Our Villages, our Future:
Facing up to Climate Change Together

Report of Our Community Conversation

Report of a National Emergency Briefing screening and community conversation held in Betchworth Village Hall on Monday 26 October 2026

Summary

More than 80 people participated in the screening of the National Emergency Briefing and the community conversation that followed. Seventy-three participants took the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas through Mentimeter, answering three questions: how the film made them feel, what they most want from government, and what we can do together as a community. Between them they contributed 167 emotion words, 160 asks of government and 179 ideas for community action. They also cast 290 votes on their own collective ideas. This report was written by Norman Jackson with the assistance of AI (Claude, Anthropic), using the spreadsheet of results provided by Mike Cock, who facilitated the Mentimeter session.

The emotional response was strong and mostly painful. Almost three-quarters of the words expressed anger and frustration, fear and worry, sadness and despair, helplessness or shock. Once ‘anger’ and ‘angry’ are counted together, anger was the single most common response, just ahead of frustration. But it was not all doom and gloom. Nearly a quarter of the words spoke of hope, resolve, care or the need to act, and sixteen people put words of distress and determination side by side.

People’s asks of government were dominated by one message: **treat climate as an urgent national priority and act decisively** (34 of 160 responses). Next came **public education and national awareness** (24), often including calls to broadcast the briefing itself as COVID messages were. These were followed by **holding polluters, especially water companies, to account** (17), **affordable green choices through incentives** (16), and **support for farming, food security and nature** (16). Many also wanted **cross-party, long-term commitment**.

On local community action, **community renewable energy and home improvements** drew the most votes of any single theme (54). Food is the larger story once its two themes are read together. **Community food growing** (42 votes) and **buying local and supporting local producers** (33) make up 29 ideas and 75 votes between them. Buying local attracted more than four votes per idea, the most concentrated support of the evening, and the single most supported idea was to **create local food-swap and vegetable-growing initiatives** (12). **Nature and river protection** (30) and **emergency preparedness for vulnerable people** (27) also drew strong support relative to the number of ideas. Education and awareness was suggested often but drew less than one vote per idea. That suggests participants are ready to move from talking to doing.

Table 1 The most supported ideas

Idea	Theme	Votes
Create local food swap and vegetable growing initiatives	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	12
Buy local food & produce	Buy local and support local producers	11
Continuous lobbying of our policy makers	Lobby government and influence local policy	9
Clean up the River Mole	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection	8
Collectively manage energy for the local area - invest in renewable energy source together as a community and use it's output locally	Community renewable energy and home improvements	8
Get involved in the 4B's Biodiversity group for local nature recovery	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection	8
Put together local emergency plans.	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	7
Seek commercially beneficial deals from companies to install renewable energy to houses	Community renewable energy and home improvements	6
Publicise local producers	Buy local and support local producers	6
Promote renewables	Community renewable energy and home improvements	6
Buy local	Buy local and support local producers	6
Vulnerable people support network	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	5
Raise awareness within the community to publicise the emergency.	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	5
Improve recycling	Sustainable transport and car sharing	5
Growing food locally as a group	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	5
Shop local farms	Buy local and support local producers	5
More community gardens to provide local produce to the local community	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	5
Have local teachings on how to grow food successfully	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	5

Appendix A lists all the ideas for community action under their assigned themes. Table 1 groups these themes into five overarching themes, providing a useful framework for planning community action aimed at mitigating or adapting to climate change.

Table 2. Five overarching themes with some ideas for practical action

Overarching theme	Sub-themes (votes)	Suggestions and proposals
1 Local food	Food growing (42); buy local (33); part of waste and eating (15)	Food swap and growing initiatives; community gardens, allotments and orchards; buy local and publicise producers; growing lessons; plant-based cooking; sharing surplus food
2 Community energy	Community energy and home improvements (54)	Collectively owned local energy; group-buy of solar and heat pumps; solar on the village hall and church roof; Buckland Estate solar; River Mole power
3 Resilience and care	Emergency preparedness and vulnerable people (27)	Local emergency plan; vulnerable people network; warm and cool spaces; off-grid community room
4 Nature, water and weather	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection (30); rainwater management; weather awareness	Join and expand the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative; clean up the River Mole; plant for wildlife; water butts and rainwater capture; establish a local weather station.
5 Advocacy, awareness and education	Lobbying (21); education and awareness (22)	Continuous lobbying of the MP and councils; more screenings, including neighbouring villages and schools; village forum updates; school climate lessons

Introduction

This report documents the outcomes of a community meeting convened by Betchworth Parish Council, with the support of RE-Betchworth and the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative, to raise awareness of climate change as a precursor to planning responses aimed at mitigating and adapting to it.

On Monday 26 October, more than 80 people living in the 4Bs (Betchworth, Buckland, Brockham and Box Hill) gathered in Betchworth Village Hall to watch the National Emergency Briefing. The film provides a sobering account of where the climate and the natural world now stand as a result of human activity.



After the film, and with the aid of Mentimeter, an online tool for gathering text responses, we used our mobile phones to answer three questions: how did the film make us feel, what did we want from government, and what can we do together? Between us we contributed 167 words of feeling, 160 asks of government and 179 ideas for local action. The third question was open to voting, so it is the only one that shows how strongly the room endorsed particular ideas. In all, 290 votes were cast, revealing what we, as a community, considered most worthy of support.

