

# A Greener Way For Our Bay:

Creative  
Engagement  
Programme  
Report 2024



# This consultation and report was commissioned by Torbay Council on behalf of the Torbay Climate Partnership.

## Torbay Climate Partnership

Torbay Climate Partnership was formed in 2021 and is made up of a wide range of organisations in Torbay from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The aim is to work towards a Carbon Neutral Torbay.

The idea is for everyone in Torbay to support the TCP and its aims. We want to make sure everyone does their bit to tackle climate change.

The TCP is currently made up of the following member organisations:

- Brixham Town Council
- Yes Brixham
- Devon Climate Emergency
- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
- Environment Agency
- Exeter Community Energy
- Groundwork South
- Local Spark
- SWISCo
- South Devon College
- South West Net Zero Hub
- South West Water
- Sustrans
- TDA
- Torbay Climate Action
- Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
- Torbay Community Development Trust
- Torbay Council
- Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Torbay Youth Trust
- Wild Planet Trust

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# Background

A **Greener Way for Our Bay** action plan and framework sets out a comprehensive plan to tackle climate change and transition to Net Zero.

Development of a climate action plan by the TCP began in 2022 through a series of community events including a community conference, business survey and a number of public 'climate conversation' events.

A public consultation on this first draft of the action plan took place from December 2022 to March 2023. A revised version of the action plan, the current **A Greener Way For Our Bay** action plan and framework was launched in November 2023.

**A Greener Way For Our Bay has ten priorities:**

<p><b>1</b> Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.</p> 	<p><b>2</b> Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.</p> 
<p><b>3</b> Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.</p> 	<p><b>4</b> Reduce waste and increase recycling.</p> 
<p><b>5</b> Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart.</p> 
<p><b>7</b> Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.</p> 	<p><b>8</b> Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.</p> 
<p><b>9</b> Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.</p> 

# Introduction

**A Greener Way for Our Bay** is a new action plan and framework developed by the Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) aimed at reducing the carbon footprint within the Bay and preparing for a changing climate.

TONIC Creatives CIC were commissioned as partners by Torbay Council to develop and run a creative engagement programme to support a wider TCP public consultation on the proposed climate action plan.

Taking place between October 2023 and the end of February 2024, the creative engagement programme sought to consult a wide range of local residents and businesses to promote the plan and provide the opportunity for the community to reflect on and give meaningful feedback on the priorities set out in the plan.

This report sets out the findings of the creative engagement programme, highlighting key themes, issues and comments from the local community in Torbay and is intended to support the main TCP consultation survey findings.

# Methodology

A programme of creative engagement was developed with sessions targeting a diverse cross-section of the local community in locations across the Bay. This included a series of creative workshops specifically targeted at traditionally hard-to-reach audiences including children and young people and those with additional needs.

While a mixed methods approach was used, the primary aim of the engagement activities was to gather rich and meaningful qualitative data to accurately detail, understand and represent the views and priorities of the local community.

## Engagement and Data Collection Methods

All engagement activities were designed to promote awareness of **A Greener Way For Our Bay**, provide information and to stimulate meaningful conversations in a light-touch, informal way. Where appropriate, participants were also encouraged to complete the main TCP consultation survey.

- **Event and meeting attendance**

- **Delivery of workshops and creative engagement sessions**

This included a community tree planting initiative in partnership with Tale Blazers as part of the Earthworks project at Treacle Valley, as well as a variety of willow weaving workshop sessions.

- **Conversation**

- **Ideas/Comments Tags**

All participants were given the opportunity to write their comments, ideas or priorities onto tags which they then attached onto a giant willow question mark sculpture.

- **Marble Run**

Participants were asked to vote for their top three priorities from the ten points of the plan by dropping marbles into a purpose-built marble run.



- **Dot Board Survey**

Participants at engagement events that took place prior to the main TCP consultation survey launch were asked to indicate their future engagement method preferences.

- **Activity Sheets**

Children's activity sheets were themed around climate conversations and actions, and also signposted users to the main TCP consultation survey. In addition to being used at face-to-face creative engagement events, activity sheets were also sent out to schools and distributed to more than 200 families as part of an Eco Play Bag initiative by Play Torbay.

- **Postcards**

**A Greener Way For Our Bay** postcards were distributed at all the face-to-face events to promote the action plan and invite participants to complete the main TCP consultation survey and have their say.



## Engagement Activities

Date	Event / Activity
21/10/2023	Playing in the Streets
25/10/2023	The Big Bay Bake, Lupton House
06/11/2023	Imagine This - Environmental Impact Group
21/11/2023	Make it Net Zero
28/11/2023	Torbay Climate Action Group Social
02/12/2023	EcoFest
04/12/2023	Torbay Climate Action Group - Mend Monday
06/12/2023	ASRUS - Play Torbay event for young people with Autism Spectrum Conditions
18/12/2023	Play Torbay HAF - Paignton - Creative workshop
19/12/2023	Play Torbay HAF - Brixham - Creative workshop
06/01/2023	Indigoes goes Green Saturdays - Creative workshop
09/01/2024	Orchard Forest School - x 2 Creative workshops
15/01/2024	Orchard Forest School - x 2 Creative workshops
20/01/2024	Play Torbay - Paignton Library Creative workshop
22/01/2024	Roselands Primary School - Creative workshop
03/02/2024	Future Proof
08/02/2024	ibis Styles Paignton - launch event
08/02/2024	South Devon College - Groundworks NCS x 4 Creative workshops
09/02/2024	South Devon College - Groundworks NCS Creative workshop
14/02/2024	The Love Swim
17/02/2024	Lucky 7 Valentines Show
19/02/2024	Turning Heads - Windmill Centre Creative workshop
19/02/2024	Community Builders Social Group
20/02/2024	South Devon College - Green Week
20/02/2024	Torbay Climate Action - Torbay Pride Valentines Love-in
21/02/2024	South Devon College - Green Week
24/02/2024	Tale Blazers - Earthworks, Treacle Valley
26/02/2024	ERBid Event

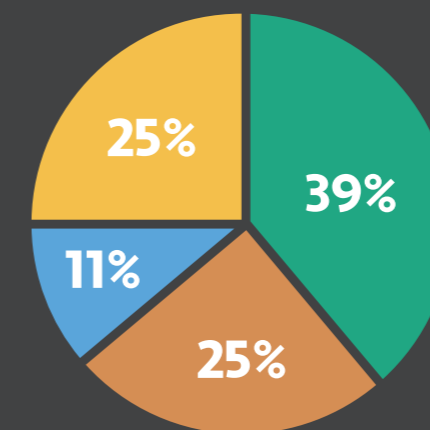
## Key Engagement Data

# 1,263 Engagements



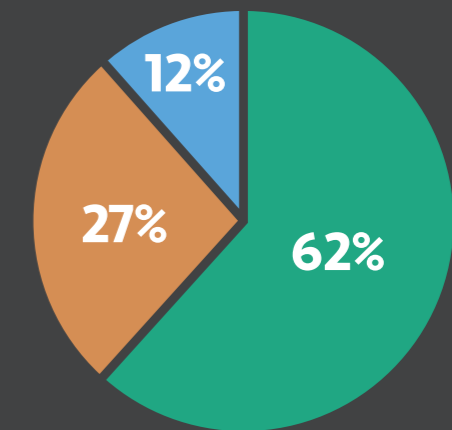
**1,063** face-to-face engagements

### Respondent Demographics



- Torbay Residents - families & mixed age groups
- Torbay Residents - aged 18 years +
- Torbay Businesses
- Torbay Residents - under 18 years

### Location



- Paignton
- Brixham
- Torquay

**30 Events / Workshops / Meetings**

10 events specifically targeted at children and young people.



