

Camden Climate Citizen Panel: People Update Session

Summary Notes

Date: Wednesday 20th January

Time: 18.00 – 19.00

Location: MS Teams

Recording link: YouTube link coming soon, but available in the Citizen Panel Teams Chanel

Attendees: Beverly (BR), Chandrima (CP), Naomi (NI), Victor (VS), Anna (AW), Jo (JM), Niall (NM), Shana (ST), Will (WS), Penny (PC)

From Camden: Abigail Roberts (AR), Jackson Bylett (JB), Harold Garner (HG), Carlos Queremel (CQ)

Apologies: Mike (MT), Sarah (SG), Rumi (RH), Anna (AP), Dwayne (DL)

Time	Item	Action Owner
18.00	Session begins Welcome and address to the panel	
18.05	'Check-in' Catch up with panel members <u>Notes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Panel members generally feeling quite busy / juggling work and home priorities, the main challenge lies in managing the urgent but balancing this with what's important. Finding ways to be creative with free time is also proving challenging at times.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel excited by the release of the CNJ 'wrap', setting high hopes for Camden's climate work. PC shared that a student from her school had his submission published in the wrap. PC also mentioned it's difficult to keep momentum with the sustainability agenda in schools at present. • General sense of relief following the US inauguration and re-joining of the Paris Agreement, sets the tone for 2021 ahead of COP26 in Glasgow later this year. This is both an important personal and work milestone for JM who is involved with work contributing to COP26. BR highlighted it's important to speak about the past in order to transform the future - feeling a sense of encouragement. • BR attended and spoke at a Blackpool Climate Assembly session on 19th January 2021 to share an insight into Camden's Climate Assembly and resultant climate work stemming from the assembly process. As part of this exercise BR joined a discussion with businesses and learnt about how they are progressing with the climate change agenda and that there was the potential to adopt some learnings for Camden. There was a consensus that if local businesses are on board with tackling the climate crisis, there should be a way to publicise it in order to further inspire and encourage other individuals, communities and organisations to get involved. • BR and JM highlighted the ongoing need to unpack the relationship between social justice and climate change, JM highlighted the Mayor of Bristol is making really good links between climate and BLM. • ST is continuing discussions with the community and council about bringing the SDGs to life ensuring this captures BME voices and connecting with mutual aid groups to align the story. Opportunity to also align these things with the panel. 	
18.15	<p>Public Information Campaign</p> <p><u>Notes</u> Update from HG on Covid-19 and council resourcing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG explained it's a difficult time of year in Camden owing to concluding budgets as the final quarter draws in, made even more challenging by requests for redeployment of council staff to assist with the covid response. Staff have been assisting with equally urgent and important requests, such as front-line presence and lateral flow testing in the borough. • At present there is no corporate comms support for the public information campaign due to redeployment and prioritisation of covid messaging, therefore there is a pause on the delivery due to the difficulty in launching a campaign on climate when the focus is rightly elsewhere. • The campaign continues to be developed and climate messaging will be aligned with covid comms where possible e.g. link between air quality, pollution, and public health, as well as support for local high streets. <p>Campaign update from CQ: Please see presentation slides</p>	