The report is structured around the three questions that were posed, followed by a discussion of the overall results and a framework for planning community action. Appendix A contains participants' responses to the questions.

Question 1. Share the first emotion, thought or word that comes to mind.....page 4
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Question 1. Share the first emotion, thought or word that comes to mind

The word cloud gives the immediate impression: frustration, anger, sadness, fear and despair dominate, with hopeful standing out among them. In Mike's tidied list 'anger' (5) and 'angry' (8) remain separate words. Taken together they make 13, slightly ahead of frustration (12). That is worth knowing, because the cloud makes frustration look like the clear leader. They are followed by sad (9), fear and hopeful (6 each).

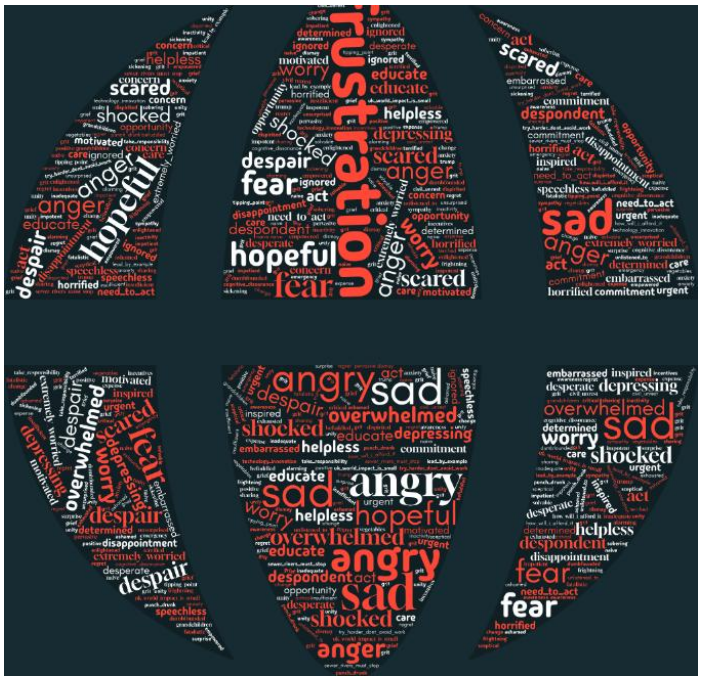


Figure 1. Word cloud of emotion responses (prepared by Mike Cock using WordClouds.com)

Figure 2 groups words into families. Anger and frustration is the largest (34 words), followed by fear and worry (31) and sadness and despair (28). Seventeen words named helplessness, overwhelm or guilt, including 'impotent', 'inadequate', 'ashamed' and 'UK world impact is small', and one person asked simply, 'How will I afford it?' Much of the anger was directed outwards, at inaction and at not being heard ('ignored', 'unlistened to', 'impatient'). That matters for planning. Frustration at institutions can be channelled into collective voice, and helplessness is best answered by visible local action that people can join.

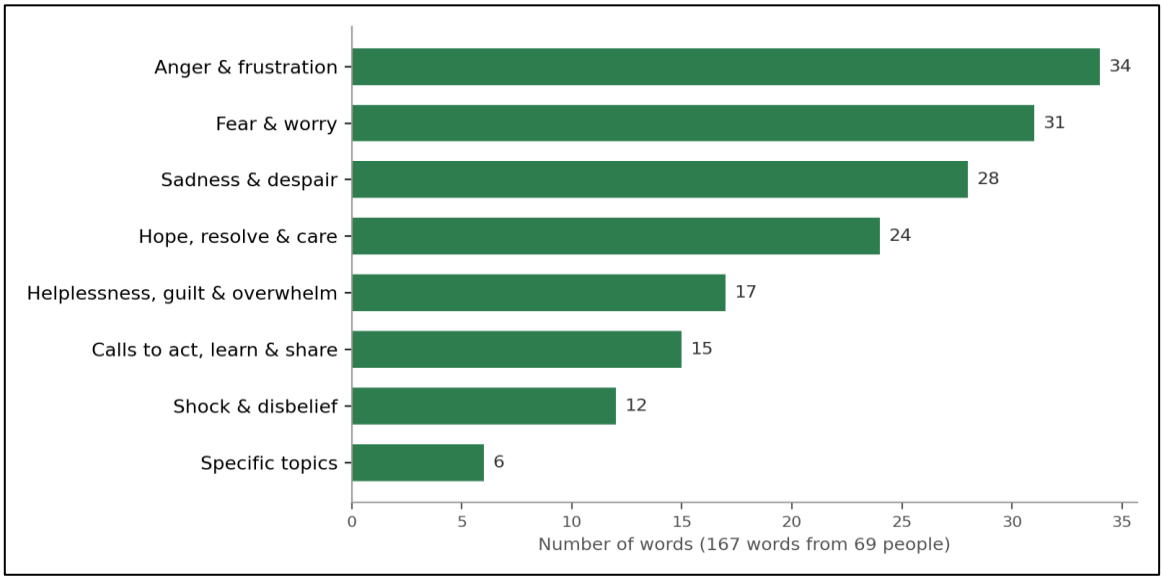


Figure 2. Emotion words grouped into families

Alongside the distress, 39 words (23%) pointed towards agency: hopeful, determined, motivated, inspired, empowered, commitment, grit, solvable, unity and care, together with calls to act, educate and share. Looking at individuals, 59 of the 69 respondents named at least one difficult emotion, 24 named at least one word of hope or resolve, and 16 did both. For many people, being shaken and being motivated went hand in hand.