The creative engagement programme sought to maximise participation opportunities. Therefore, the majority of events were located centrally within the Bay in Paignton which also allowed easier access from Brixham and Torquay.

# Executive Summary

This creative engagement programme has sought the views of a wide range of local residents, businesses and community groups to support the findings of the main TCP public consultation survey.

The findings of the creative engagement programme can be summarised as follows:



96% of respondents were supportive of the overall plan and discussions indicated a general collective sense of responsibility, especially amongst children and young people.

Protection of the marine and natural environment, reducing waste and increasing recycling, helping people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient and ensuring roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers were voted for by the community as the most important priorities within the **A Greener Way For Our Bay** plan.

Further community-led discussion and conversations were centred around the following themes:



## Energy Efficiency

Improving energy efficiency for homes and vehicles along with widespread use of renewable energy sources such as solar power were frequently mentioned. These were recurring themes, particularly amongst families, children and young people.



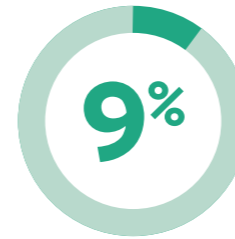
## Natural Environment & Green Spaces

Identified as the highest priority. Local people felt strongly about clean beaches and protecting the marine environment. Levels of litter and water pollution are of particular concern. Maintaining and improving existing green spaces by planting trees and reducing litter as well as creating new green spaces were rated highly.



## Sustainable Transport

Second most prominent theme. There is a need for more accessible, affordable, reliable and regular public transport as well as improvements to the public transport infrastructure. Action to improve walking and cycling routes around the Bay was deemed central to encouraging and supporting the uptake of active transport methods.



## Waste Management and Recycling

There was a consistent community-wide concern for improving recycling and waste management practices. Maximisation of domestic recycling opportunities including more convenient and accessible recycling services as well as education and information provision was strongly supported.



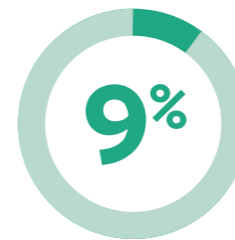
## Community

The local community agreed that transparent, sustained and consistent communication and community engagement is key to successful local climate action. Action and outcomes need to be visible.



## Environmental Actions & Sustainable Choices

Most people report already making behaviour changes to more environmentally friendly practices. The motivations for some energy efficiency and meal planning measures reflect the current economic climate rather than climate change mitigation.



## Local Issues

Residents and businesses identified the need for local town planning strategy and decisions to reflect the aims of the climate action plan in order to achieve Net Zero. Addressing poverty, homelessness and safety were other recurrent local themes that arose during the consultation.



## Concerns & Challenges

An initial degree of distrust around the plan, consultation process and the involvement of Torbay Council was observed. Many participants expressed concern that their feedback and opinions would not be listened to. The informal creative engagement process was able to reassure participants and dispel this initial distrust to achieve positive, meaningful engagement. Listening to the voices of the local people and ensuring plans, actions and outcomes are visible to all sectors of the community will help to breakdown these barriers and build trust over the long-term which is crucial in the success of the climate action plan.

A number of barriers to behaviour change and climate action were identified. Financial barriers including up-front costs for both individuals and businesses were most frequently cited. Lack of time and alternative priorities were additional barriers for local residents. Government incentive was indicated by businesses as more likely to incite action. Highlighting the co-benefits of sustainable behaviours as well as the environmental gains can help to address these issues.



*“Something must be done, I’m glad to see action being taken.”*

## Plan Priorities

Respondents were asked to vote for their top three priorities from the ten-points of the plan using the marble run.



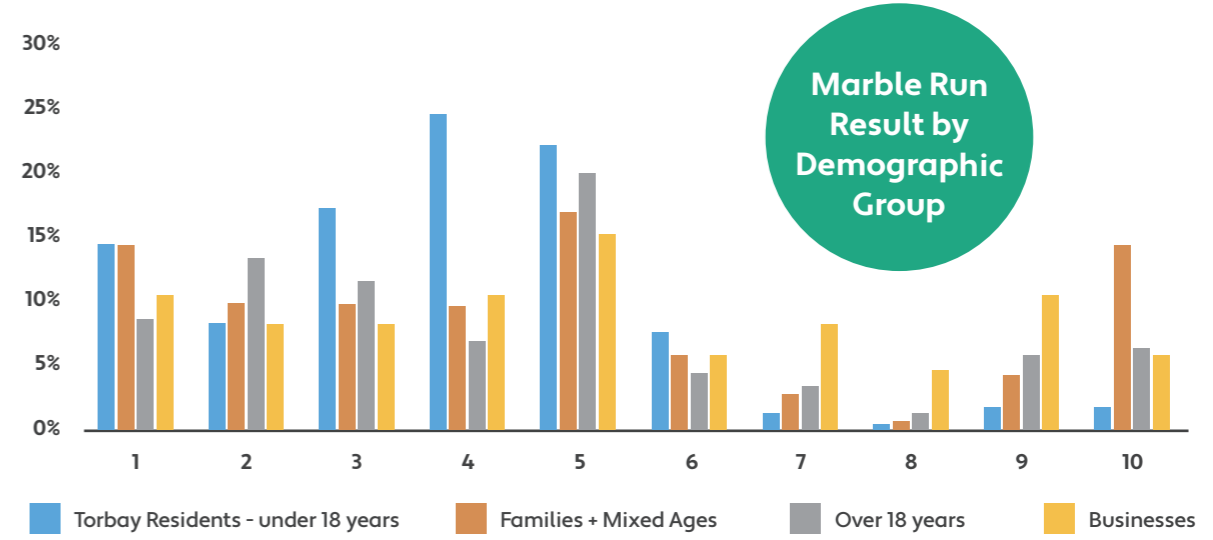
## Findings



The vast majority of respondents were generally supportive of the overall plan. Discussions across all the consultee groups reflected an overarching concern about a range of environmental issues and the effects of climate change in Torbay both now and in the future. There was wide-spread positive recognition of the need for a long-term plan to tackle local climate issues.

It was also noted that few people were aware of the climate action plan prior to interaction with the consultation activities and a significant number of consultees had not heard of the TCP.

4% of people disagreed with the plan. While a diverse range of reasons were cited by respondents, the most common theme was alternative priorities. While few of the respondents actively disagreed with the overall purpose of the plan, there was a general feeling that climate change mitigation should not be a high priority for Torbay. There was concern that prioritisation of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** could overshadow more important community issues such as tackling poverty, crime, antisocial behaviour and social inequality, diverting attention, action and funding away from these issues.



1. Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient
2. Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable
3. Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers
4. Reduce waste and increase recycling
5. Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment
6. Help green our businesses and create new jobs with the environment at their heart
7. Ensure the community is at the heart of local action
8. Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success
9. Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference
10. Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate



19%

Protection of the marine and natural environment



15%

Reduce Waste and Increase Recycling



13%

Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient



12%

Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers

Point 5 - Protection of the marine and natural environment in Torbay emerged as the top priority amongst respondents who voted on the marble run receiving 19% of all votes. This prioritisation was seen fairly consistently across the demographic groups who took part. Concern around protection, preservation and improvement of the natural and marine environment was even more prevalent in feedback from the ideas tags, comments and conversations during the consultation with 32% of people focusing on this theme.

There was little statistical difference in the overall prioritisation of points 1, 3 and 4. All were rated as important issues by the people of Torbay.

When considering the marble run prioritisation data, it is important to bear in mind that participants were asked to vote for their top three issues. So while the voting process has revealed the highest priority areas for people in Torbay, this does not mean that issues receiving lower numbers of votes are unimportant to the community. Conversations during the consultation process revealed that many participants felt that all the points are relevant and important.

