

'NEW MILLS 2030'



CREATING A VISION OF OUR TOWN IN 2030

7TH MARCH 2020, NEW MILLS TOWN HALL

FACILITATED BY



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INTRODUCTION



"New Mills Town Council is acutely aware of the challenge our planet is facing and we are keen to play our part in meeting these challenges and improving the situation. This Conversation has generated food for thought for all concerned. The Council shall review this material and consider any future actions it deems appropriate, within scope, and cost effective. This will benefit both the current and future generations of our town."

Paul Frost, vice-chair of New Mills Town Council

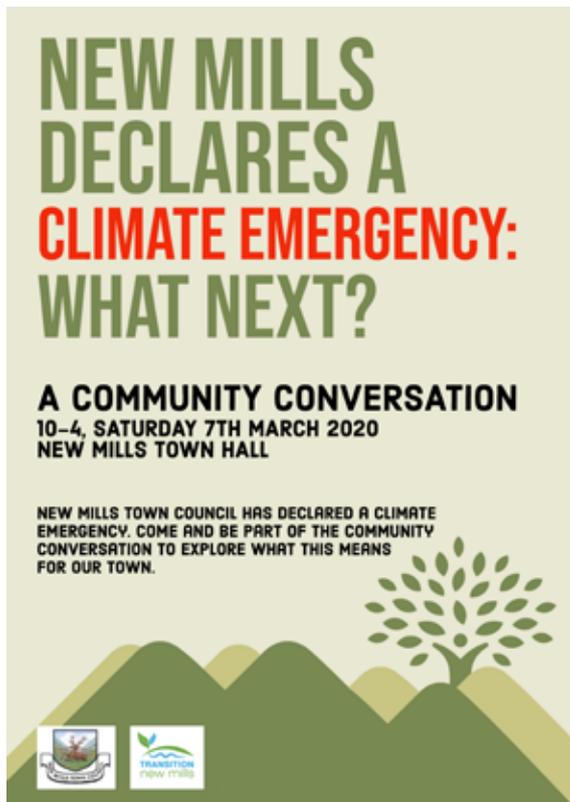
"Our vision is to reimagine and rebuild our world for a changing climate, and create a resilient, sustainable and ethical future for New Mills. We worked with councillors and staff at New Mills Town Council to give the people of New Mills the opportunity to create their own vision of our town in 2030. Alongside the Council, we will work to support individuals, groups and businesses to help make this vision a reality."

Penny Cristinacce of Transition New Mills

REVIEW OF THE DAY

By Phil Frodsham

In 2019, New Mills Town Council declared a Climate Emergency. The Town Council and Transition New Mills worked together to set up a 'town meeting' in order to find out what this meant for our community. We called this meeting a 'Community Conversation' and it was held on Saturday 7th March 2020 at New Mills Town Hall.



New Mills Town Council and Transition New Mills wrote to as many individuals, groups and networks as we could and directly invited them to take part. We also embarked on a major social media campaign and opened up the invitation to everybody in New Mills.

On the day itself, members of Transition New Mills and town councillors were present to facilitate the Community Conversation, and I was to be the lead person.

We had a few ideas already about the format of the day but seeing what Transition Totnes achieved last summer with their Community Conversation really reinforced what we were planning and gave us the confidence to try something a little different.

Our Community Conversation was to start at 10am and people began arriving at 9.45am. We greeted them and wrote a name badge for each person to wear throughout the day. We arranged the room so that everybody sat in one giant circle.



10.00am - The first person to speak was Cllr Paul Frost from New Mills Town Council and he thanked everyone for attending.

I started out by explaining that we were here to write a new story for New Mills because the old story had failed us – the new story would be one that connected us all, nourished us all, respected our differences and reflected who we actually were. It was to be imaginative and inspiring.



I then read out a quote from Wendell Berry about the importance of care for our community;

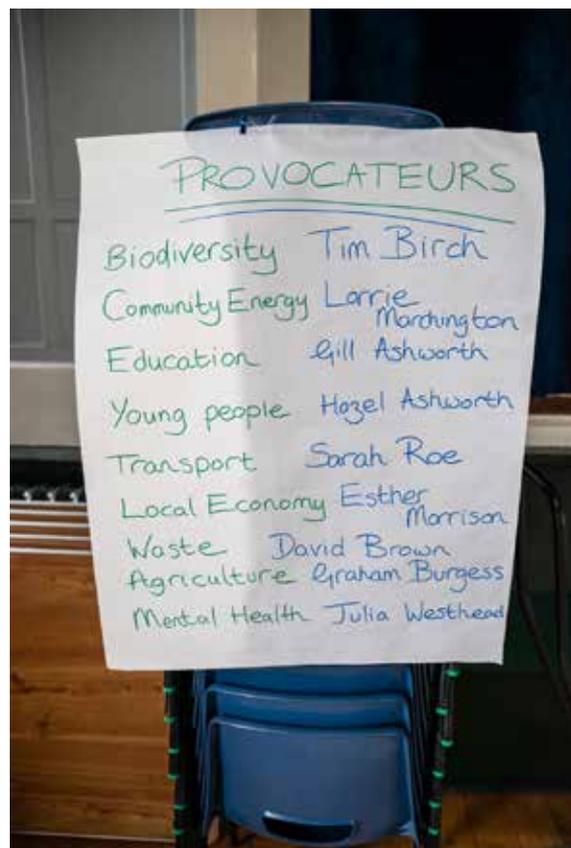
“The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community because without proper care for it we can have no life.”

I asked at this point if we should maybe consider extending our idea of community so that it also included animals, insects, birds, plants, trees, rivers, soil and the air around us. If we could, how would this change the way we looked at our community?

I then briefly talked about the history of New Mills and said that we were here today to create our own history.



10.15am - At this point, I set out the outline of the day and gave people an idea of what to expect. I advised that we were going to do things a little differently and asked that people trust the process, trust each other and trust themselves to be honest and truthful.



I then set out to find out who was with us and I asked if people could stand up if they were from New Mills, surrounding areas and further afield. I thanked everybody who was not from New Mills for travelling today in support of what we were doing and hoped that they could return to their communities and share what they had experienced today. I also asked who had felt despair or hope during this climate emergency so far and almost everybody stood up for both.

10.20am - I then passed over to 12 year old Hazel who read out a brief meditation, which was an intensely moving moment.



10.30am - The first activity was a chance for people to mill and chat and get to know each other a little better.

I advised that I would like everybody to stand and find a partner, ideally somebody who they did not know and spend 5 minutes chatting to them about the following question;

“What’s moving you most right now about the climate/ecological emergency?”

We did a second round of milling and chatting based on the following question;

“What’s inspiring you most about the times we are living in?”

And then a third round;

“What would you like future generations to thank you for personally?”