Question 2. What would you most like government to do?

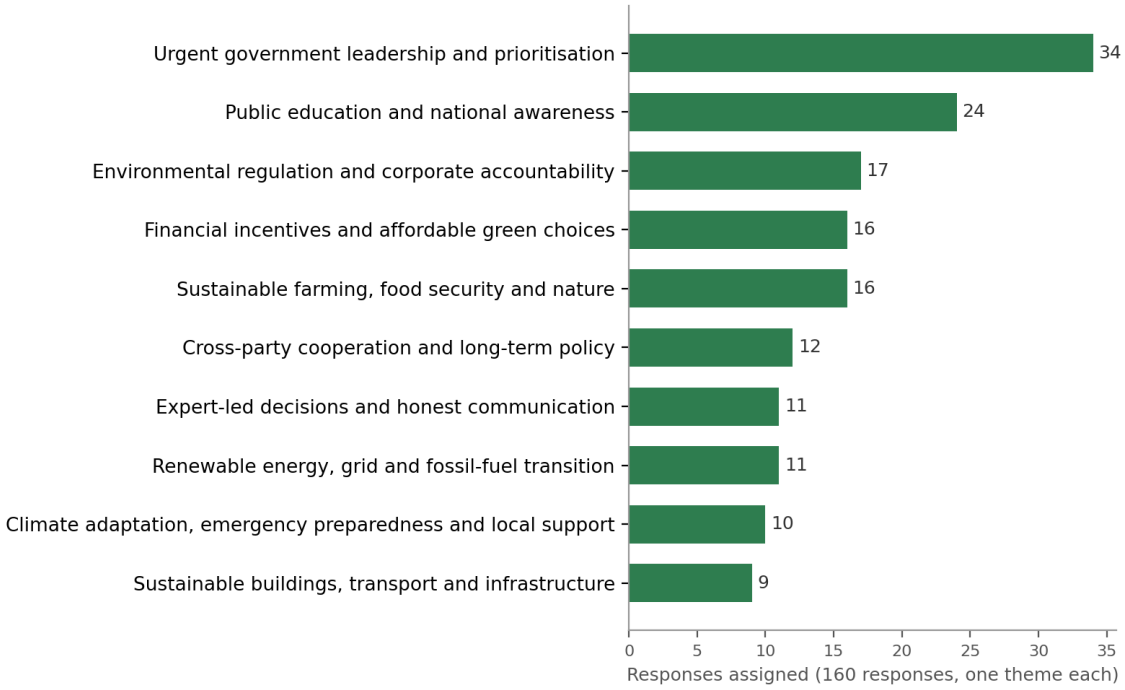


Figure 3. Ten themes for responses about government

The clearest single message was urgency: make climate change a genuine national priority and act now (34 responses). Many responses were short and forceful (‘ACT’, ‘Get a grip’, ‘Be brave’), and several asked for climate to carry the same weight as the economy. The second theme, public education and national awareness (24), included many requests to broadcast the briefing on national television and show it in schools, explicitly modelled on the way the public was informed during COVID.

> *“Be honest and communicate the problem as an emergency in the same way as was done for COVID.”*

Accountability was the third theme (17), with water companies and sewage in rivers named again and again. Financial incentives (16) came with a strong fairness message: help with solar panels, heat pumps and insulation so that going green is ‘not something just for the wealthy’. An equal number (16) concerned farming, food security and nature: supporting UK farmers, nature-friendly and regenerative farming, and local, seasonal food. Cross-party and long-term policy (12), listening to experts and communicating honestly (11), and the energy transition (11) followed. Adaptation and local resilience (10) and sustainable buildings and transport (9) completed the picture.

Because each response was assigned to a single theme, many responses carried a second message that this count does not show. The film and education point, for example, appears as a secondary point in several responses assigned elsewhere. Taken together, the responses form a clear, locally owned mandate that can be drawn on directly for letters to our MP and representations to the district and county councils.

Theme	Responses	What people asked for
Urgent government leadership and prioritisation	34	Make climate change an urgent national priority and act decisively
Public education and national awareness	24	Broadcast the briefing, educate the public and teach climate issues in schools
Environmental regulation and corporate accountability	17	Enforce environmental rules and hold polluters, including water companies, accountable
Financial incentives and affordable green choices	16	Offer grants, subsidies and tax incentives accessible to households
Sustainable farming, food security and nature	16	Support UK farming, food security, nature and sustainable land use
Cross-party cooperation and long-term policy	12	Agree enduring, cross-party plans with clear timetables
Expert-led decisions and honest communication	11	Listen to scientists, communicate honestly and explain the benefits
Renewable energy, grid and fossil-fuel transition	11	Expand clean energy, improve the grid and reduce fossil-fuel dependence
Climate adaptation, emergency preparedness and local support	10	Prepare for flooding and other climate impacts; fund local resilience
Sustainable buildings, transport and infrastructure	9	Improve energy standards for buildings and sustainable transport

Question 3. What can we do, working together as a community?