***“I worry for the future of my kids, all those points should be addressed.”***

***“No objections to any of the points within the plan - all very relevant and important.”***



It is also important to note that while points 6 – 10 received comparatively fewer votes this may be due to the less tangible nature of the concepts. This was a trend observed across all the consultation groups but was particularly evident when consulting with younger children who did not really understand the language used or the overall notion of these points.

***“Many of the children didn’t understand some of the concepts of community and greening businesses, monitoring progress and having community at the heart of action.”***

***“A little difficult with the language for little ones.”***

Feedback from Creative Workshop Facilitators

Points 1 – 5 are issues that can and do directly affect the daily lives of the local community and achievement of these aims would lead to physical, visible impacts for residents and businesses. It is likely that the relatable nature of these issues influenced a higher proportion of votes.

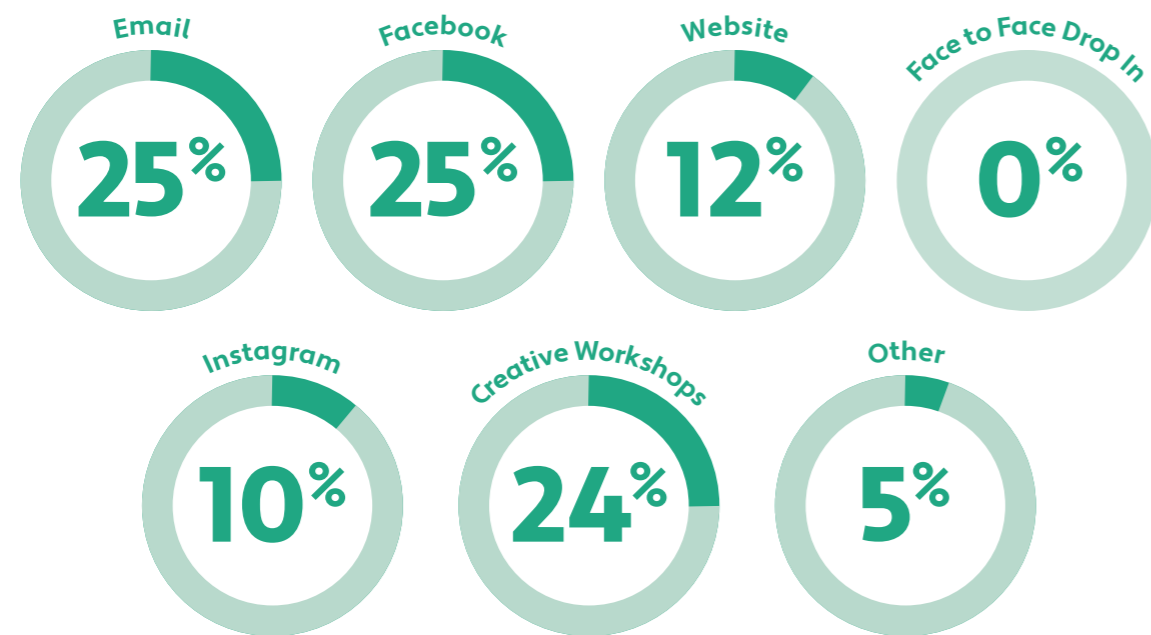


## Future Engagement Preferences

93 consultees at the Playing in the Streets and the Big Bay Bake events in October 2023 were asked to indicate their future engagement method preferences. These events took place prior to the launch of the main TCP consultation survey.

As well as informing future communication and engagement strategies, this information was used to facilitate awareness and participation with the creative engagement programme. While a successful mixed marketing and communication strategy was used, it should be noted that due to Facebook restrictions for content deemed to be political in nature, boosted posts could not be used.

### Engagement Preferences



**Other suggestions:** Posters, Beach Hut Magazine, Brownies, Clennon Valley Friends, Orchard Volunteers

## Themes for Discussion

A basic thematic analysis was used to classify the rich conversational data and the ideas and comments tags to identify themes for discussion.

Eight primary themes were identified. These themes were then narrowed down further into sub-themes based on the ideas and comments provided. These themes have been mapped against the ten priority points of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** to provide context and facilitate comparability across all arms of the public consultation.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY - 5%

#### A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 1

- Help more people live and work in homes and buildings that are energy efficient.



A focus on energy efficiency was a recurring theme particularly amongst families, children and young people.

### Renewable / Clean Energy

A transition to renewable and cleaner energy sources across the Bay was a frequent topic of conversation. A desire for widespread and standardised use of solar power was particularly prevalent amongst children and young people who felt that solar panels should be present on every building, especially new builds.

**“My view of a greener Torbay is one where solar panels are a common sight.”**

**“All new houses should have solar panels fitted.”**

Another notion proposed by students at South Devon College was that all parking meters and traffic lights across the Bay should be solar powered. There was a feeling that wherever possible the Local Authority should be using renewable, sustainable power sources and this would provide an opportunity to lead by example. The students acknowledged that this would mean a significant initial investment by the Local Authority, but it was felt this would be of long-term benefit in the transition to Net Zero.

The Torbay Climate Action Group highlighted the potential to make Torbay an ‘eco-resort’ bringing future economic benefits.

Building on this premise, a suggestion put forward at the ERBid Green Tourism Event, was the opportunity to utilise solar power including solar paving to make Torbay the UK’s first resort to be solar powered.

**“Make Torbay the UK’s first solar powered resort.”**

A less common but still important theme amongst the children and young people at Orchard Forest School was taking advantage of the coastal location of Torbay to install wind turbines as a renewable energy source. Interestingly, this view was not as popular with the parents and carers present at these events, or with consultees over 18 years of age across the other consultation activities. This is perhaps reflective of the wider controversial and provocative nature of wind turbine use both nationally and globally with noise concerns and visual aesthetics being the most frequently cited objections.

***“Look at Denmark for their energy solutions.”***



## Energy Efficient Buildings

Prioritising energy efficient homes and buildings was a recurring theme. Discussions focused on the need to not only ensure that new houses are built to high energy efficiency standards but the need to improve the energy efficiency of existing housing stock.

Concerns about the general affordability of adequate housing in the current economic climate were discussed by multiple consultees. It was felt this has led to more people living in poor quality, unsuitable housing, often in a significant state of disrepair thus widening the socio-economic divide with more people falling into fuel poverty. On this basis there was a consensus that action is needed to support residential retrofit and maximise any opportunities to support those in fuel poverty.

It was commonly suggested that grants and loans would need to be available and easily accessible in order to achieve this as the cost to homeowners would otherwise prove prohibitive.

***“So many houses in disrepair - need to improve energy efficiency of homes.”***

***“Regulating / controlling the building industry in the area to ensure homes are as energy efficient as possible.”***

***“Cheaper energy efficient housing.”***

***“Insulating old stock council homes.”***

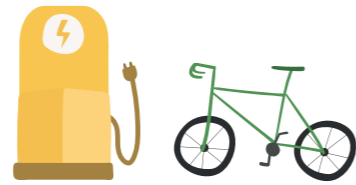
***“Grants and loans to help with upfront costs of home insulation.”***



## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL - 23%

### A Greener Way For Our Bay: Points 2 & 3

- Make sustainable transport and public transport more accessible and affordable.
- Ensure that roads and paths are safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers.



The issue of sustainable travel was the second most prominent theme across all the consultation groups. Overall, the data reveals a desire for a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable approach to travel and transportation within the Bay. This will involve consideration for environmental impact, accessibility and infrastructure development.

***“We definitely need more opportunities to use alternative transport such as bikes & buses.”***

### Public Transport

The need for more accessible, affordable, reliable and regular public transport options were frequently mentioned. This was particularly notable amongst older participants, those with additional needs and families at the Play Torbay events. The tangible impacts of improved public transport provision on the day-to-day lives of many community members underpins the strong desire to see improvements. Interestingly almost all conversations focused around bus travel rather than other modes of public transport.