10.50am - Provocateurs. We made a decision early on that we were going to focus on local issues led by local people and each of our provocateurs came with their own unique perspective. They were;

Tim Birch – biodiversity

Gill Ashworth – education

Hazel Ashworth – young people

Sarah Roe – transport

David Brown – waste

Julia – mental health

Lorrie Marchington – energy

Esther Morrison – local economy

Graeme Burgess - farming

The first question put to the provocateurs was;

“From your point of view; What is the emergency we are in? How did we get here? What will it look like if business continues as usual?”



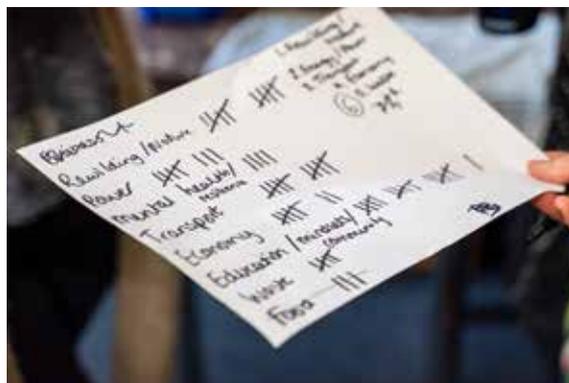
We then broke for 15 minutes.

The second question put to the provocateurs was;

“If we do everything we can possibly do to respond to the climate and ecological emergency, working together locally and thinking globally: if we draw on all the resources, imagination, courage and political will - what will we create?”

All of the provocateurs spoke openly, honestly and truthfully.

12.00pm - Before we broke for lunch, I asked everybody to use post-it notes to make a note of what had moved them during the morning session. The post-it notes were then stuck on to giant boards that we had placed at the side of the room. During lunch, we would collate these and they would form the basis of our group discussions during the afternoon session.



12.15pm - Lunch

13.00pm - During lunch, we re-arranged the chairs and set up seven tables. A facilitator stood at each table with a sign showing the topic of discussion that would take place at that table.

- The topics were;
- Local Economy
- Transport
- Waste
- Mindsets
- Nature
- Energy
- Food and Farming



I welcomed everybody back and explained the format and purpose of the afternoon. I asked people to choose the table that most interested them but that it was ok to move to another table during the afternoon.

I advised that, together, we were going to co-create the contents of a book called 'New Mills 2030' and that this book would be used to help guide us over the next decade.

13.10pm - I then read out a further passage from Wendell Berry about connection;

"Only by restoring the broken connections can we be healed. Connection is health. And what our society does its best to disguise from us is how ordinary, how commonly attainable, health is. We lose our health by failing to see the direct connections between living and eating, eating and working, working and loving."

One of our facilitators, Cllr Amy Roberts, then introduced everybody to the hand signals that were going to use during the afternoon discussions. We practiced these and then people sat down at their tables.



13.15pm - Group activities

I talked about how we spend an awful lot of our time talking about what we don't like, what we are against and what we need to lose but we spend very little time thinking about the type of world we are actually trying to create. And if we can't imagine a better future, then we cannot build a better future.

I then started a new activity where I asked everybody to close their eyes and imagine what New Mills would look and feel like in 2030. We collectively counted up from 2020 to 2030 and then everybody sat in silence and used their imaginations to guide them. Once it was over, I asked what people thought about this activity and one person said that she found it 'exciting to imagine the future'. We were ready to go!



The facilitators' main role was to ensure that all voices were heard during the afternoon sessions. They also asked one person to make sure that all of the ideas were written down on large sheets of paper.

I then asked the following questions. Each question was given 20 mins to answer.

13.25pm - The first question I asked was:

"In relationship to your theme, what is there here in New Mills and the surrounding area that we value and want to keep?"



13.50pm - The second question was:

"In relationship to your theme, what do we need to let go of? What does not serve us any more? (ways of thinking, being, doing, working, consuming, projects and initiatives, resources and materials)"



14.25pm - Tea break

14.40pm - The third question was:

"In relationship to your theme, what do we need to repair, restore or create?"

15.00pm - The fourth question was:

"In relationship to your theme, what are the NEXT STEPS in responding to the climate and ecological emergency?"

It is worth noting that we gave each question around 20 mins each but it soon became apparent that the groups could have continued discussions for much, much longer.

15.25pm - Once the facilitated group sessions were over, we started to quickly assemble our 'New Mills 2030' book using everything that had been written down during the day – it would be a document of where we stood in the face of this emergency – our fears, our hopes and our shared vision for the future. We asked that everybody stuck their name badge to the back page of the book as a record of their attendance. The cover of the book had been drawn by younger children earlier in the day.



Whilst the book was being prepared, people came forward to talk about forthcoming community events that they were involved in.

5.45pm - Once the book was complete, we gathered together and had our photograph taken with it. It was a joyous and momentous moment.



15.50pm - Closing speech and final reflections

Julian Ashworth, from Transition New Mills, spoke of the need to ensure that we acted upon what had been written in the book and made sure that our shared vision became a reality.



16.00pm - Close



PROVOCATEURS

By Penny Cristinacce

Our provocateurs were an enthusiastic group of local people who were asked to join the Community Conversation to give us their unique perspective on what the Climate Emergency means for New Mills. They were asked to be succinct, bold, imaginative and thought provoking, having just 3 minutes to speak to each question.

From within the circle each provocateur took turns to speak to the following questions in two separate rounds:

1. "From your point of view: What is the emergency we are in? How did we get here? What will it look like if business continues as usual?"
2. "If we do everything we can possibly do to respond to the climate and ecological emergency, working together locally and thinking globally; if we draw on all the resources, imagination, courage and political will what will we create? Let's imagine a better 2030"

The first to speak was **Tim Birch** of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who spoke with expert knowledge and passion about the tragic loss of biodiversity that we are experiencing locally and around the world. In the second session he inspired us with his vision of rewilding and beavers in the River Goyt, revealing a potential for New Mills and the surrounding area to be a town that enhances and creates spaces for nature to flourish.

Next **Gillian Ashworth**, a secondary school assistant headteacher, gave her perspective on the role of education. She told us how, if we continue as we are, the people we need to lead us out of this emergency won't have the resilience, creativity or interest in protecting living systems. However, we could create an education system that teaches us our place in the natural world, based around practical skills and with a more flexible curriculum that can respond to local needs: a curriculum that values and rewards cooperation and kindness and teaches young people how to question and interrogate what they see and read.



Hazel Ashworth followed, talking to us from the perspective of a young person and bringing tears to many eyes. She asked us "Will hedgehogs still visit my garden in 2030?" She reminded us we are all connected and asked us to contemplate children wondering what the Arctic ice caps looked like. During the second session she told us how she would like to be educated, not on how to pass exams but on how to live healthily and happily. She pondered: What if every child had access to wild spaces? What if every child could identify a blue-tit? What if every school had an edible garden? What if young people were told what is actually going on and were equipped to deal with it? What could happen then?