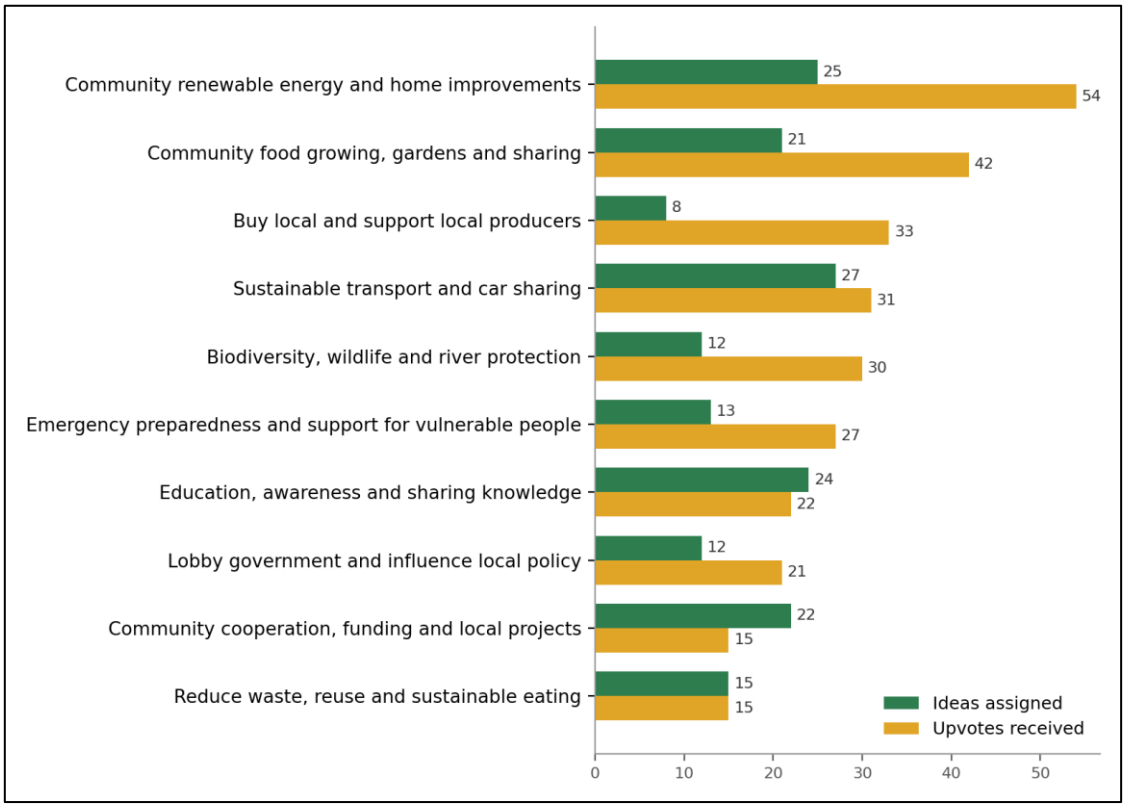


Figure 4. Ten community action themes: ideas assigned and votes (179 ideas, 290 votes)

Because people could vote for each other's ideas, this question gives the clearest steer. Two measures are worth reading together. The number of ideas in a theme shows how many people thought of it. The votes show how strongly the room backed it. The table below adds the average votes per idea, a useful guide to the intensity of support. Across all ideas the average was 1.6.

Theme	Ideas	Votes
Community renewable energy and home improvements	25	54
Community food growing, gardens and sharing	21	42
Buy local and support local producers	8	33
Sustainable transport and car sharing	27	31
Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection	12	30
Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	13	27
Education, awareness and sharing knowledge	24	22
Lobby government and influence local policy	12	21
Community cooperation, funding and local projects	22	15
Reduce waste, reuse and sustainable eating	15	15

Community renewable energy and home improvements is the leading single theme (25 ideas, 54 votes). The most supported energy idea was to manage energy collectively for the local area by investing together in renewable generation and using its output locally (8). It was followed by seeking commercially beneficial deals for home installations and promoting renewables (6 each). Other suggestions included group-buying solar panels and heat pumps, solar on the village hall and church roof, a solar farm on the Buckland Estate and power from the River Mole.

Food is the strongest overall theme when its two parts are read together. Community food growing, gardens and sharing (21 ideas, 42 votes) includes the most supported idea of the evening, local food-swap and vegetable-growing initiatives (12). Buy local and support local producers has only eight ideas but 33 votes, an average of more than four per idea and the most concentrated support of any theme. It includes ‘buy local food & produce’ (11), ‘publicise local producers’ (6) and ‘buy local’ (6).

Two further themes drew support well above average. **Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection** (2.5 per idea) is led by cleaning up the River Mole and getting involved in the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative (8 votes each). **Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people** (2.1) is led by local emergency plans (7) and a vulnerable people support network (5). Lobbying government and local policy is a smaller theme but includes ‘continuous lobbying of our policy makers’ (9), the third most supported idea.