Poor public transport infrastructure within the Bay was cited as the most frequent barrier to using public transport. There was a strong desire to see improvements in the infrastructure including more bus stops, increased timetables and improved transport links including expanded bus routes particularly to more rural areas of Torbay.

The lack of transport links was also cited as a barrier by a participant at Turning Heads who explained she is unable to navigate the multiple buses required to complete any journeys.

***“I don't like the bus it's confusing for me and my carer.”***

The adverse effects of poor public transport infrastructure were discussed extensively at the Community Builders social event at Paignton Library, in particular the impacts on social isolation and potential health implications. One older participant living in Broadsands reported feeling trapped now the community bus service has stopped as he is unable to navigate the hills on foot. Other respondents explained they are unable to get to either The Willows or Torbay Hospital without taking expensive taxis, which are inhibitive in themselves.

Affordability was the other frequently mentioned issue. Cheaper or free fares were consistently proposed by all groups as a way to encourage more people to use public transport and reduce car travel.

***“Encourage people to drive less.”***

***“We need to reduce car journeys.”***

***“The buses & local transport really should be free for young people so that they don't rely on being driven everywhere. Better for the environment & better for their independence, mental health & investing in Torbay's young people.”***

### Sustainable Transportation

Increasing electric car ownership and car sharing were common suggestions and were generally viewed positively among respondents of all ages.

***“I would really like to see more people car sharing.”***

The need to improve electric vehicle charging networks around the Bay was viewed as crucial to enable a shift to more sustainable personal transport methods.

There were concerns raised about the impact and cost implications for drivers if a push to greener vehicles is made, particularly for rural communities and those on low incomes. There were also a very small number of consultees who questioned whether a move to electric vehicles is the right approach when trying to achieve carbon-neutrality, raising concerns about the carbon footprint of the production process.

***“Are electric cars the answer when they use so many natural resources in their production? An electric car would have to cover 70,000 miles before it has a better CO<sup>2</sup> footprint than a fossil fuel car due to the production process.”***

Unverified claim made by Roselands Primary School, Staff Member



## Active Transport Infrastructure

There was significant support for a long-term plan to improve walking and cycle paths. This was deemed central to encouraging and supporting the uptake of active transport methods.

***“Better cycle routes, less potholes as not at all safe to cycle.”***

***“More cycle paths next to major roads - linking towns. More cycle paths could be beside railway lines for example.”***

***“More bike lanes where cycle paths are not possible.”***

***“Create cycle ways and return footpaths and promenades to pedestrians.”***

A number of participants throughout the consultation suggested that more opportunities to hire bikes/e-bikes would encourage more active transport.

***“Electric Car / Bike hire sites - riding round the bay.”***

***“Park and Ride into town - with storage facilities / with charging, access to bikes and scooters, with information.”***

This issue of safer and more accessible paths for cyclists and walkers was observed to be more prominent amongst children and young people in Paignton than amongst other groups in the consultation. The number of votes for this issue was consistently higher at Play Torbay events in Paignton (28% at Wild Fox HAF and 28% at Paignton Library), Roselands Primary School (19%) and South Devon College Green Week (25%).

Many of the children and young people reported that they walk or cycle to school/college daily as well as to access other activities and amenities, so having safer paths and pavements would have an important positive impact on their day-to-day life. Further discussion with respondents at Play Torbay indicates this may be due in part to a lack of personal transport options, with some families having no access to a car due to financial barriers. This is reflective of the national picture where 37% of the poorest fifth of households in the UK do not have access to a car compared to just 8% of the richest fifth of households<sup>1</sup>. Torbay registers in the top 20% most deprived districts in England (2019)<sup>2</sup>, with a number of the most deprived wards located in Paignton.

1. The Health Foundation (2023) Health Foundation analysis of University of Essex – Institute for Social and Economic Research, Understanding Society UK, 2010-11 to 2019-20  
2. ONS (2019). English Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Consideration for the accessibility of pavements and paths for wheelchair and mobility scooter users and pedestrians with limited mobility was particularly important amongst consultees at Turning Heads and the social event hosted by the Community Builders. This included the issue of cars parking on pavements.

***“Consider wheelchair safe paths as well as being safer for cyclists and walkers.”***

***“Paths that are safer for mobility scooters and people like me who use sticks or wheelchairs.”***

***“We need more wheelchair safe and accessible paths.”***

***“There are too many cars parked on pavements (and trees lifting pavements) affecting walking and using mobility vehicles.”***

Feedback was also received from some of the participants at the Community Builders event that they felt the wording used in point 3 of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** is quite ableist with the focus on encouraging walking and cycling. As community members with limited mobility and wheelchair users who are keen to support this plan, there was a feeling of exclusion. The wording of the plan and the wider issues of accessibility should be given adequate consideration, potentially being addressed explicitly within future iterations of the plan to ensure inclusivity and support ongoing community engagement.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING - 9%

### A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 4

- Reduce waste and increase recycling.



The consultation revealed a consistent, community-wide concern for improving recycling and waste management practices in Torbay.

It should be noted that while the results of the marble run show that reducing waste and increasing recycling was the highest priority for respondents under 18 years of age, the proportionate results are only representative of those under 12 years of age. Interestingly, this issue rated low on the priority list for teenagers and young adults with only 7% of consultees in this group rating the issue amongst their top three. This was reflected in the consultation discourse where this theme was not viewed as being a priority.

### Recycling Provision

A lot of comments about recycling were received with most supporting the maximisation of opportunities for domestic recycling including more convenient and accessible recycling services. A desire for the provision of more information about what is recyclable or reusable and where to take it was expressed by many respondents.

There was also a number of discussions highlighting concern about how items are actually recycled and where recycling is sent. A number of community members questioned whether items are sent overseas rather than using a more sustainable approach.

***“Look at Cornwall for recycling scheme - arrange visit to Cornwall recycling - Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre - 0 to landfill - this is an amazing example of how recycling centres can work with local businesses and organisations to ensure waste products are utilised in areas where they are needed.”***

The consultation feedback indicates that a commitment to sustainable waste management practice is important. Education, community awareness and information provision with a focus on transparency, as well as more opportunities for reuse and repair are strongly supported.

***“Opportunities to recycle furniture, printer cartridges or electrics etc & it being passed on/ sold on rather than all being thrown in skips as happens in Torbay whether it’s in good condition or not.”***

***“More recycling opportunities for furniture - not just the tip.”***

***“Bigger recycling bins - smaller ones not fit for purpose.”***

### Bin and Waste Collection

General waste bin provision and collection was a very common theme during discussions across the consultee groups. While not directly relating to A Greener Way For Our Bay, there was a strong feeling amongst the community that Local Authority bin collection services should be more frequent and that this would help to reduce fly-tipping and may even help to encourage more recycling if all waste and recycling bins were collected more regularly.

***“Empty black bins weekly.”***

***“Black bin collection weekly to reduce fly-tipping.”***

***“People should be fined for letting rubbish mount up outside their house.”***

There was also a significant number of discussions about the responsibility of businesses along with the transport and manufacturing sectors locally, nationally and globally. A popular view was that businesses should consider the sustainability ethos of their products and suppliers. Being supported and/or incentivised to switch to more sustainable materials for packaging and the items themselves will help to encourage sustainable practices and disposal processes.

***“Landfill is poisoning the ground, we should tax the companies who create so much rubbish, packaging needs to be redesigned as even recycling takes up energy.”***

***“Litter - needs to be tackled. Could businesses create biodegradable packaging?”***

***“Make more food packages recyclable so it doesn’t need to go in the black bin.”***

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES - 32%

### A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 5

- Enjoy and protect our marine and natural environment.