Next up was **Sarah Roe**, who works for Sustrans, a charity that makes it easier for people to walk and cycle. Sarah talked about how transport is the only sector where carbon emissions continue to rise, due to our over-reliance on cars. This is leading to problems with traffic congestion, air pollution and poor health. She envisaged a town where children could walk or cycle to school safely, had an electric car share scheme and an efficient, integrated public transport system; where we walked or cycled more and commuted less by car; where we had much of what we needed locally and where health and travel were connected. She emphasised the need to work closely with all groups in the community to ensure we created a system which met everyone's needs.

Then **David Brown**, an expert in waste management and education who used to work for Derbyshire County Council, gave us his perspective of this unjust and "long emergency". With its multiple climate disasters and ever greater accumulation of waste products in the global environment, we are increasingly aware of a crisis in the oceans. However, we could create a circular economy, a more robust local food system, resilient ecosystems, cleaner air and a happier engaged community. David noted from his experience in the recycling industry that proposed changes must be practical, easy understandable and well communicated.

Next up was **Julia Westhead**, a mental health practitioner, who is seeing increasing evidence of anxiety about what is happening to our climate. She told us how anxiety is a perfectly normal and healthy reaction to the situation we are in, and in itself is mostly not dangerous, and how we can help combat eco-anxiety by finding like-minded people and being proactive. She told us how the word therapy had been described to her as 'to accompany someone on their journey'. We can all walk alongside others in their suffering and can all be 'therapists' by action. She envisaged a world in which there would be less need for people like her.

Lorrie Marchington, a long time investor in cooperatively owned renewable energy schemes, gave her perspective on the energy we need to power our homes and businesses. She pleaded for no more burning of coal, wood (including bonfires/fireworks), gas and an end to fracking. She told us how the feed-in tariffs had all but gone, onshore wind had (until recently) been effectively banned and how there was little investment in a 'built environment' that would reduce our energy needs. However, the UK is in a lucky position of having ample sunlight, wind, water, tidal powers and geothermal. With a comprehensive programme of retrofitting, 'deep green 100% renewables' and investment in community energy, 2030 could be very different.

Self-confessed foodie, **Esther Morrison**, talked to us next about her views and experience of the local economy. She told us how for every pound spent in the local economy, 63p stays in the local area. However, with changing needs it is harder for people to shop little and often, and daily footfall in towns has gone down. As the saying goes, we need to use it or lose it, but the town itself needs to be able to move with the times, perhaps by adapting opening hours or providing delivery services. With particular reference to food, Esther suggested that if we are to buy meat, we buy less and better quality and that we develop our food awareness in order to reduce food waste. Buy less, buy better and think local.

Finally we listened to **Graham Burgess** of Shaw Farm and holiday lettings. He talked of his long time awareness of the compromise between producing food, providing accommodation and a healthy environment. He told us that running a small farm has not been profitable for decades and instead they have invested into dozens of community and commercial renewable energy projects all over the UK. Despite investing hundreds of thousands of pounds into the farm it appears their financial future may in fact lie in producing energy from a mixture of renewable energy sources such as planting trees and building solar and wind power, hopefully combined with some food production.

These open, honest and truthful provocations provided great inspiration for the Community Conversation participants for the day ahead.

TRANSPORT

By Sue Rodrigues

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

This was not easy for us to respond to at first as we seemed to be a group of doers. Lots of ideas about actions could be taken rather than the solution we were hoping to reach.

In no particular order:

1. More shared and affordable office and work space
2. Fewer cars parked and taking up living space
3. More local businesses
4. Less stress and happier people
5. Face to face connections
6. Additional cycle paths and storage
7. Quieter environment - so that we can hear birds and children playing
8. No vapour trails in the sky
9. Green spaces that offer quiet reflection



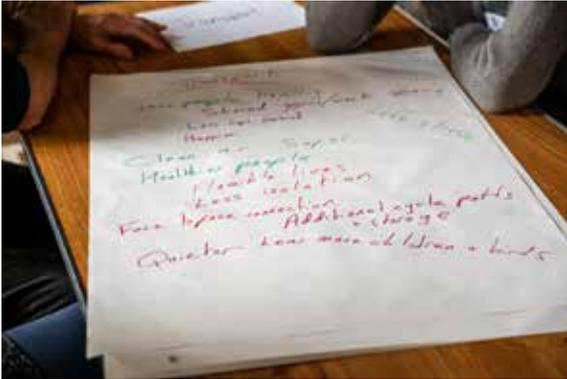
WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

Such a wonderfully long list:

1. Both rail stations and services
2. Footpath network
3. Canals
4. (Community) buses and their turn-around
5. Independent shops/cafes/market stalls
6. Quality education and child care
7. Local Health Centre including out of hours health service
8. Residential care services
9. Leisure facilities
10. Cultural venues, including for religious gatherings
11. Vibrant community

WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

1. Long term car parking in Town Centre
2. Parking on pavements
3. Private car ownership to reduce peoples' mileage and use of large cars as status symbols
4. Unnecessary face to face professional meetings that require additional transport provision
5. Fixed working hours that make travelling at rush hours so unpleasant
6. Expectation of formal dress for office and service staff - this would allow appropriate attire for walking/cycling



WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

1. Comprehensive, efficient and effective integrated public transport
2. Dial-a-ride service
3. Micro car clubs
4. EV charge points in all public spaces and included in all new developments
5. Segregated priority cycle ways
6. Connected cycle ways to Greater Manchester
7. Extended TFGM coverage to Buxton, or at least New Mills
8. Possibly free public transport - but real need to consider consequence
9. No further airport expansion
10. Celebration of UK holidays

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. Information campaigns - so that people know what transport support there already is and what could be achieved
2. Research:
 - Policy makers may need to see evidence of costs and viability of new schemes
 - Human behaviour and what might influence positive change
3. Initiating and supporting car pooling and micro car clubs
4. Encourage Town Council/HPBC/DCC to negotiate with Greater Manchester/TFGM for cross border services
5. Support Young Peoples' action
6. Organise adult cycling training
7. Higher tax rates and lower local business rates, to support positive change

TRANSPORT / ORIGINAL NOTES

TRANSPORT
Comprehensive efficient ^{integrated} public transport
until no need to use car.
Dial a ^{ride} system - as proposed Metrolink, Merit H-fleet
Microcar clubs
EV Charge points all public spaces, in all new developments
Segregated Priority Cycle ways.
Connected cycle links into Greater Manchester.
Extend TfGM Coverage area to Buxton or if not
Nishik New Mills only
Improved, more flexible or even free Public Transport
but need to consider unintended consequences.
Direct development accessible locations.
No further airport expansion
Celebrate JTR holidays

TRANSPORT // HOW CAN WE REPAIR, RESTORE, CREATE?