By contrast, education and awareness (24 ideas) and community cooperation, funding and local projects (22) were suggested often but averaged less than one vote per idea. Sustainable transport has the most ideas of any theme (27) but a modest 1.1 votes each. The check of theme allocations (Appendix B) also suggests that a few of its ideas belong elsewhere. People clearly value sharing knowledge, organising together and getting around more sustainably, but the strongest enthusiasm was for concrete projects.

The most supported ideas

Idea	Theme	Votes
Create local food swap and vegetable growing initiatives	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	12
Buy local food & produce	Buy local and support local producers	11
Continuous lobbying of our policy makers	Lobby government and influence local policy	9
Clean up the River Mole	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection	8
Collectively manage energy for the local area - invest in renewable energy source together as a community and use it’s output locally	Community renewable energy and home improvements	8
Get involved in the 4B's Biodiversity group for local nature recovery	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection	8
Put together local emergency plans.	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	7
Seek commercially beneficial deals from companies to install renewable energy to houses	Community renewable energy and home improvements	6
Publicise local producers	Buy local and support local producers	6
Promote renewables	Community renewable energy and home improvements	6
Buy local	Buy local and support local producers	6
Vulnerable people support network	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	5
Raise awareness within the community to publicise the emergency.	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	5
Improve recycling	Sustainable transport and car sharing	5
Growing food locally as a group	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	5
Shop local farms	Buy local and support local producers	5
More community gardens to provide local produce to the local community	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	5
Have local teachings on how to grow food successfully	Community food growing, gardens and sharing	5

4. Discussion: reading across the three questions

From frustration to agency

The emotional temperature was high, and much of it was frustration at slow and inadequate action by those with power. The answers to the third question show where people want to put that energy. They chose tangible, shared projects over general awareness-raising, and they want sustained pressure on decision makers. A plan that offers early, visible wins while keeping up a collective voice speaks directly to both the helplessness and the anger.

Food and energy are the two big local opportunities

Food runs through all three questions: as a word in the cloud (‘vegetables’), as an ask of government (farming, food security, local and seasonal food), and as the strongest combined local priority. It is practical, social, open to every age and income, and builds on what already exists, such as allotments, local growers like Holly and the Dorking food float. Community energy is the leading single theme. It also has the greatest potential to reduce bills and emissions at scale, but it needs more organisation and expertise to get started.

Fairness and affordability

Cost concerns recur throughout: ‘How will I afford it?’ in the word cloud, calls for incentives so that green choices are not only for the wealthy, and local ideas for group purchasing, commercial deals and community ownership. A community energy initiative designed so that lower-income households benefit too would speak directly to this.

Looking after each other

Emergency plans, a vulnerable people network and warm and cool spaces drew strong support, and people recalled how the villages organised during COVID. This is adaptation as well as mitigation. It accepts that some change is already coming and that neighbourliness is part of the response.

Building on what is already here

Participants named many local assets: the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative, the River Mole, the village hall and church roof, the Buckland Estate, local growers and producers, the village forum, local schools, CIL funds and the parish council. The plan does not need to start from scratch.

5. Possible framework for planning community action

A community planning meeting is scheduled for Monday 2 November. The table below groups the ten themes into five possible workstreams, with the votes each attracted. They are offered as a starting point, not a decision. The meeting may want to choose two or three to start with, depending on who is willing to lead.

Workstream	Themes (votes)	What people proposed	Possible first steps
Local food	Food growing (42); buy local (33); part of waste and eating (15)	Food swap and growing initiatives; community gardens, allotments and orchards; buy local and publicise producers; growing lessons; plant-based cooking; sharing surplus food	Set up a village growing and veg-swap group or online exchange; compile a local producers guide; identify land for a shared growing space. Build a group of volunteers to help distribute local produce.
Community energy	Community energy and home improvements (54)	Collectively owned local energy; group-buy of solar and heat pumps; solar on the village hall and church roof; Buckland Estate solar; River Mole power	Hold an information evening; gauge interest in a group-buy scheme; learn from existing community energy groups; explore funding
Resilience and care	Emergency preparedness and vulnerable people (27)	Local emergency plan; vulnerable people network; warm and cool spaces; off-grid community room	Work with the Parish Council on a community emergency plan; revive COVID-era neighbour networks; identify warm and cool spaces.
Nature, water and weather	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection (30)	Join and expand the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative; clean up the River Mole; plant for wildlife; water butts and rainwater capture. Be more conscious of our weather – a local weather station.	Build on and expand the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative and encourage more volunteering; plan a River Mole clean-up linked to river-quality monitoring; promote better local rainwater management and monitor water flow in the River Mole and its tributaries. Set up a weather station and begin to build a detailed picture of the local climate. Seek more grant funding to support this work.
Advocacy, awareness and education	Lobbying (21); education and awareness (22)	Continuous lobbying of the MP and councils; more screenings, including neighbouring villages and schools; village forum updates; school climate lessons	Draft a community letter to the MP based on the responses to Question 2; organise further screenings; set regular village forum updates. RE-Betchworth to bring community together to share ideas and practices.

Sustainable transport (an electric shuttle to Dorking and Reigate, better buses, car sharing and EV charging) could become a sixth workstream or sit alongside the others. Community cooperation and funding is best treated as an enabler for every workstream: co-operative models, CIL money, parish grants and a local wealth fund were all suggested.