Protecting the marine and natural environment in Torbay was consistently the most important topic amongst participants of all ages and demographics revealing a desire for increased access to nature and a collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

### Litter and Clean Towns

Many participants expressed deep concerns about the level of litter in Torbay, particularly on the beaches and were positive in their support for action on this issue. Increasing the provision of public bins was widely supported as a method to tackle littering.

***“Simply putting more bins on the beaches might make people more likely to put their litter in a bin.”***

A number of people suggested regular and sustained community action such as litter picking.

***“Create a competition with the litter picking/beach clean - get kids to compete based on volume/weight of litter collected.”***

***“Pick up ten pieces of litter a day.”***

Dog poo in green spaces, on pathways and pavements was also highlighted as an urgent issue by a number of respondents. This concern was particularly prevalent amongst children and young people.

***“Dog mess makes our green spaces unsafe.”***

***“I hate seeing dog poo everywhere, it’s all over footpaths it makes walking harder.”***



### Green Spaces & Protection of Wildlife and Biodiversity

The creation of more green spaces and parks was rated highly along with preservation and improvement of existing green spaces. This perspective was observed across all consultee groups. The importance of access to safe, well maintained green spaces for all members of the community was an important topic of conversation. This included the benefits for health and wellbeing, increasing community and civic pride, education and the role of these green spaces in helping to mitigate the local effects of climate change in the future.

Planting more trees was commonly cited as the best way to act on these concerns. Preventing existing trees from being cut down in the future was also commonly mentioned and there was a notable level of residual anger over the felling of the palm trees in Torquay. This was frequently used as an example of local degradation of the natural environment.

One consultee proposed community tree planting initiatives could be effectively utilised as positive collective community action to help preserve and improve the green spaces in Torbay. The participant explained this is used to positive effect in Turkey where businesses could donate/ sponsor the purchase of trees which were then planted by the community fostering a real sense of ownership.

Many adult participants also wanted protection for existing green spaces to prevent them being lost to new development.

***“More green spaces for people to explore around Torbay.”***

***“Having more access to outdoor spaces - giving people ownership over their outdoor spaces.”***

***“Stop cutting down existing trees.”***

***“Wish they hadn’t cut down the palm trees.”***

***“We need more safe green spaces for everyone. The Orchard Forest school shows how important these spaces are to learn and teach us to respect our environment.”***

***“More green space that anyone can use.”***    ***“More parks.”***



***“Let trees grow.”***

***“Better maintenance and equipment of children’s parks and green spaces.”***

***“More greener spaces and more parks.”***

***“Stop cutting trees for developing.”***

***“Stop deforestation, plant more trees.”***

At EcoFest, a number of discussions emphasised the economic potential of a well-maintained natural environment citing its value in attracting visitors and tourists.

***“Better access and valuing our natural environment and its worth / potential to bring in economic benefits including visitors / tourists.”***

There was a notable focus on biodiversity and protecting wildlife habitats amongst discussions with children and young people as well as adults at Turning Heads. Protection of wildlife was a higher priority than tree planting amongst young residents.

***“Don’t kill the animals, we need to stop or our world will be destroyed.”***

***“More lovely plants and animals in Paignton.”***

***“Stop cutting down trees to protect wildlife.”***

***“Conservation of wild animals.”***

***“More wildlife.”***

***“More eco-safe environments.”***

***“More animals.”***

***“More wild flowers for bees.”***

***“Help animals in need – look after their habitats.”***

***“Protect our wildlife so more birds can visit my garden, seeing birds makes me happy.”***



## Beaches and Marine Protection

Perhaps unsurprisingly, action to clean up, improve and protect the local beaches and marine environment was a high priority for all participants.

Sea water quality was an emotive issue of significant concern along with litter/plastic on the beaches and in the sea with many calling for urgent and decisive action. In addition, community action in the form of regular beach cleans was frequently suggested.

***“Many of the Community Builder event attendees reported they have grandchildren and great grandchildren they can’t take swimming in the sea due to the heavy rainfall and the subsequent sewage being pumped into the sea. They feel this is absolutely criminal and not something that should be an issue in a seaside resort.”***

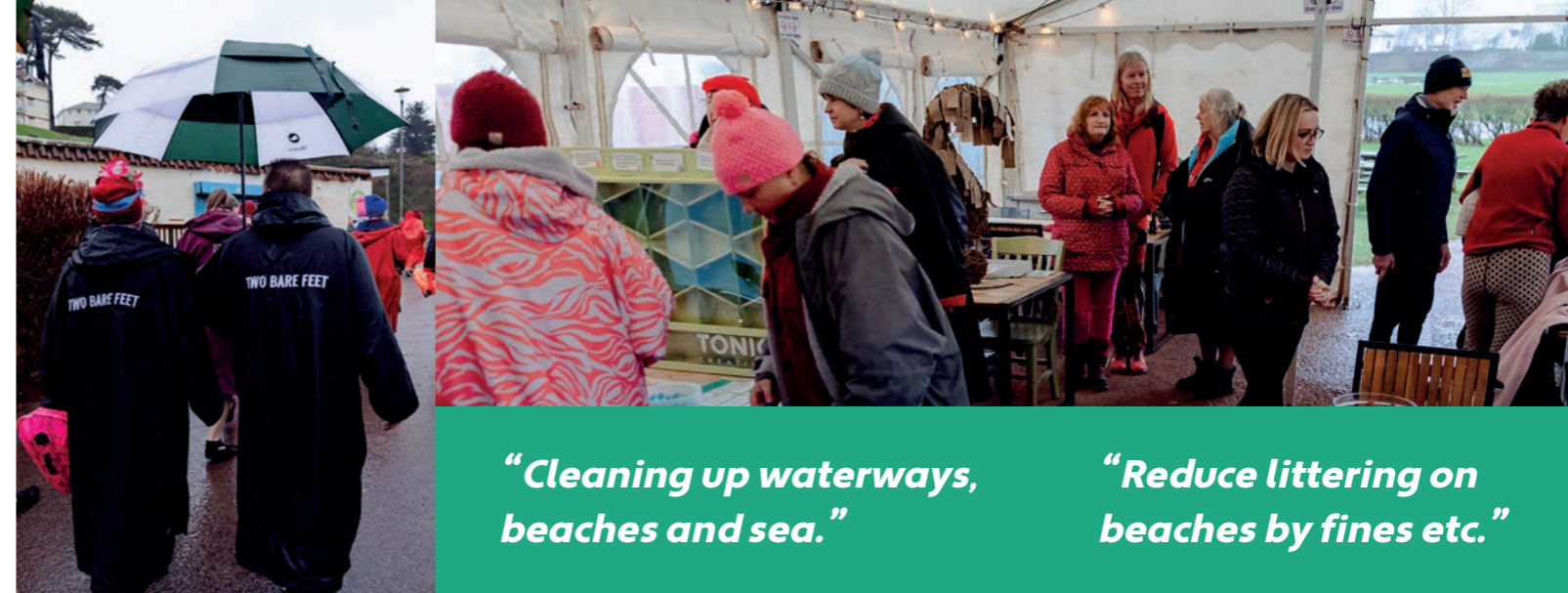
Consultation Session Facilitator

***“Improve our marine environment. Reduce sewage let into our sea.”***

***“The beaches need to be clean so the sea creatures don’t swallow plastic.”***

***“When I go to the seaside I hate seeing the plastic on the beach and the rubbish in the sea it makes me angry people don’t care more about our beaches.”***

***“Cleaner beach and sea would be a start.”***



***“Cleaning up waterways, beaches and sea.”***

***“Reduce littering on beaches by fines etc.”***

***“I hate seeing plastic in the sea, our fish are eating it and getting poisoned and surely that affects the fisherman in Brixham.”***

***“It makes me sad seeing so much rubbish in the sea and on the beaches.”***

***“I feel sorry for the fish who have to swim in rubbish and sewage. It’s gross.”***

***“We use the beach a lot, I wish the local tourist shops would sell less plastic rubbish, it ends up on the beach and in the sea.”***

***“We’re really lucky in Torbay that we have beautiful coastal bays and marine life, I just wish people would respect it more.”***

As part of the discussions about preservation and protection of the local marine environment, there was suggestion by the Torbay Climate Action Group that seaweed should not be removed from the local beaches. As well as providing a natural shoreline defence against aggressive sea conditions, it also provides important nutrients and organic matter for the marine ecosystem.