Transport
Both rail stations, and services
Footpath network
Canals
(Community) buses + turn around
Independent shops/cafes etc
market
Local employers
High schools, primary and nurseries
Local, including out of hours, health care
Residential care facilities
Leisure facilities
Cultural venues
Churches
V. bran +
community meeting
on public transport

TRANSPORT // WHAT DO WE WANT TO KEEP?

TRANSPORT — Litigo! 3
Car parking - short stay in centre only more buses
- parking on pavement.
Transport costs - rail vs car; bus vs food.
- peak on ~~the~~ fares
Private transport - car (status symbol) ownership.
Unnecessary face-to-face meetings - skype
Fixed working hours - move to flextime
Formal dress - casual gear for walking/cycling.

TRANSPORT // WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

TRANSPORT
Comprehensive efficient ^{integrated} public transport
until no need to use car.
Dial a ^{ride} system - as proposed Metrolink, Merit H-fleet
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TRANSPORT // HOW CAN WE REPAIR, RESTORE, CREATE?

NEXT STEPS Transport.

- Information campaigns.
- Research costs/viability of new schemes.
 - human behavior → change
- Car pooling/ Micro car schemes
- Town - HPBC, DCC negotiate with GM/TFGM re cross border transport
- Cycle routes across High Peak
- Explore parking and its effects on traffic
- ~~Educating~~ Young people educate adults
- Adult cycle training
- Higher tax rates to support positive change.

TRANSPORT // WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

LOCAL ECONOMY

By Helen Dean

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

1. A local economy works **for** people and enhances quality of life.
 - Supports the community - jobs, services, experiences and commerce, bring people together
 - Money is kept and circulates in New Mills
 - A more circular and sustainable and ethical local economy

Make from raw and recycled materials > Sell/Purchase > Use > Repair/Re-use/Reimage/Refurbish/Rehome/Recycle > Raw materials



2. Processes are local which minimises travel miles and transport costs
3. Plentiful local production, retail spaces and services (it is not always about 'stuff'). Needs are met locally, affordable and accessible to all
4. Improved public transport services bring people into New Mills to access markets and services
5. Many employment opportunities for local people ensuring development of a range of skills
6. New thinking toward new ways of acquiring and accessing, e.g.: 'on the tab'; systems of exchange and bartering; businesses are responsive to need, providing opening times which suit (open later/close later); evening places to gather and eat

WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

1. Independent shops, take-aways and cafes e.g.: Wiseheart and Wild, Pulse, Bele Bakery, Village Saver, Ryans, High Street Books and Records, Stepwise, The Gallery, Potts, The Fire Place, High Peak Flowers, Giovanni barbers. Senior Building Supplies etc.....
2. Charity shops - re-use/re-home, volunteer
3. Food retailers - The Co-op, 6 'Corner Shops', butchers, take-aways, fruit and veg stall, Torrside Brewery, The Beer Shed, milk delivery etc.
4. Pubs and restaurants - need more eateries!
5. Arts - The Gallery, New Mills Festival, Art Theatre, High Peak Community Arts, Spring Bank Arts, etc.
6. The land - freedom to walk, farms, allotments, footpaths, footbridges, woodland, community orchard
7. Leisure - leisure centre and its swimming pool, play parks, parks, playing fields, benches, canal paths, Goyt meadows, Goyt Valley Way, Sett Valley Trail...
8. Industry/industrial heritage (services and manufacturing) - many small businesses (including cleaning, dog-walking, gardening, building) and SMEs; engineering (What is made? Where sold? What waste?). Plain English Campaign etc..... It is not just Swizzels!
9. Education: 6 primaries, 1 secondary, 1 Adult Continuing Education. How many nurseries?
10. Services: library, care homes, Volunteer Centre, High Peak Community Arts, GP Surgeries, Out of Hours Service, Estate Agents, bank, post office, cobbler, repair cafe, Heritage Centre, churches, solicitors, accountants, beauticians, hairdressers (many)...
11. Transport - bus station, 2 train stations, footpaths, parking
12. Groups - e.g. Walkers are Welcome, U3A, choirs etc.

WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

1. Waste from businesses e.g. packaging from takeaway shops
2. Tendencies to look outside NM for goods and services rather than value what is accessible here (despite saving travel costs and time)
3. Fitting in with what suits other communities, rather than doing what is right for New Mills
4. Not feeling connected to others in the community. Loneliness. Isolation. Screens!
5. Consumerism - thinking happiness comes from buying (latest) stuff and one's identity is about what stuff we have (yet we want to encourage spending in New Mills!)
6. Stereotyping: gender stereotypes (e.g. that girls want to spend their time shopping; stereotypical 'stuff'; advertising/social media); stereotyping young people (... 'they' do/think this/that...)
7. 'Passing through' traffic. Busy roads. Fear of busy roads. Traffic prioritised over walkers, cyclists and (mobility) scooters
8. Limitations of education system: lack of space for creativity; lack of 'have a go' confidence
9. Working flat out: no time for creativity/community; not enough income beyond rent/bills etc.; sedentary lives
10. Capitalism, profit/target motive (especially in health and education), rents
11. Inequality of opportunity and wage disparity

WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

Repair and restore:

1. Sense of connection between people and their efforts (interconnectedness of things)
2. Subsistence economy (e.g. easy opportunities to sell produce/products/surplus)
3. Spruce up, value and promote the indoor market, making it more inviting
4. Public toilets (scheme to welcome 'needy' toilet goers into shops giving more confidence to linger longer)
5. Derelict buildings and unkempt properties - landlords take responsibility/'guerrilla spruce-up'
6. Unused buildings (mills, pubs, shops) become economically useable (The Swan (an arts centre?); The White Hart (an eatery?); Pop-up shops encouraged)
7. 'Repair services and trades':
 - Cobblers
 - Electricians
 - Mechanics
 - Carpenters
 - Clothes repair
 - Bicycle mechanics
 - Scrap metal 'rag and bone'
8. These skills are valued (promoted?) and taught



Create:

1. New Mills as an **eco-destination**: tree-lined streets, street gardening, street art, eco-focussed shops (awarded and promoted); community sustainable/ethical response shop; school eco awards. Website. Maps, Logo
2. Managed **biodiverse wild spaces**. Incentives for wild gardens (wild gardens become a 'NM thing')
3. Co-operative and **community-owned** businesses
4. Simpler **systems** e.g. responsive opening hours, pop-up shops, street stalls. What are the barriers?
5. Encouragement of **makers** (value, promote, recognise, award)
6. Better **transport links and facilities** e.g. bus shelters; toilets at train stations; street lighting
7. Community **re-use/recycle base** ('collect it, if you want it')
8. Support for **subsistence/entrepreneurship** with opportunities for micro-markets, micro-producers, micro-retailers
9. Incentives to have well presented shop fronts
10. Exciting regular **markets**: pop-up stalls, buskers, street food. Reduce regulations, barriers and administration to enable easy trading
11. Community **celebrations** (including gold, silver-gilt, silver, bronze awards; recognition)



WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. Research and initiate support, advice and funding for local economy initiatives
2. Celebrate and promote actions which local businesses are taking to normalise and encourage sustainable actions by creating system of local awards e.g. for changing from palm oil use/using locally sourced organic flour/sustainable packaging; changing to electric vehicle etc.
3. Research, communicate, and encourage potential solutions through newsletter/website/email alongside/in partnership with Town, Borough and County Council business and environmental initiatives and agencies
e.g. case studies from other communities; publicise what is happening, what is working, lessons learnt, celebrations, in a community 'fanzine'. (Will councillors support change?)
4. Compile list of local producers and challenge local shops to stock local produce yet encourage milk/bread/egg delivery
5. Carry out market research (street stall?). Measure/collect data now to measure impact of changes. What do consumers/businesses want/need? What advice and support are businesses currently receiving? What are views about living and working in NM? Where do people shop? Anonymous suggestion box - views sought and heard without fear or prejudice
6. Set up market working group to explore steps toward creation of regular micro-market, community sustainable produce shop
7. Find ways to make things easier for people

Learning new skills:

Promote workshops sessions held by local artists and craftspeople e.g. dyeing, printing, weaving, sewing; groups (Incredible Edibles for shared gardening, Volunteer Centre, NM Women's Group, WI etc) and volunteers (how to involve skills of young people and elderly residents?)

Skills share: How to grow...
How to cook...
How to sew...
How to knit...
How to maintain...
How to build...
How to design...etc.

Celebrate/publicise new learning e.g. young people learning skills in local businesses

Easier to access resources :

Local ingredients, waste resources (audit of salvageable waste materials from businesses)

Local Economy

NEXT STEPS

Funding (Council)

All must know/be informed about what funds are available about what to go and who to speak to for funding for (new) enterprise.

Challenge Group to stock LOCAL produce

Are our councillors behind us? Leading us? Will they support change?

Anonymous suggestion box - we need to know that our views will be heard without fear or prejudice

and promote Celebrate actions which local businesses are taking e.g. changing from palm oil use / using organic flour etc. Encourage potential solutions

Explore how we can create/expand market/micro market



Expand volunteer service in NM

Encourage Milk/bread/egg delivery including valuing UNPAID work

Recognition/Awards

Publicise - hand copy - what's happening what is working - Celebrations community foraging

Make things easier for people. Skills share

- How to grow
- How to cook
- How to sew
- How to build
- How to design

Use local people, local ingredients waste, resources - share home

Shared gardening Easier to have a ledger

Celebrate/publicise new learning e.g. young people learning skills in local businesses

LOCAL ECONOMY // WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

WASTE

By Helen Dean/Zena Aris-Sutton

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

1. Near Zero Waste
2. 'Things' designed to be repaired
3. Accept less complexity
4. National management system (e.g. All local Authorities on the same waste/recycle system)
5. Companies/manufacturers take responsibility for what they have created
6. More facilities for producing our own food
7. Make it viable for everyone (businesses and community organisations) to recycle
8. Non-plastic containers
9. Financial and other incentives for recycling

WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

1. Public events and quality of life (e.g. One World Festival, Lantern Parade)
2. Refill scheme (water bottles)
3. Local biodiversity
4. Repair businesses, e.g. shoe repairer/repair cafe

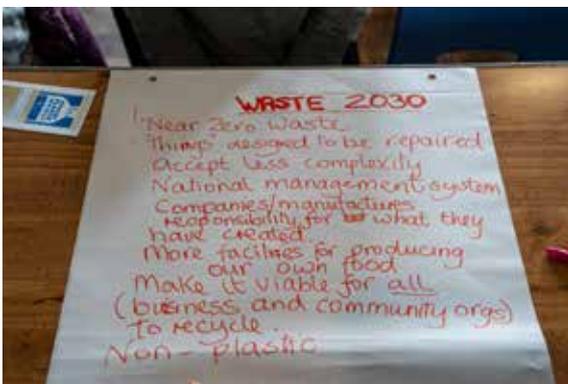


WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

1. Litter collecting by volunteers (it should not have to be done)
2. Wanting to have/buy too much
3. Non recyclable materials have to go
4. Single use things have to go
5. Built in obsolescence
6. Advertising/peer pressure
7. Capitalism

WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

1. Everything to be repairable and reusable
2. Take time to look for 'green' alternatives (e.g. pencils rather than pens which dry up; talking instead of text messaging)
3. Zero Waste shop in New Mills (run as a co-operative if possible)
4. Teach young people, and/or older people who have missed out, how to sew, repair, cook and other basic survival/life skills
5. Intergenerational skill-exchanging and positively moving forward together
6. Sharing/loaning equipment scheme - swap shops for children too
7. Passing stuff on, rather than dumping
8. Communal car schemes
9. Possible bike sharing/loaning scheme
10. More recycling sites (bins not containers) in NMTC/HPBC public places
11. Council to encourage events like the community conversation by making spaces available at no cost e.g. Town Hall



WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. With neighbours, friends, family and personally, talk to everyone about the vision
2. Think before you act - don't buy things you don't really need
 - Ask yourself: Is it worth it? To you? To the planet?
 - Consider different ways of acquiring, second hand, swaps etc.
3. Make a personal plan for yourself - What am I going to do? Explain why!
4. Starting trends - give presents which encourage new mindset e.g. reusable cups
5. Be a role model
6. Start more community groups/ideas
7. A youth/young people's council with representatives from all of the schools to work alongside the Town Council and community groups
8. Petitions. Direct action. Creative campaigning
9. Young people to put pressure on NMTC and DCC to make their ideas happen
 - Pressure re Section 106 money
(A Section 106 is a legal agreement between a housing developer and the local planning authority, which is used to mitigate the impact of the new homes on the local community and infrastructure, to ensure transparency)
 - Litter prevention measures that really work, whether that be fines or something else

WASTE / ORIGINAL NOTES

WASTE 2030

- 1. Near Zero Waste
- Things designed to be repaired
- Accept less complexity
- National management system
- Companies/manufacturers responsibility for what they have created.
- More facilities for producing our own food
- Make it viable for all (business and community orgs) to recycle.
- Non-plastic containers
- Financial (+ other) incentives for recycling

WASTE // VISUALISE NEW MILLS IN 2030

2. What do we want to keep?

- Public events + Quality of life (o.w.f. cartoon parade)
- Refill scheme (water)
- Local bio-diversity
- Shoe repairer etc

3. What do we want to get rid of?

- Litter collecting by volunteers (shouldn't have to be done)
- Wanting to have/buy too much
- Non-recyclable materials have to go
- Single use things
- Built in obsolescence
- Advertising/peer pressure
- Capitalism

WASTE // WHAT DO WE WANT TO KEEP?
WASTE // WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

4. Work repair/restore/create

- Everything to be repairable, reusable.
- Take time to look for green alternatives = talking instead of messages - etc to!
- Zee waste shop in N mills.
- Teach young people + older people who have missed out how to sew, repair, cook + other basic survival skills.
- Inter-generational skill exchanging and positive moving forward together.
- Sharing/loaning equipment scheme - swap - shops for children too
- Passing stuff on instead of dumping
- Communal car schemes
- More recycling sites in public places.
- Encourage Council to encourage events like this by making spaces available at no cost - eg. town Hall.