Questions the planning meeting might consider

Ideas are one thing, but without leadership, volunteer energy and commitment, and sufficient financial resources, they remain ideas. So which two or three workstreams have both strong support and people willing to lead them? What could each deliver in the next three months to show visible progress? How should the work inform, and be integrated with, the Parish Council's climate action plan and the groups already active locally, especially RE-Betchworth, BERT and the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative? And how can what has been started reach the many residents who were not in the room, an aim several participants raised themselves?

RE-Betchworth is a local charity whose mission is to mitigate the effects of climate change and create a greener, more biodiverse and sustainable local environment. It would seem to be well placed to lead many of the possibilities emerging from the meeting.

Appendix A: Authorship, method and ideas by theme

Authorship and method

This report was written by Norman Jackson with the assistance of AI (Claude, Anthropic), based on Mike Cock's themed analysis of the Mentimeter results, exported as an Excel spreadsheet. Mike Cock assigned each response to one principal theme, so no response is counted twice. The grouping of emotion words into families was done by Claude, a judgement that could reasonably be made differently at the margins.

Votes should be read with some caution. Ideas posted early were visible for longer and had more chance of attracting votes, and the audience was self-selected and already engaged. Participants had limited time to vote, so more consideration might have resulted in different choices. The figures show the enthusiasm of those present, not a poll of the villages.

Mike Cock's allocations hold up well, but a close reading found seventeen responses (seven about government, ten about community action) that seem to sit in a theme they do not really mention. Several appear to have been placed by a single word: 'Improve recycling' sits under transport, and 'Raise awareness within the community to publicise the emergency' sits under emergency preparedness. Appendix B lists each one with a suggested home and shows the totals after reallocation, for Mike Cock to consider.

The reallocations do not change the leading themes. Community energy, food growing, buying local and biodiversity remain the top four by votes. The main effect is that transport falls from 31 to 26 votes, education and awareness rises from 22 to 29, and reducing waste and sustainable eating rises from 15 to 20.

Ideas for community action by theme

Each idea is listed under the theme assigned by Mike Cock and is shown as entered by participants. Votes are shown on the right.

Community renewable energy and home improvements (25 ideas, 54 votes)

Idea	Votes
Collectively manage energy for the local area - invest in renewable energy source together as a community and use it's output locally	8
Seek commercially beneficial deals from companies to install renewable energy to houses	6
Promote renewables	6
Install renewable energy in your home	4
Pool knowledge on suppliers. Solar farm. Wind farm. Village heat pump.	4
Encourage and support group purchases of solar panels and other green energy technologies	3
install solar panels, heat pumps etc in village hall	3
Micro generation initiatives	3
Explore local community solar scheme	3
Solar panels group buy	2
Focus groups to educate each other on electric vehicles, solar panels etc	2
Make solar easy and accessible	2
Work as a collective with green companies for discounts etc	2
Set up local co-operative projects eg people owned power supply. It's been done.	1
Start with individual solar, batteries and heat pumps	1
Cooperative working to install green infrastructure	1

Idea	Votes
As a group invest in solar power and benefit from it somehow.	1
Solar farm on Buckland Estate	1
Put solar panels on church roof - when the building is not in use it can be selling electricity to the grid.	1
Get together as a street to get solar panels installed	0
Install solar panels	0
Street Wed solar panels	0
Set up workshops to inform others e.g EVs, home battery storage etc	0
Share ideas on how to save on energy costs.	0
Wind farms Electricity from the Mole	0

Community food growing, gardens and sharing (21 ideas, 42 votes)

Idea	Votes
Create local food swap and vegetable growing initiatives	12
Growing food locally as a group	5
More community gardens to provide local produce to the local community	5
Have local teachings on how to grow food successfully	5
Community education on how to grow food and diet	4
Allotments and help for people to plant own food	4
Support shared allotments	2
Community projects growing veg and meat	2
Start a community vegetable garden	1
Educate villages around growing food	1
Community farms	1
Community garden	0
Betchworth food bank	0
Betchworth mobile fridge cheap food	0
Develop more shared allotment/orchard/garden spaces - to grow fruit, veg and flowers as a community.	0
Whatsap community vegetable [growing]group.	0
Allotments go organic all together	0
Create a group to install pop up wooden vegetable gardens in people’s back yards	0
Cooperate on what vegetables everyone grows in the village and have a sharing 'market'	0
Local food banks	0
Personal discipline, being prepared to spend money if you can responsibly; Community local energy schemes and community food growing schemes.	0

Buy local and support local producers (8 ideas, 33 votes)

Idea	Votes
Buy local food & produce	11
Publicise local producers	6
Buy local	6
Shop local farms	5
Shop local	2
Support local suppliers	2
Pull together. But locally. Highlight businesses that are providing local products. Educate local people to show that cheaper is not better. Encourage incentives for fitting heat pumps & solar power	1

Idea	Votes
Support local outlets when shopping	0

Sustainable transport and car sharing (27 ideas, 31 votes)