Consultees at Turning Heads also made calls for increased accessibility to local beaches and the sea. A number of people reported their access to the coastline is limited and there are not enough safe ways to enjoy the beach or get into the sea that accommodate a wide range of disabilities. This raises interesting considerations for future plans.





## COMMUNITY - 6%

### A Greener Way For Our Bay: Points 7, 8 & 10

- Ensure the community is at the heart of local action.
- Monitor progress and set up initiatives that celebrate success.
- Work with nature and the local community to prepare for a changing climate.



Residents, young people and businesses generally agreed that engagement with the local community to ensure they are given the opportunity to contribute to climate action within the Bay was important.

Discussions around the need for sustained and consistent 'non-technical' communication about the plan, actions, intentions and outcomes will be key to facilitating engagement across all sectors of the local community.

More opportunity for volunteering and to get involved in environmental action was mentioned by a few consultees. Using community events to engage all sectors of the community, raise awareness and update the community about local actions and progress was discussed by participants at the Love Swim.

***“Inclusive groups across Torbay protecting the environment.”***

***“More opportunities to volunteer - beach cleans, wildlife surveys, rehabilitation, planting trees.”***

***“Create an annual event celebrating the environment. The air show brings people out so why not an annual event on that scale.”***

***“Arrange more events... e.g. A big camp out.”***

***“Recycled art trail.”***      ***“More charity events.”***

There was also a feeling that focusing on the co-benefits of community involvement could increase the sense of pride and enhance community spirit. The role of acknowledging and celebrating the successes of those who are trying to make a difference in supporting this type of action was mentioned by a few respondents.



***“Make people feel proud of the area.”***

***“We need to encourage more of a community spirit - tidying up your own area in front of house. Not assuming it's someone else's responsibility to pick up litter. Not assuming council role to pick all litter up. If everyone did a little bit themselves, it would all be cleaner/tidier place to live.”***

***“This comes down to celebrating successes and those who are trying to make a difference - climate champions in the local area!”***

***“Acknowledging those who have made steps to protect our natural world, reduce waste and recycle.”***

***“Celebrate successful energy efficient building contractors.”***

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS & SUSTAINABLE CHOICES - 8%

### A Greener Way For Our Bay: Point 9

- Help everyone understand why change is needed and how sustainable choices will make a difference.



### Education

The need for education relating to climate change was a theme across many of the participant groups. A number of respondents discussed the need for community educational awareness campaigns to support Bay-wide climate action as well as specific education within schools.

***“Teach ecology so kids learn to love and protect the environment - all ages.”***

***“More education in schools with interactive talks. Get into primary schools and get recycling / environmental awareness onto the curriculum.”***

***“More forest school opportunities for all schools.”***

***“We need to help people understand how to make sustainable choices and proper opportunities to recycle products that were not ready to be thrown away.”***

***“More emphasis and education given on marine ecology.”***

***“Information and guidelines for businesses - sustainability and Net Zero. Sources of information - workbooks of what we can read/see targeting business types.”***

### Actions: Individuals & Businesses

Individual actions to help tackle climate change was a frequent topic of conversation across all groups. As a tangible, relatable concept many respondents reported they have already made small behaviour changes to more environmentally-friendly practices. Reducing waste including food waste, increasing recycling as well as making more conscious purchasing decisions and reducing energy usage within the home were common actions.

***“Share the Cambridge initiative of Tick Zero - everyone reducing their consumption by 6% in a year will have a huge impact - provide more manageable approaches to people. Ensuring that more people have an understanding of what Net Zero means and how you can offset your impact in another area to ensure you are making a difference - like planting trees!”***

A high level of importance and priority was placed on individual actions by children and young people in particular. This may be due in part to the high profile of these actions and behaviours in local, national and global campaigns over recent years as well active participation in these actions in their home environment.

***“Our family don't turn the heating on, we just wear more clothes.”***

***“Use own gardens / allotments to grow food.”***

***“Take own containers to greengrocers / butchers (reduce waste).”***



It should be noted that while a significant proportion of people involved in the consultation reported climate positive behaviour change, discussion with some adults indicates this is equally driven by other priorities such as the increased cost of living as opposed to purely as an environmental response.

A small number of respondents over 18 years of age cautioned that individual actions will only achieve so much and focusing on this should not be instead of wider Local Authority action but should complement it.

Local businesses expressed the need for support to make changes, both in information provision and expertise, and access to grants and funding.

***“Consideration around the need to make funding more accessible and share opportunities for funding for businesses to be able to make energy efficiency changes in the way that they work. How can they access funding?”***

***“Support for smaller guesthouse businesses in trying to fund ways to reach Net Zero?”***

Participants at the Torbay Climate Action Group Monday Mend session highlighted the importance of information and education to support and drive positive behaviour change by changing local attitudes towards the reduce, reuse and recycle philosophy.

***“There is a need to focus on attitudes towards recycling, repairing, being energy efficient. It feels that in areas where poverty is higher (Paignton) there is an attitude that repairing clothes has an image of being poor and there is negativity towards this. Overall attitude in society is that if you are saving energy and repairing things rather than buying new then you are failing to achieve in some way. Or that you are having to work hard to achieve these things & therefore failing.”***

As demonstration of this, concern about how Beach Hut magazine advertised the Monday Mend sessions was cited.

***“The advert said that those attending could enjoy drinking tea & eating cake whilst carrying out these ‘onerous’ (not the term used but it was something along those lines) tasks! Not what should be being portrayed.”***

This highlights an interesting issue in the portrayal of climate positive action and the importance of wording and focus. This could result in the encouragement or hindrance of changing attitudes and behaviours.



## LOCAL ISSUES - 9%

### Town Planning

A number of consultees expressed the view that in order to achieve net-zero and mitigate the potential effects of climate change in Torbay, a coherent and collective approach is required. It was felt this needs to be embedded into future town planning strategy so subsequent decisions reflect the aims of the plan. There were concerns that town planning decisions that are not aligned with a shared goal of Net Zero will have the capacity to undermine the objectives of the climate action plan.

***“Only building based on capacity of area.”***

***“Regulating / controlling the building industry in the area to ensure homes are as energy efficient as possible.”***

***“Designing housing developments to reduce travel. Ensuring new build homes are interspersed between business industries and areas for work so that people can live nearer to their work & so that it encourages walking & cycling to work & shops rather than using cars.”***

***“Planning / Town Planning / Building Planning - strategies that are cost effective.”***

***“Current planning systems - what can be done / council.”***

As part of future town planning measures, the older residents at the Community Builders event commented on the need to ensure there are adequate public facilities across each town to enable accessibility for all.

***“A complete renovation of Paignton.”***

***“There also aren't enough toilets, which also prevents me from venturing out.”***

### Safety

Feeling safe was an unexpected theme emerging from discussions. This was cited as a barrier to getting out and about and using public spaces within the Bay and was particularly prominent among older residents and younger children.

Discussions and proffered solutions centred around a more sustained police presence and long-term strategy to deal with antisocial behaviour and drug use.