18.30	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ST shared that it was brilliant to see so many things going on in Camden, despite the uncertain circumstances, and it's exciting to be a part of it all. • PC raised the point that air quality must have improved during lockdown, yet it seems as soon as society reopens air quality worsens again and we don't seem to learn. HG explained that the Council are working on an online air quality 'lesson' as part of Camden's Mayor of London 'Engines Off' campaign. • PC explained that many schools have eco-champions, usually a teacher that is sustainably driven and then therefore takes the lead on driving campaigns via school leadership and school communities, however this tends to be in addition to the day-to-day. Everyone is so busy at present, it's all hands-on deck and difficult to get anything else done. Delaying the info campaign is a good thing for now. • CQ shared the difficulties in maintaining strong relationships in schools due to teachers changing, therefore it becomes a process of starting from scratch to re-engage. It is especially difficult now with competing priorities; however, the Schools Climate Charter might help to reframe the climate agenda as a priority for schools whilst in keeping with other important priorities. PC agreed it's difficult to break the cycle but repeating the process is key. PC asked do we have a list of schools in the borough where we don't have contacts? • In response to the difficulties around maintaining meaningful long-standing relationships with schools and teachers, BR proposed that we engage Trustees or Parent Governors as part of the school's sustainability approach. HG confirmed that we are aiming to include the Schools Sustainability Charter in the Governor training which is provided to all new school governors. BR also asked if Groundwork have projects for Children and families? This could help with schools and establishing the longer-term presence. • NM said that home schooling parents might welcome a structured sustainability focused project and that this could perhaps be something that is published in the CNJ over the course of a few weeks, and it follows on from the 'wrap', encouraging less of a reliance on screen time. • CQ explained if we can raise the profile of the Climate Charter through communities, schools, e-bulletin etc. then the school can make a commitment, taking away the pressure from one individual. • PC explained it was important to be mindful of projects that schools are already involved with e.g. TfL STARS programme, eco-schools, and how it is important to keep everything as administratively low as possible as teachers don't have time for these tasks. PC agreed that placing the focus on the school not an individual is good. CQ shared that these concerns had been raised by teachers in the peer support group. CQ reassured that the charter isn't another framework, it is a declaration/commitment that can help bring awareness to how schools are already responding and encourage the sharing of information and knowledge with other schools to form part of a network. • BR proposed could a connection be made with schools feeding children and families in poverty and linking this in with Camden's climate change actions, to help educate families on how interconnected they are. Is there 	<p>HG CQ</p> <p>CQ</p> <p>CQ</p>
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	<p>scope to keep the discussion alive through the free school's food voucher scheme? PC echoed that this was a great idea. JM shared the link: https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JM shared that it was exciting to see the discussions from the last session had really been taken on board and reflected in the content of the update presentation and is testament to the ability to have this dialogue between the panel/Council. • JM said it was clear to see how much noise and competition there is for driving awareness of the climate agenda. JM asked could there be scope for the Renewal Commission to provide the overarching narrative/framework for people to understand that the climate crisis isn't a distraction from the covid crisis or recession, it's all part of one vision. How can all these pieces be knitted together? • JM explained that a new volunteer is working with Power Up North London (PUNL) to help provide extra capacity to help schools improve the way they use their buildings. PUNL have submitted funding to the Mayor of London climate fund to make this a paid role. JM explained it's difficult for people to find time in addition to their day jobs to think about these complex issues, and to provide a little bit of extra capacity can make such a difference for a relatively small cost. Having that enabling cog might enable it all to work a bit better. Is there an enabling capacity opportunity here that could be explored? • CQ to follow this update. JM invited to speak at an upcoming peer support group, submit items for the e-bulletin, specific connections within the schools. Open invitation to anyone on the panel that has connections in schools. <p>School engagement resources for the panel to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School Sustainability peer Support Network ➤ School e-bulletin ➤ School Climate Charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP asked how Camden are planning to measure success for all the actions listed under the 'People' section. Who are the different actors being engaged with e.g. schools, universities, communities etc. and what activities are they being targeted with? Is there a map that can help visualise who is being targeted with what and if those activities are being successful? It could help to identify ways to be more adaptive and understand short term and longer-term activities, as well as developing partnerships. JM agreed developing partnerships would help with metrics. CP explained the panel could help to think through what the success measures are and provide feedback on how the activities could be even more effective. • CQ explained that mapping all of the target audiences is not an easy process but one that is important when determining impact, however it is difficult to place a metric on behaviour change. It is more challenging than 	<p>HG CQ JB AR</p> <p>HG CQ JB AR</p> <p>CQ</p> <p>CQ</p>
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	<p>targeting a specific community with a specific behaviour. Ideally, there would be campaigns running in parallel at different levels, something more general overall, with smaller, more focused campaigns to support delivery and impact. CQ is working to develop the scope of metrics and impact within the campaign plan with an external agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW asked if there was a way that sustainability could be embedded in schools through enforcement at a higher level e.g. Department for Education, so that a formal arrangement is introduced into all schools requiring them to respond to the climate crisis in line with Camden Council’s climate emergency declaration. This could then help to foster climate teams within schools and parent groups and give the organic growth described in the update presentation a greater platform. WS and PC agreed, with PC further elaborating that until there is a paid position in each school, essentially, we’re relying on everyone’s good will and whilst faced with a global pandemic, climate is pushed to one side. Even in the running of schools day-to-day, sustainability isn’t at the top of everyone’s list and it requires a national effort. CQ explained that there had been discussions about this with Camden Learning, however embedding sustainability across the curriculum requires a lot of lobbying and change at a higher level than the Local Authority. • AW suggested it would be great to align ideas in the CNJ visioning with what the council want to do - not everything needs to be done at once, even if only parts of campaigns are delivered e.g. the challenges we face coming out of covid, such as transport e.g. volumes of people using transport, people flying again etc. • CQ reassured that the council works closely with community groups e.g. Think and Do, Transition Kentish Town etc. and they are aware projects must align with the vision of the Climate Action Plan to gain council support due to resource. • JM said it would be great to think ahead to the positive messages that greet us in the spring e.g. travel, greening, revitalising local business. ST agreed that there was an opportunity to reframe the comms by leading with a cause or issue such as food waste, food sharing, travel and how this in turn impacts carbon emissions and marginalised BME groups. • JM suggested a network of school orchards as part of the 2021 renewal. 	
18.55	<p>Admin <i>Please see presentation slides</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ST happy to write a short blog post / reflection to promote the panel as part of a larger panel comms plan when the time is appropriate. Open invitation to the panel to write material and share with AR. • JM / ST to take the lead on nudging panel members ahead of the next session regarding the ‘Places’ summary document. Document to be shared in one of two follow up emails with outline for the next session. 	AR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel decided that starting the next session 30 minutes earlier would be beneficial for the panel to discuss the 'Places' summary. AR will amend the existing calendar invitation to 17.30. Formal session will still begin at 18.00 when Camden colleagues join the call. Discussion around the value of having AR in the WhatsApp group chat, however there are complexities around this. The WhatsApp group will remain for panel members only. 	
19.00	<p>Session ends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel members overall feeling positive with the session discussion and the progress of work despite the ongoing challenging context. Documents to be emailed to panel members for review ahead of 10th February meeting. 	AR