Idea	Votes
Improve recycling	5
Improve local public transport. More regular and more routes	4
Electric minibus transport to Dorking or Reigate	3
Community allotment. Community fridge. Better local transport.	3
Delivery amazon pickup point rather than by house	3
Improve local transport	2
Community car sharing	2
Use public transport	2
Ask for a community ev charging place	1
More electric car points Share knowledge and good practice Consistency in behaviour Disseminate the briefing - schools, colleges, work places etc,	1
Coops! Local farming coops Green power coops Electric local transport coops	1
Electric shuttle between the villages and Dorking/Reigate	1
Closer neighbours eg car share	1
Lobby supermarkets to use less plastic, car share, work together to protect our environment, install water butts and rainwater collection systems, shop local, buy less online, get local councils involved	1
Bulk buying of solar panels and heat pumps Car share WhatsApp group Food waste- encouraging people to offer their food to others if they've bought too much or to empty their fridge before going away	1
Car pooling for shopping trips etc	0
Encourage everyone to walk or cycle to events	0
Local groups instructing others - for examples how electric cars work,	0
Insist on more EV charging points	0
Car pools	0
Try to buy local produce Support local shops Try to not buy plastic wrapped goods Recycle as much as possible Encourage more recycling Get supermarkets to do more with easy food	0
Raise awareness. Working as a group to lobby as well as individually. Encourage use of EVs, cycling etc. Advertise the Dorking food float to encourage buying local seasonal food. Monitor water company	0
Advertise footpaths and cycleways more widely	0
Walk or cycle. Recycle. Buy a water butt. Grow your own vegetables.	0
Tesco bus from Betchworth	0
Encourage individuals to create bio diverse gardens Survey to the whole village to find out what there concerns are eg heating their homes more efficiently, carbon waste , recycling then experts	0
Start to use public transport more regularly and encourage other to, make sure groups share lifts and where possible make the most of whats on our doorstep rather than travelling miles for recreation	0

Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection (12 ideas, 30 votes)

Idea	Votes
Clean up the River Mole	8
Get involved in the 4B's Biodiversity group for local nature recovery	8
Biodiversity initiative	3
More areas planted for wildlife	3
Protect our nature	2
Encouraging use of water butts	2

Idea	Votes
Re wild out gardens more, educate about litter, consider where the food we buy is sourced from. Start a local village excess food cupboard, local seed swap.	2
Support local producers of food and products, buy less online, write to our MP to screen the film, educate our children, help with nature actions	1
Encourage more people to join 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative	1
Further wild flower seed distribution	0
Rewilding,	0
Rainwater attenuation through leaky water butts	0

Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people (13 ideas, 27 votes)

Idea	Votes
Put together local emergency plans.	7
Vulnerable people support network	5
Raise awareness within the community to publicise the emergency.	5
Provide a community room with off grid electricity supply in an emergency	3
Look out for vulnerable people in heatwaves / cold snaps	2
Have an emergency plan and supplies and contacts for vulnerable people aka Covid	2
Being a community - to help with transport, helping the vulnerable, food costs etc	2
Act to prepare for wildfires, extreme cold/heat and flooding	1
Build a 4Bs weather station to provide continuous local records	0
Cool hub	0
Share the information about the climate emergency among all age groups.	0
Community emergency plan for vulnerable people eg cafe	0
Find places to become public cool and heated spaces for the community to use.	0

Education, awareness and sharing knowledge (24 ideas, 22 votes)

Idea	Votes
Educating kids so they are aware what is going on. School education is important as most kids are oblivious to what is going on around them.	4
Educate neighbours, companies, schools - share the message	3
More climate lessons in local schools	3
Spread the word	2
Educate our children	2
Food education groups	2
Education	2
Use everything at their means to promote awareness in every age group and start a local wealth fund for local projects.	1
To continue and expand the conversation	1
Give talks on schools to install the need for change to the ne t generation.	1
Workshops	1
Educate your heinous	0
Spread the word	0
Talk and keep on talking. Creating events like this for more awareness. And come up with local solutions that so we can feel as if we are helping	0
Keeping the discussion alive a d real on the village forums	0
Keep this topic alive by mention it on village forum and when chatting with them about it	0

Idea	Votes
Inform our village forum & local MPs of the contents of this presentation Can this presentation be easily accessed.?	0
Communicate the issue raise awareness in the community and create hope through the actions we can take	0
Share knowledge with more talks.	0
Educate our neighbours friends and family	0
Demonstrate success with green initiatives so that other communities see the benefits and adopt them	0
Inform other local villages so they can show the film	0
Show the film	0
Educate around water shortage and fixing leaks	0

Lobby government and influence local policy (12 ideas, 21 votes)

Idea	Votes
Continuous lobbying of our policy makers	9
Pressure government to act faster to combat climate change	3
Corral others to lobby and raise awareness of local issues. Lead by example.	2
Continue to lobby the local MP	2
Lobby Councillors and government to adopt real, green measures	2
Put climate change at top of political agenda - genuinely	1
Lobby on local issues, develop a shared understanding of the various types of community action, and whether have been successful or not	1
Lobby parliament	1
Lobby the MPs to take these problems to the government Keep the village in good order	0
Lobby the County Council	0
Lobby our MP	0
Check what action the local council are taking.	0

Community cooperation, funding and local projects (22 ideas, 15 votes)

