

Climate Change Forum: residents' feedback survey results

Introduction

The Tonbridge and Malling [Climate Change Forum](#) ran a short survey to ask Borough residents about their priorities for climate action. The survey ran from June to October 2023 and was promoted via CCF engagement events and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC). The survey received 216 responses. The purpose of this survey is to understand what is important to residents and to identify areas for partnership working by the CCF to support some of these priorities.

Survey findings: action areas for CCF

The residents who responded to the survey see the local environment as extremely important and are knowledgeable about the largest areas of emissions in the borough (transport and housing). They have already taken actions themselves to tackle emissions, such as through recycling, walking or cycling for local journeys, avoiding single-use plastics, and improving energy efficiency at home. However, over half of the respondents (56%) did not feel well informed about what the Council is doing to tackle climate change and enhance the natural environment.

In question 5 the survey asked what residents wanted the CCF to work on in the future. The four most frequently selected actions were:

- Recycling bins at playgrounds, parks, other public spaces and council-owned buildings
- Rainwater harvesting to reduce mains water use
- Support efforts to tackle localised flooding by increasing mature tree cover
- Improved advice and information for residents, communities and businesses about climate change and environmental action. (This would also help to address the feeling of being not well informed about council actions, identified in question 3.)

A summary of the survey results is given in the table on the next page.

Next steps

The survey findings can be translated into action by CCF through the development and delivery of an action plan for 2024. The January CCF meeting will:

- Seek agreement on the four priority areas for action for 2024.
- Discuss what action is feasible and achievement for the CCF on each of the four priorities:
 - Outcome to be achieved
 - What action can the CCF feasibly take to achieve this outcome? (and what is it not feasible to achieve at this point)
 - Who else needs to be involved?
 - Timelines/ milestones
- Identify a CCF lead for each action

- CCF lead for each action to develop an action plan: outcome to be achieved, timeline, who needs to be involved, and scope of work. Template to be provided by TMBC.

Action plan drafts to be circulated and implemented ahead of Spring (March) CCF meeting.

Survey high level results

| Question | Result |
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| 1. How important is the local natural environment to you? For example, green spaces, playgrounds, the riverside and wooded areas. | 92% Extremely important |
| 2. What do you think are the highest priorities for climate change and environmental action in the local area? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving transport infrastructure and options for public transport (56% of respondents) • Reducing carbon emissions from transport (36% of respondents) • Supporting habitats for biodiversity (36% of respondents) • Reduction carbon emissions from homes and buildings (31% of respondents) |
| 3. How well informed do you feel about what the council is doing to tackle climate change and enhance the natural environment? | 56% 'Not very well informed' or 'I don't know what the council is doing to tackle climate change and enhance the natural environment' |
| 4. Over the last year have you taken any of the following actions to reduce your environmental impact? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83% recycled all household waste • 64% walked or cycled for local journeys • 63% avoided single use plastics (e.g. refillable water bottle) • 63% Improved energy efficiency at home (e.g. improved insulation) |
| 5. Which of the following actions would you like to see the Climate Change Forum work on in the future? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% Recycling bins at playgrounds, parks, other public spaces and council-owned buildings • 63% Rainwater harvesting to reduce mains water use • 59% Support efforts to tackle localised flooding by increasing mature tree cover • 59% Improved advice and information for residents, communities and businesses about climate change and environmental action |