***“They want to get out more but don't feel safe in the town centre. They also say there is a lot of litter and at times drugs paraphernalia.”***

Community Builders Consultation Facilitator

Conversely, organisations as part of Imagine This shared the frustrations of young people at not having outdoor spaces to be without being accused of anti-social behaviour. This was reported as a constant issue for young people and a significant barrier to experiencing and enjoying the natural environment.

***“Wherever they are, for whatever reason they are instantly assumed to be causing problems especially when they are trying to enjoy outdoor spaces.”***

### Poverty & Homelessness

Poverty was identified as the biggest wider issue in Torbay during discussions at Play Torbay and EcoFest. This led to questions about the potential cost to individuals and businesses, with concerns that local climate actions may disproportionately adversely affect the poorest members of the community, widening the socio-economic gap.

A number of young children at Play Torbay focussed their suggestions on helping homeless people.

***“Please help homeless people.”***

***“Feed homeless people more so they live more.”***

## CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES - 8%

### Distrust

An initial degree of distrust around the plan, consultation process and the involvement of Torbay Council emerged as a theme across numerous community groups. While it was explained to consultees that **A Greener Way For Our Bay** has been developed by the TCP, there remained significant discussion and comment about the involvement of Torbay Council. While most respondents agreed that Local Authority support and involvement is necessary to achieve the long-term aims of the plan, there was concern that local community views and opinions may be disregarded.

***“One respondent we spoke to felt totally disheartened after moving to Torbay with hope to contribute in some way. They now report feeling undervalued and that their opinions and knowledge are not taken seriously or valued at all within the community or by the Council. They feel that the Council are responsible for this. This opinion was shared by many in the group who feel negatively about anything that links with council plans.”*** Creative Engagement Session Facilitator

A sizeable number of groups expressed doubt about whether anything would happen or change as a result of the public consultation and didn't feel their views were likely to be taken into account. There was suspicion that the plan may already be set in stone and that the consultation is merely a box-ticking exercise rather than a real attempt to listen to the voices of the people in Torbay.

***“What's the point in responding as nothing will actually change & no one is actually listening or cares about my views.”***

***“Will these things actually happen?”***

The informal creative engagement process was able to reassure participants and dispel this initial distrust to achieve positive, meaningful engagement. This constitutes an incredibly important consideration for the development and success of **A Greener Way For Our Bay** and for future community engagement including communication of the plan, actions and outcomes. Consistent and transparent communication with all sectors of the local community including traditionally hard-to-reach audiences is crucial. This may take a long-term sustained commitment to constructive community engagement and conversation to break down these barriers and build trust over the long-term.

***“What's the point, as no one is actually listening - despite us having huge amounts of knowledge - side-lined and ignored.”***

### Funding

There were many questions raised around how the climate action plan would be funded with particular concerns about whether implementation would divert time and money away from other services and other local issues that may be seen as more important. Concerns around funding were particularly prevalent amongst the ERBid group.

***“How will the changes be funded?”***

### Barriers

Conversations throughout the consultation process highlighted a series of potential barriers, particularly relating to individual behaviour change and priority.

- Cost was consistently cited as the biggest barrier for both individuals and businesses when considering actions to tackle climate change. This issue was particularly prevalent amongst families at Play Torbay who reported the cost-of-living crisis was the biggest barrier for making climate-friendly changes.

The potential upfront costs were cited as an area of concern for businesses in particular. It was suggested that quicker and easier access to grants and expertise would be helpful in overcoming these barriers.

- Other priorities – local families also reported that although they are supportive of the climate action plan in principle, climate change is low on their list of priorities. This was particularly cited in relation to behaviour change where the current economic climate has led to more urgent priorities in terms of time and money constraints for many local families.

There was also a small number of comments that on a global scale, there are bigger and more important issues to worry about such as economic and political instability and war.

- Education and information – several respondents reported that they found existing advice about sustainability and greening difficult to access and often confusing or difficult to understand. More joined-up provisions with related services working together would help to improve this.
- Global climate change action – while most people were supportive of the overall climate action plan, a few participants commented that they were unsure of how much difference localised action would actually make if the biggest polluting countries like America, China and India are not forced to take action.
- Central Government support. Discussion at the ERBid Group recognised the importance of central Government support for both nationwide and localised climate change action. Central support and prioritisation for green initiatives will be the main determinant for the successful implementation of local action. Any change of priority at this level could adversely impact the plan.



## Children and Young People

The creative engagement programme included a series of 10 creative workshops specifically targeted at children and young people, an audience traditionally underrepresented in community consultation processes.

A recent report produced by the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (2023)<sup>3</sup> suggests that 49% of young people are extremely worried about climate change and this was reflected in discussions with the children and young people who took part.

The creative engagement workshops provided the opportunity for interesting discussions led by the children and young people about climate change and other local issues important to them. A number of recurring themes around the topic of climate change were identified including eco-anxiety, frustration, powerlessness and fear.

Discussions revealed an engaged and climate aware audience, with many reporting they are worried about the future. Most of the children and young people reported individual behaviour changes at home where they and their families are already making climate aware decisions such as turning off lights to use less energy and meal planning to minimise food waste.

***“Who is going to care about the environment if I don’t.”***

There was a strong feeling of frustration that not enough is being done locally in Torbay, as well as nationally and globally to tackle the issue of climate change. Young people at South Devon College felt that big businesses around the world should be doing much more to limit the impact of climate change and there was a feeling that the current focus on individual behaviour change is distracting from the things that will make the biggest difference. One young person commented...

***“We can each only do so much. Focusing on the individual person makes it feel like wading against the tide. It’s too much.”***

There was also an underlying anger around the issue of climate change, particularly amongst students at South Devon College.

***“Adults have ruined the planet and now they are expecting young people to fix it or come up with solutions to fix the problems they created.”***

***“Is it too late? Governments in charge have known for years and have not taken it (the climate crisis) seriously.”***

Other children at Play Torbay reported they felt dismissed as being too young to worry about climate change which increased their level of worry and frustration.

***“If you’re passionate about making changes and being environmentally friendly, grown ups just ask you why you are worried, then tell you it’s not something you should be worrying about and say it’s not your problem. But someone has to do something.”***

Most participants felt strongly that making climate action a priority with young people was extremely important but that it needs to be relatable to them and where they live. Awareness and education were identified as key but the message needs to be relatable. People need to see how climate change will negatively affect them and the local area and actually see how their actions will make a positive difference.

***“Just watching a film in school is not enough.”***

The importance of celebrating successes and those who are trying to make a difference was discussed by children and families at the Play Torbay ASRUS event. Having community climate champions in the local area was proposed.

Working with children and young people and giving agency to have their voices heard on issues that will affect their future is incredibly important. The young consultees emphasised their desire to be listened to by decision makers and expressed the importance of being able to see the impact of the changes they have suggested.

3. Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2023): Preserving the world for future generations: Children and young people’s perspective on how to tackle climate change.



## Reflections

### The Consultation Process

The aim of the creative engagement process was to support meaningful engagement and collaboration with the local community in Torbay. The creative engagement programme was well received and allowed targeted informal consultation with people who would not normally engage with traditional consultation exercises. It was successful in gathering a diverse range of opinions and championing widespread participation.

***“I love the way you are consulting with people in such a creative way - lovely to see a really positive consultation that is really listening to people’s views!”***

***“This is a great way to have our say thanks.”***

***“You’ve found such lovely ways to engage with people & get their thoughts!”***

***“This is a great way to collect ideas. It’s nice to have the opportunity to have a say.”***

The importance of a face-to-face consultation process was illustrated by the ability of the sessions to overcome the initial distrust around the plan due to the association with Torbay Council discussed previously in the report. It is also likely that using an independent organisation to create and deliver a more informal creative engagement programme allowed an additional level of confidence, increasing the breadth of participation.