Idea	Votes
Lead by example	2
Galvanise those not here to watch the briefing	2
Pool resources and expertise in appropriate areas	2
Bring utilities back into uk public ownership	2
Local surveys of what people are already doing to adapt	2
Create cooperatives around different initiatives	1
Lead by example and make changes	1
Help Holly distribute her produce locally	1
Small environmental projects to encourage everyone being more invested in the environment	1
Find a way to put CIL money into these initiatives	1
Lead by example	0
Set up centres of excellence in terms of advice eg	0
Share the message.	0
Encourage change even on a small/local level	0
Tell everyone	0
Bert for Betchworth	0

Idea	Votes
No flushing of loos	0
Share experiences of own green initiatives	0
Twice a year village hall meetings to share practices	0
Pc funding for resident projects	0
Sharing our concerns, applying ideas to benefit our aim to wate less in the widest sense.	0
Seek grants to support local initiatives	0

Reduce waste, reuse and sustainable eating (15 ideas, 15 votes)

Idea	Votes
Shift from single use to refillable items	3
Promote more vegetarian options in local pubs and restaurants	2
Eat less meat	2
Create a centralised online local vegetable website that allows for bartering and food swaps to stop food waste	2
Only buy veg and fruit without plastic coverings	2
Cookery Workshops on meals that are plant based - or share recipes	1
Encourage less food waste - share leftovers?	1
Cooking lessons - how to increase plant content of dinners...therefore reducing the volume of meet needed to feed the family	1
Vegetation cooking classes	1
Promote vegetarian in pubs cafe	0
Local pubs and cafes could promote much more vegetarian food - meat and fish don’t need to be the default.	0
Boycott BOGOF offers or share with neighbours	0
Cooking lessons on plant based meals. Target those who wouldn’t necessarily attend eg all men sessions, sessions for teenagers only. Make them sound exciting! Make them free!	0
Make educated purchases - support local, avoid bad packaging and products with high air mileage	0
Eat more vegetables	0

Appendix B: Suggested theme reallocations

These are suggestions for Mike Cock to consider. Each response below appears to have been assigned to a theme it does not really address.

Question 3. What can we do, working together as a community?

Response	Votes	Assigned to	Suggested theme
Improve recycling	5	Sustainable transport and car sharing	Reduce waste, reuse and sustainable eating
Try to buy local produce Support local shops Try to not buy plastic wrapped goods Recycle as much as possible Encourage more recycling Get supermarkets to do more with easy food	0	Sustainable transport and car sharing	Buy local and support local producers
Encourage individuals to create bio diverse gardens Survey to the whole village to find out what there concerns are eg heating their homes more efficiently, carbon waste , recycling then experts	0	Sustainable transport and car sharing	Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection
Raise awareness within the community to publicise the emergency.	5	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	Education, awareness and sharing knowledge
Share the information about the climate emergency among all age groups.	0	Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	Education, awareness and sharing knowledge
Help Holly distribute her produce locally	1	Community cooperation, funding and local projects	Buy local and support local producers
Share the message.	0	Community cooperation, funding and local projects	Education, awareness and sharing knowledge
Tell everyone	0	Community cooperation, funding and local projects	Education, awareness and sharing knowledge
No flushing of loos	0	Community cooperation, funding and local projects	Reduce waste, reuse and sustainable eating
Galvanise those not here to watch the briefing	2	Community cooperation, funding and local projects	Education, awareness and sharing knowledge

Theme	Votes as assigned	Votes after reallocation
Community renewable energy and home improvements	54	54
Community food growing, gardens and sharing	42	42
Buy local and support local producers	33	34
Biodiversity, wildlife and river protection	30	30
Education, awareness and sharing knowledge	22	29
Sustainable transport and car sharing	31	26
Emergency preparedness and support for vulnerable people	27	22
Lobby government and influence local policy	21	21
Reduce waste, reuse and sustainable eating	15	20
Community cooperation, funding and local projects	15	12

Question 2. What would you most like government to do?

Response	Assigned to	Suggested theme
Be honest and communicate the problem as an emergency in the same way as was done for COVID	Climate adaptation, emergency preparedness and local support	Expert-led decisions and honest communication
Building bridges between political parties. Cross party decisions	Sustainable buildings, transport and infrastructure	Cross-party cooperation and long-term policy
I like the thought of community base energy production and storage which serves the whole village, solar, wind or possibly hydroelectric from the river mole.	Environmental regulation and corporate accountability	Renewable energy, grid and fossil-fuel transition
Fund more education on the climate emergency and support more sustainable initiatives	Climate adaptation, emergency preparedness and local support	Public education and national awareness
Apathy due to hopelessness comes from unclear and negative messaging	Urgent government leadership and prioritisation	Expert-led decisions and honest communication
Find cooperation at every level	Urgent government leadership and prioritisation	Cross-party cooperation and long-term policy
Carbon c9st labelling	Urgent government leadership and prioritisation	Environmental regulation and corporate accountability

Theme	Responses as assigned	After reallocation
Urgent government leadership and prioritisation	34	31
Public education and national awareness	24	25
Environmental regulation and corporate accountability	17	17
Financial incentives and affordable green choices	16	16
Sustainable farming, food security and nature	16	16
Cross-party cooperation and long-term policy	12	14
Expert-led decisions and honest communication	11	13
Renewable energy, grid and fossil-fuel transition	11	12
Climate adaptation, emergency preparedness and local support	10	8
Sustainable buildings, transport and infrastructure	9	8