

The following comments on Climate Change were made via social media post:

Facebook – post reached over 5,800 accounts, it was shared 31 times and received 70 comments:

I picked up from one of the shares that there is a Climate Action Group who have a Facebook Group (currently 134 members), who meet every Tuesday at 4 pm in Winner Street, Paignton. They have invited Lee to attend one of their meetings.

There is also a Zero Waste Torquay Facebook Group – currently have 76 members

Other, relevant, comments:

Stop single use plastics

Halt the roll out of 5G

Go Vegan x 2

Less Firework displays

Tackle people throwing cigarette butts on the floor/more bins/recycling bins around towns x 2

Limit people fishing and crabbing who leave more plastic and other waste in the water

Responsible Town Planning

Fountains for water where people can refill

Make the town like Modbury with zero plastic waste

Recycling depots to recycle a larger range of refuse like crisp packets, cat food packets, batteries, and black plastic materials/more recycling/introduce return recycling for glass bottles x 2

Invest in a local authority coop renewable energy policy – mentioned a Facebook group called Torbay Forward

Green energy incentives for home owners

Better traffic management

Park & ride stations outside of town

No charges for rubbish at tip

Install solar panels on roofs of council buildings and homes in the Bay x 4

Community involved in veg growing projects

Set up a plastics recycling plant

More local jobs

Shorter trip to get rid of waste plastic

More trees x 2

More rubbish pick ups

Decent walking and cycling routes/plenty of bike parking/rollout of a workplace bike loan scheme

Limit the amount of new builds

Start a community wealth building project and include locally generated power

Invest heavily in environmentally friendly public transport systems and make it all free to use

All new council or council funded building to be a Passivhaus standard – Exeter City Council are managing it.

Boats devastating the sea grass project – needs enforcing

More local litter picks

Support schools to educate themselves (how school dinners/snacks/drinks are presented) and children/no recycling bins in classes

Promote local conservation projects which engage community – The Seal Project

A better reusable nappy incentive.

Encourage the Dartmouth Steam railway to talk to Network Rail to set up Goodrington Station as a park and ride hub. Plenty of parking available which is unused for most of the year!

One lady took the time to write 11 ideas:

1. Leave roadside verges and areas of parkland (where practical) to grow through the spring and summer season. This encourages more wildlife (esp. insects) to thrive, reduces noise from traffic, captures pollutants and makes for a nicer view.

2. When houses are built, ensure that they meet BREEAM standards or are carbon zero (see SOLCER house), not only are the environmental benefits obvious but they also help reduce fuel poverty and makes houses more affordable over their lifetime for people living in them. The houses can cost as little as £120,000 to build. Reducing spending on household bills will give people more expendable money that would hopefully be spent in the bay which in turn helps local economy.

3. Houses built on green land (which is not ideal) should blend in better with the local surroundings, green roofs and living walls could not only help with this but could, potentially, also provide some extra outdoor space for residents (gardens are usually very small in new builds). Green roofs and walls help with insulation, reduce run-off (great for areas with poor drainage or in areas liable to flooding), reduce noise, protect building exteriors from weather and UV, help sequester carbon and other pollutants and increase well-being.

This could all be applied to new commercial buildings too.

4. Working more closely with, and helping to promote, local conservation efforts who are already trying to do their best to encourage local residents to care more for our special areas around the bay. The seagrass in particular would benefit from greater protection from recreational damage (particularly boats anchoring illegally and jet ski use) - seagrass is one of the best habitats for sequestering CO2 and provides important habitat for sea horses.

%. Protect trees and hedges from removal in development areas - they are an important asset for reducing carbon, reducing flooding and are havens and corridors for our wildlife - you cannot simply replace those habitats by replacing them with new.

5. Encourage all businesses in the bay to go as plastic free as possible. In Torbay (or any coastal town) the prevalence of plastic is a real problem (I hope the issues don't need explaining here) as so much of it ends up in the sea. Polystyrene should have an outright ban as it fragments so easily.

6. Cycle lanes! There are fragments of cycle lanes throughout the bay but not enough to truly encourage more people to cycle. There is a route from Torquay to Paignton (kinda patchy) but nothing that can get you safely to Brixham or Totnes. The bay has promoted getting active through running, cycling and walking, these would be even easier for people if they had safer ways of travelling to work or to visit friends and family.

7. Electric buses

8. Community energy hubs - power supplied locally through local solar power and biodigesters (a good way of using waste food and could even use dog poo as a source of methane gas to power electricity)

9. Promote more environmental awareness in schools - Thanks to Wild Tribe Heroes and an anonymous sponsor, Paignton schools will now be receiving some wonderful books and a fab education program to go with them. These books and activities have already had an overwhelmingly positive impact on Cornish communities trying to tackle environmental issues and it's great that they are now going to be available in Torbay too (as well as the rest of Devon). However, promotion and help from the council would go along way to helping more schools in Torbay benefit from this wonderful (and pretty cheap) resource.

10. Divest from companies that invest in fossil fuels or that have poor environmental standards. This can be difficult when such companies promise jobs and economic boosts but they are detrimental long-term. Promote small business and invest in companies with high environmental standards and community engagement.

11. More green facades, living walls and green roofs. The benefits for these are vast (insulation, sound absorption, reduced run-off, well-being, pollution and CO2 absorption etc, etc) but in Torbay, and especially Paignton, they could be used to create a much more aesthetically pleasing town - the old woolworths building and most of Torbay road could benefit from a radical facade makeover. Green roofs make a really nice extra outdoor recreation area or further seating for cafes, restaurants and bars, with views of the bay, they could be used for community veg growing and/or as wildlife havens. Covering roofs or even just painting them in pale colours helps to absorb or reflect heat - this is becoming far more important for reducing the urban heat island effect and will be increasingly important as the ice caps melt (ice reflecting solar rays is one of the most important cooling jobs performed in our arctic/antarctic regions).

NEW COMMENTS SINCE LAST UPDATE

Have a shop at the Recycling Centre selling items that should not go to refill – 2 examples:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46368861?fbclid=IwAR1D57gDrf3zg4C2hVZJW7XI_CPfminPIRf4fJBOKTI_HyzMMRMvsvNZro

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mrc.wa.gov.au%2FDisposal%2FREUSE-Shop%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0XAYOFwtq3uB0XH_7W2NsoJ7uSQMWXaSNYm-KXjc2vfEd9R7ntsYu5yb8&h=AT2Lgi55JA8rOB3YbCXNso7RrLW1AEtoMIUNczplkDfOusgF1PJZCQD9gmGSmjifE-1Ea7iN34NIakEoxsA0-sxZmLeWDW-2tU_I8v33ArmW6bboECiOjc6hF08KX7jDeF6wa6WPBVIR9IUQ

Start a community wealth building project and include locally generated power -

https://ldn.coop/co-op-development/6-steps-to-build-community-wealth/?fbclid=IwAR00hSp1iogittKrzZmQMW5oiahyjLgNOGSgJiiwLkbooqBLLBqxB_OywBs

TWITTER – 3,206 impressions, 15 retweets, 14 likes

Are we having conversations with Uni of Exeter and Uni of Plymouth? Durham Uni working with their local council on energy generation

Solar panels on car parks

Less traffic in town

Less jet skis in sea

Electric/hybrid public transport

Ensure enough charging points

Reduce power supply carbon footprint and use renewable fuel sources for corporate supplies

Oppose 5G

Refuse to accommodate Cruise ships & Air Shows

Pedestrian town centre

LinkedIn – 871 impressions, no shares, 6 likes and no comments.