***“We generally found that once we explained the purpose of the draft plan, the suggested commitments, the process with the online consultation and that the draft has been created by the Torbay Climate Partnership, people were more positive and happy to engage in the consultation process. The face-to-face nature of the engagement programme allowed the time to explain who the TCP are, that it includes businesses and organisations from across Torbay which increased confidence and understanding. We were able to explain the consultation process and the aim to consult with local people of all ages and backgrounds. People were pleased and receptive to know that their concerns, suggestions and discussions will be presented to the partnership and then used to inform changes to the plan in response to those concerns.”***

Creative Engagement Facilitator

### Hard-to-Reach Groups

The informal, creative approach to the engagement strategy used during this consultation programme led to multigenerational involvement from all sectors of the community including the traditionally harder to reach groups such as children, young people and residents with additional needs. This was achieved by adopting a sustained and targeted engagement approach from the outset, highlighting the importance of a strategic and proactive approach.

### Access to Main Consultation Survey

Feedback from a number of older residents who took part in the creative consultation suggests that having paper copies of the main digital TCP consultation survey in more locations around the Bay would increase their ability to participate. Some participants at the social event hosted by the Community Builders who do not have digital access and were not interested in supported digital access through the local libraries commented they would have liked to complete the main survey in addition to the creative consultation activities. While all participants in the creative engagement programme were signposted to the main TCP consultation survey, there may have been an opportunity to increase survey uptake further by offering the opportunity to complete a paper copy of the main TCP survey at the face-to-face creative engagement events.

## Appendix A: Ideas Tags & Comments

A complete renovation of Paignton  
Accessibility and disability  
Arrange more events giving a greater ... of outdoor... activities. A big camp out for ...  
Ask people to do more walking and cycling to school / work rather than use cars  
Be creative with cast offs  
Beach Cleans  
Better bus station in Newton Abbott  
Better maintenance and equipment of children's parks and green spaces  
Better public transport  
Better public transport to rural places might help  
Bigger recycling bins - smaller ones not fit for purpose  
Black bin collection weekly to reduce fly-tipping  
Bus fares - £2 bus fares, strategic ??? , infrastructure in place for traffic light priority  
Businesses and individuals: Tick zero -6% reduction per year if everyone does this  
Canal working with Sustrans  
Car sharing / walking more often  
Cars powered by hydro power  
Cheaper energy efficient housing  
Clean  
Clean Air  
Clean air and water  
Clean beaches  
Clean planes and flying buses  
Clean Towns  
Clean up and help the environment and the people  
Clean ups in the ocean  
Clean water to swim in  
Cleaner oceans / beaches  
Clearer air  
Clearer waters  
Community  
Community  
Council should focus on more bin collections  
Create an annual event celebrating the environment. The air show brings people out so why not an annual event on that scale  
Create cycle ways and return footpaths and promenades to pedestrians  
Culture and diversity  
Cycle paths. Walking and cycling investment plan - long term plan  
Disposal of rubbish  
Don't kill the animals, we need to stop or our world will be destroyed  
Eco-friendly buildings  
Electric Car / Bike hire sites - riding round the bay  
Electric Cars  
Empty black bins weekly  
Encourage more recycling at home  
Encourage more schools to use walking/buses  
Encourage people not to throw plastic in the sea

Encourage people to drive less  
Encourage people to own electric cars if they do have to drive  
Equitable  
Feed homeless people more so they live more  
Flying cars  
Free bus/train for young people  
Free public transport  
Free public transport  
Free public transport  
Get SWISSCo to clean beach  
Getting rid of plastic and rubbish using divers as volunteers  
Grants or loans to help with upfront costs of home insulation  
Green tourism  
Health and wellbeing - Centre in County for experiences  
Help animals in need - look after their habitats  
Help stop pollution  
I think that there will be more electric cars because there are not that many  
I think there will be more electric cars  
I would really like to see more people car sharing  
I'd like no smelly cars by 2050!  
Improve our marine environment. Reduce sewage let into our sea  
Incentives for recycling, money off council tax  
Inclusive  
Inclusive groups across Torbay protecting the environment  
Insulating old stock council homes  
Less car centric roads  
Less cars  
Less cutting trees  
Less dangerous sea for ocean life  
Less killing animals  
Less litter around the roads and pavements  
Less litter on beaches  
Less sea pollution  
Let trees grow  
Lidl re-open in Paignton  
Litter - needs to be tackled. Could businesses create biodegradable packaging?  
Make more food packages recyclable so it doesn't need to go in the black bin  
Make people feel proud of area  
Make Torbay first UK resort to be solar paved  
Make Torbay the 1st solar-powered UK resort  
More accessible public transport  
More animals  
More bike lanes where cycle paths are not possible  
More bike routes and cycle paths  
More bins and more recycling  
More boat trips in Torbay  
More charging stations for electric cars



More charity events

More cycle paths

More cycle paths could be beside railway lines for example

More cycle paths next to major roads - linking towns

More eco-safe environments

More education in schools with interactive talks. Get into primary schools and get recycling / environmental awareness onto the curriculum

More electric cars

More electric cars

More electric cars with noise

More emphasis and education given on marine ecology

More forest school opportunities for all schools

More grass

More green space so anyone can use

More green spaces for nature and wildlife

More green spaces for people to explore around Torbay

More greener spaces and more parks

More greenery

More opportunities to volunteer - beach cleans, wildlife surveys, rehabilitation, planting trees

More opportunity to repair things, recycle furniture rather than everything being disposed of.

More parks

More pedestrianised streets and roads

More people

More people would recycle if bins were collected more often

More playing monkey bars

More recycling

More recycling stuff

More shows

More solar panels in all buildings

More trash cans

More trash cans on the beach so people don't litter

More trees

More trees

More wheelchair safe and accessible paths

More wild flowers for bees

More wildlife

My view of a greener Torbay is one where solar panels are a common sight and knowledge of what/where to recycle is general info

No sewage in the sea please

Opportunities to recycle furniture, printer cartridges or electrics etc & it being passed on/ sold on rather than all being thrown in skips as happens in Torbay whether it's in good condition or not.

Our family don't turn the heating on, we just wear more clothes

Park and Ride into town - with storage facilities / with charging, access to bikes and scooters, with information

People should be fined for letting rubbish mount up outside their house

Pick up after your dog

Pick up ten pieces of litter a day

Planning systems - what can be done / council

Preserve green spaces

Promote plant-based foods and choices

Protection of the harbour / marina

Put extra tax on cheap plastic items

Recycle more and encourage people everywhere to recycle more of their rubbish

Recycled art trail

Recycling opportunities for furniture - not just tip

Reduce car journeys

Reduce inflation

Reduce littering on beaches by fines etc

Rent a bike service

Respect the sea and save our world

Rishi - Sue him to make him explain

Safe

Safe

Safe cycling

Safer places for animals

Save the bears

Start with cleaning

Stop cars, vans, buses etc parking on pavements

Stop cutting down existing trees

Stop cutting down trees to protect wildlife

Stop cutting trees for developing

Stop deforestation, plant more trees

Stop dropping litter on the floor

Stop polluting oceans

Stop putting sewage in the water

Stop seafront cafes using plastic containers

Storage facilities for equipment

Sustainable

Take own containers to greengrocers / butchers (reduce waste)

Teach ecology so kids learn to love and protect the environment - all ages

Teach people in Foxhole where bins are

Trails

Trees

Use electric trains

Use own gardens / allotments to grow food

Value our natural environment

Vote for people who care about the environment

What can't be recycled easily - batteries, print cartridges.

Wheelchair safe paths

Window film because of restrictions to planning permissions

Young people need a voice in plans for the future





**Photography**  
Appleton Event Photography  
Grace Hannah Photography

**Report Design**  
539 Creative Ltd

**TONIC**  
CREATIVES

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