book were available for sale.



7. **Closing remarks from Patron Jeremy Lefroy and the Chair**

There are three main areas to improve Food, Energy and Transport. The impact of these are particularly true for people who are struggling to survive.

A show of hands from attendees showed a majority for Net Zero target by 2030.

CMS should be positive but challenge Local Authorities to work together on these issues. It is important that we provide information, act as advocacies, and inspire people.

For further information see our website www.climatemattersstaffordshire.co.uk

Our two films are available on YouTube:

'DO SOMETHING' showing how people in Staffordshire, young and old, urban and rural care about the climate crisis and how they are involved with action to protect our planet. It was best documentary and overall winner at the 2022 Staffordshire Film Festival.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCq0YatWXME1wHSUj5EO6INQ

Citizens Assembly for Newcastle-under-Lyme

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OggQY4FYmTc>