WASTE // HOW CAN WE REPAIR, RESTORE, CREATE?

5. WASTE NEXT STEPS

- With neighbours, friends, family + personally
- * Talk to everyone about it
- Think before you act - eg. don't buy things you don't really need - is it worth it, buy local, to the plant, consider second hand swaps etc
- Make a personal plan for yourself - what I'm going to do.
- Explaining why - giving presents that encourage them to do.
- Starting to be a role model - eg. re-usable cups.
- Start more community groups/ideas
- * Youth/young peoples council to work alongside the Town Council + Community groups
- Get reps from all the schools
- Petitions, direct action, creative campaigning
- Pressure young people to put pressure on D.C.C. to make their ideas happen.
- Pressure Section 106 money - to ensure transparency.
- Litter prevention measures that really work.

WASTE // WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



MINDSETS

By Helen Dean/Sasha Carrington

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

1. Community Empowerment
2. Looking out for each other
3. Getting others on board
4. Community
5. Volunteering
6. Free public spaces - disco!
7. Street parties
8. Hot pots
9. Good Mental Health
10. Isolation v connectivity
11. Basic neighbourly stuff
12. Intergenerational
13. Fighting the fear of others (& diversity)
14. School/community interaction

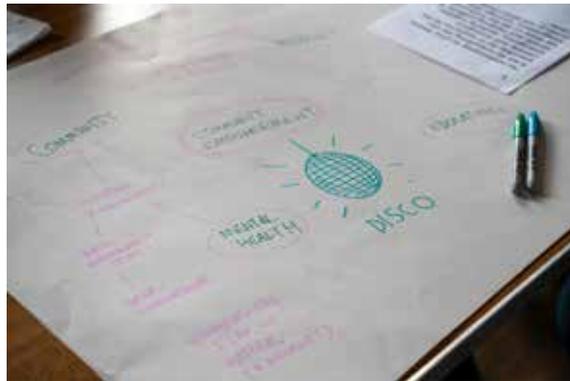


WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

1. Punching above our weight!
2. Heritage Centre (and a Future Centre?!)
3. Derbyshire started the Industrial Revolution - let's finish it!
4. Relics of Industrial Age
5. Existing Industry - valuable
6. Community enterprises - Torrs Hydro
7. Beautiful Surroundings:
 - Peak Forest - replant it
 - Sphagnum moss
 - NM School garden
 - Primary School gardens
 - Meadow
 - Green roofing appearing
8. Youth Centre
9. 2 Gyms and Eco Gym scheme
10. 2 GP surgeries
11. Public Transport - 2 train stations
12. Human interaction - meeting people:
 - Meeting spaces
 - Public places and resources
13. Community Groups - NM Womens' group. Filling Gaps
14. Talent of town - almost self- sufficient?
15. Artistic Community - e.g. Festival Art Trail

WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

1. Barriers
2. Powerlessness and lack of voice
3. Make more of speaking with and communicating to Town and county councils - formally (...on behalf of...). Hold them to account. Transparency and voice. Youth representation.
4. Citizens' research
5. Reimagine NM Town Council for 2030 - What does it look like?
6. Austerity
7. Need for food banks
8. Isolation
9. Landowners privilege - threat to right to roam
10. Cars and congestion
11. Grouse shooting
12. Mental health stigma
13. Selfish, individualistic attitudes
14. Dog Poo
15. Plastic - supermarkets and shops...Go biodegradable



WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

1. New Mills 6th Form
2. Ruth George MP
3. Police station
4. Sure Start Children's Centre
5. School Crossing Patrols
6. Goyt Valley Care Home
7. Brexit divide
8. Youth Club/Centre/Provision - ownership on the community's terms
9. River health
10. Uplands Footpaths/Rights of Way - mixed use
11. Principle of Co-ops
12. Community land ownership - Who does own the land around here?
13. Community Hub/Centre - repurpose the Town Hall - axe rental fees
14. Community Charity Shop

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. Bottom up! Community empowerment
2. Change is only possible with public participation
3. Public forum - register to moderate. Reps from each existing community group
4. Public information
5. A resource to communicate these very next steps
6. Public Notice Board (Facebook does not reach everyone)
7. Central Public focus.
8. Sainsbury's and Co-op existing boards - expand on these
9. Public Council meetings and extraordinary meetings - Turn up and speak!
10. Become a governor
11. Climate change onto the National Curriculum (which should be practical, hands on, real world)
12. Write to your MP and councillors
13. Pension fund investment - invest in social housing
14. Celebrate our positives
15. NMTC doing pretty well
16. The Community Conversation event
17. Working group and committee

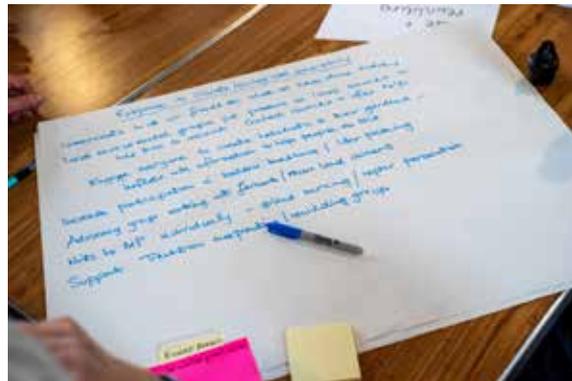


NATURE

By Julian Ashworth

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

Our gardens, our shared green spaces and our rivers will be open to Nature. New Mills will look less neat and tidy, but it will be a healthy environment for all living things to flourish. We will all know more and care more about the Natural world.



WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

1. The River Sett
2. Mousley Bottom nature reserve
3. Woodland in High Lea Park
4. The Picker
5. Sett Valley Trail and Bluebell Wood
6. Goytside Meadows
7. The Moorland, including Kinder Scout - as being recreated and managed by Moors for the Future project
8. The Torrs Park
9. Shaw Farm wildlife areas (tree planting and wildflower border)
10. Other pollinator habitats
11. Community Orchards
12. Allotments and other community edible areas
13. Public access to the above through footpaths, bridleways and cycleways
14. The wildlife we still have, including that in gardens (hedgehogs, frogs, newts, birdlife, badgers)
15. The beauty of the landscape (although acknowledged as subjective)

We need to keep, maintain and appreciate our existing wild and community natural features and habitats

WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

Perception and Attitudes:

1. Let go of our traditional perception of what gardens, public spaces and highway verges should look like: more natural, native planting and 'untidiness', less paved area, less mowing and more wildflowers and cover for nature
2. Let go of our traditional, favourable perception of what the countryside should look like: often this is too managed and reduces opportunities for nature, and the alternative may also look beautiful but in a different way
3. Let go of what we think moorland ought to look like, i.e. not heather monoculture managed for driven grouse shooting
4. Lose our obsession with 'tidying' and over-managing the countryside and gardens, e.g. removing fallen branches in rivers, overcutting hedgerows, removing weeds
5. Let go of our fear of the dark, and reduce light pollution which adversely affects insects, nocturnal animals and stops us appreciating the natural beauty of the night sky
6. Lose invasive species such as himalayan balsam which outcompete native species and reduces biodiversity
7. Stop widespread game keeping, and releasing non-native species for hunting
8. Reduce over-development; allow natural breaks, corridors and other habitats within the built environment
9. Reduce disparate funding streams that promote fragmentation of habitats and instead promote funding for an overall vision for nature
10. Let go of the need for intensive farming methods and their incentives, which rely on excessive agrochemical use
11. Lose the obsession and race for tree-planting in favour of a more considered and planned approach to habitat creation and management
12. Stop using plastic tree-guards, and ensure projects are seen through to completion, including removal of waste and any ongoing care needed

We need to be open to our landscapes changing, reduce our instinct to manage nature, and be more sympathetic and joined-up in the way we deal with the living world.



WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

Things we can do ourselves/with limited help:

1. Create a greater understanding and appreciation of nature and rewilding through education and awareness raising
2. Neighbours collaborating to create wildlife corridors in their gardens
3. Restore riverbanks, by reducing access to the banks by livestock
4. Restore hedgerows instead of fencing, on farms and in gardens

Things we can do with local agencies/with more help:

5. Restore connectivity between different habitat; permeability, corridors and links to enable wildlife to move easily between them. Include rivers as corridors, link isolated woodland such as Broadhurst Edge (Whinberry Wood)
6. Clean the rivers further
7. Resolve conflicting perspectives
8. Prevent overgrazing, stop heather burning and allow natural regeneration to create increasing diversity
9. Introduction of lost species such as beavers and birds of prey that have been subject to persecution in the local area
10. Generate less artificial noise, to allow us to hear more birdsong and natural sounds
11. Create more allotments
12. Create a better land-use planning system which takes better account of the needs of nature and protects our natural assets. The planning system should promote a long term view when selecting species for boundaries – in particular some slower growing native species such as holly

Things requiring national/systemic change:

13. Create a culture with more plant-based diets, to reduce harmful grazing and allow the space for more nature
14. Create a legislative system which offers more protection from pollution and habitat destruction

We need to:

- *Promote better understanding and management of the areas within our influence, such as our gardens and community-owned spaces, through educational activities, knowledge sharing and practical measures*
- *Work with local Councils, agencies and land managers to improve strategic planning and habitat restoration; identifying the key areas for habitat enhancements and delivering practical improvements*
- *Lobby for improved legislation to protect the environment, and assist a change to more plant-based diets*

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. Tell all our friends and contacts about the Community Conversation
2. All to individually write to MP about moorland land management and raptor persecution Read and consider Wildlife Trusts' Nature Recovery Network proposals
3. Involve the local community in:
 - a. Create a detailed existing habitat map,
 - b. Looking for and planning opportunities to improve, create and link habitats
 - c. Raising funds for improvements
 - d. Balsam bashing project
4. Comment on planning applications, including habitat loss or accommodation, and taking up opportunities to design in permeability for wildlife
5. Track possibilities for introducing lost species
6. Create better relationships and mutual understanding with local farmers and horseowners, possibly through advocacy group, and respecting their needs (e.g. Countryside Code)
7. Make public parks and gardens better for wildlife, including statement pieces
8. Retrofit buildings with opportunities for wildlife homes (e.g. swift and bat boxes)
9. Put pressure on local councils to improve their practices and decisions. Contact Councils for help where necessary
10. Engage everyone to create habitats in their buildings and gardens -possibly could produce or circulate information on how to do this
11. Increase participation in balsam bashing, litter picking and tree planting



Response to climate/ecological emergency

Communicate to all our friends etc what we have done today

Local environmental groups put pressure on local councils & hold them to account. Contact councils & offer help.

Engage everyone to create habitats in their gardens - leaflets with information to help people do this

Increase participation in beehive bashing / litter picking

Advocacy group working with farmers / moorland owners

Write to MP individually - peat burning / raptor persecution

Support Transition re-planting / rewilding groups

Respecting farmers / horse owners needs

NATURE // WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

ENERGY

By Amy Roberts

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

We had a lot of ideas and had to really concentrate to rein them in and focus on the theme of 'Energy' and not just the community as a whole.

In no particular order:

1. Localised energy generation
2. Homes making and storing their own energy
3. Increased uptake of electric vehicles and innovative use of EVs for battery storage
4. Community energy generation
5. Biomass energy
6. An overall reduction in energy consumption

WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

1. Natural beauty of local environment
2. Archie (Torrs Hydro)
3. Sense of the heritage of the town



WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

1. Fossil fuels
2. Mass consumption
3. Faulty thinking – the idea that we can have whatever, wherever
4. Consumerism/capitalism
5. Emphasis on recycling (uses a lot of energy) over reduction
6. Isolation/individualism
7. Despair and dread
8. Separation in all areas of life
9. Commuting
10. Non-sustainable housing development

WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

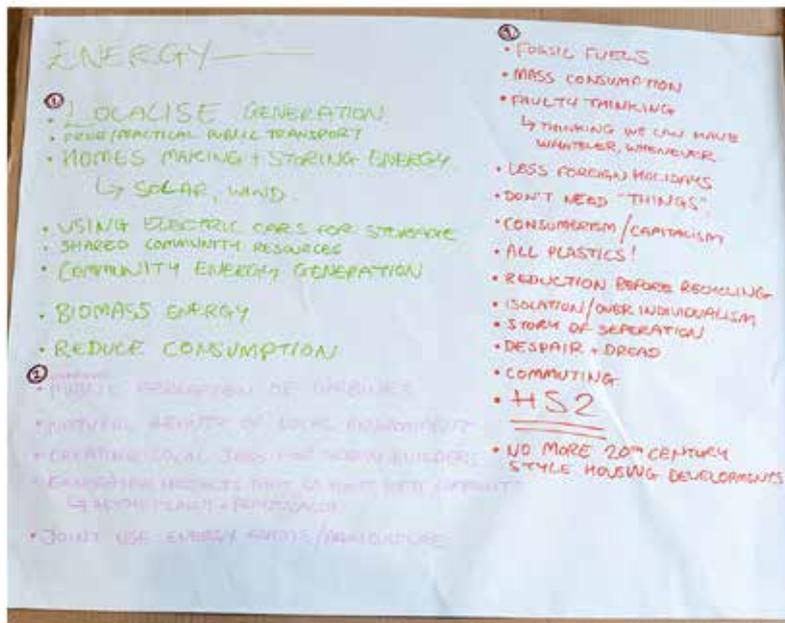
1. Develop existing assets (e.g. waterwheels) into sustainable energy sources
2. Improve education/understanding of energy supply and demand
3. Increase awareness of local actions having far reaching negative consequences e.g. renewable technologies in this country requiring extensive mining for minerals overseas
4. Restore/create community trust
5. Reconnect disconnected local networks – energy, food, transport, etc.



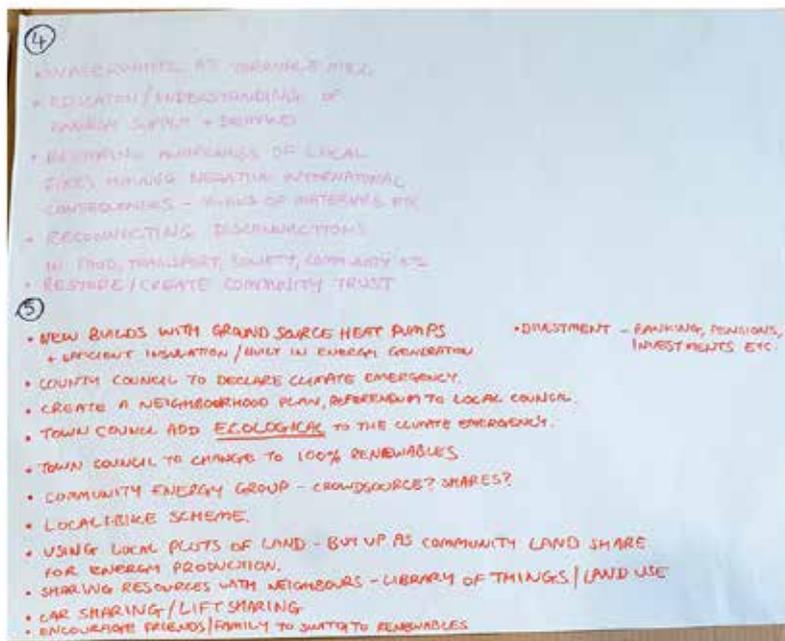
WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. Improved building standards for new builds – more efficient insulation, ground source heat pumps, built in small scale energy generation
2. County council to declare climate emergency
3. Create, or build on, neighbourhood plan
4. Town council should add 'ecological' to the climate emergency
5. Establish community energy projects, perhaps linked through an overarching community energy group
6. Local e-bike scheme
7. Use local plots of land for energy generation
8. Share resources with neighbours – a library of things would mean less energy being used to make unnecessary items for each individual to store in their homes but only use sporadically
9. Encourage friends/family to switch to renewables
10. Mass divestment of investments/pensions from fossil fuels
11. Encourage joint use of land between energy generation and agriculture/ecosystem services

ENERGY / ORIGINAL NOTES



ENERGY // VISUALISE NEW MILLS IN 2030
 ENERGY // WHAT DO WE WANT TO KEEP?
 ENERGY // WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?



ENERGY // HOW CAN WE REPAIR, RESTORE, CREATE?
 ENERGY // WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



FOOD AND FARMING

By Penny Cristinacce/Jill Hulme

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE NEW MILLS TO LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

New Mills 2030 will be a town where food is local and organic produce is readily available, along with other fairly traded food from further afield: where, as a community, we grow our own and nurture practical education in food preparation and cookery skills.



WHAT DO WE VALUE AND WANT TO KEEP?

1. Local **independent shops and cafes**: e.g. Pulse cafe, Potts, Harrops, Bele Bakery, Gioia Mio, Butterfly House cafe, Clockwork cafe, Revive, Darren's Fruit and veg stall, High Peak Food Hub etc.
2. **Local organic food delivery service**: e.g. Little Organic Shop
3. **Local growing**: Local farmers, allotments, egg sales with honest boxes, beekeepers etc.
4. **Local independent breweries**: i.e. Rock Mill and Torrside Brewery
5. **Milk delivery**: i.e. Jackson's and Wild's
6. **Schools involvement**:
 - Polytunnels (NM Primary)
 - Chickens (Newtown)
 - Gardening (High School)
 - School holidays cooking classes
 - Forest schools
6. **Community involvement**: Community Orchard, Incredible Edible, other volunteering

WHAT DOES NOT SERVE US ANYMORE?

1. **Food waste:** best before dates, food paranoia, ultra cheap food etc.
2. **Unnecessary choice:** unseasonable food and veg and excess exotic fruit
3. **Food inequality:** unequal access to healthy, ethically-sourced food
4. **Dependence on convenience food:** Non-compostable takeaway containers and some, but not all, takeaways
5. **Unnecessary packaging:** Non-recyclable and non-compostable wrappers.
6. **Allotment regulations about selling food:** see <https://www.organiclea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/sellingallotmentproduce.pdf> for guidance

WHAT DO WE NEED TO REPAIR, RESTORE AND CREATE?

1. **Foodie Friends:** A place to bring together the community, reduce food waste and to teach and pass on cooking skills
2. **Domestic science in schools:** Environmentally and ethically conscious food-focused classes for all ages
3. **Map of local food:** A resource to find where local food is grown and sold
4. **Zero waste shop:** A place to buy food free from packaging, in the quantities you need
5. **Community growing space:** An allotment for all the town, not individual patches
6. **Community food hub:**
 - A place to teach cooking skills via cooking clubs and time banks
 - To allow community bulk buying
 - A site for collecting a local growers box scheme
 - Intergenerational - ensure the old as well as the young are actively involved
 - Not only dependant on volunteers
 - Fundable

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Build a resilient team to:

1. Set up a **community consultation** - what do people in New Mills want?
2. **Foodie friends debrief** - what can we learn?
3. Find out about local **surplus produce**
4. Investigate spaces for **community growing**
5. Establish a **community asset register** for growing
6. Look into **funding options** for a **Community Food Hub**





Design and formatting by Sam Roberts/Jane Ayres