



Blackburn with Darwen People's Jury

Presentation to APSE Energy Members

12th December 2023


A People's Jury

- Also known as a Citizens' Inquiry, Citizen's Jury, Mini-Public or Assembly
- A process through which to engage citizens on a difficult or controversial topic
- Provides an opportunity for citizens to learn about an issue, discuss with a diverse group of peers, and develop well-informed recommendations.
- It shows decision makers and the broader public what people really think once they have the opportunity to study an issue closely.



**The Blackburn with Darwen
People's Jury on the
Climate Change Crisis**

Why did we host a People's Jury?

- To involve citizens in formulating our Climate Emergency Action Plan
 - A People's Jury can produce insightful results that would not be achieved through a consultation, focus group or survey.
 - The process nearly always results in a group of enthusiastic motivated residents interested in taking action.
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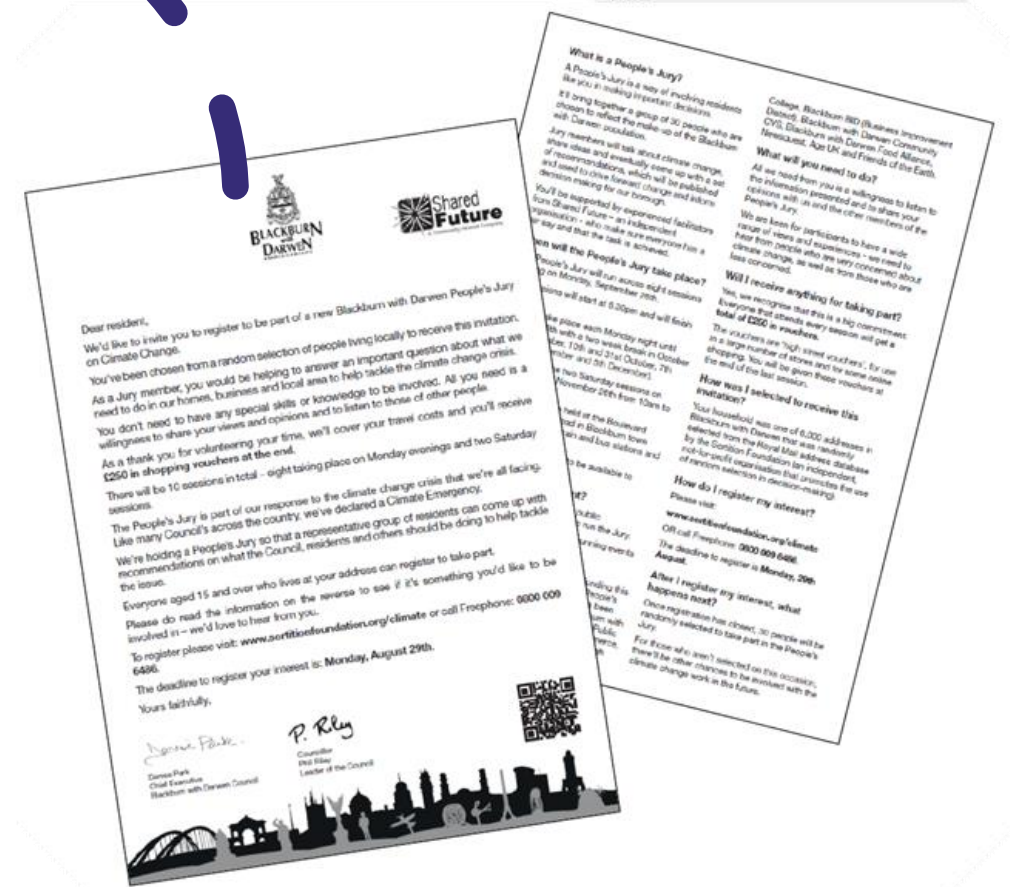


Facilitators

- We commissioned facilitators to provide a degree of independence from the Council
- Shared Future CIC
- Sortition Foundation

Jury Selection & Recruitment

- Jury members were selected to reflect the demographic make-up of Blackburn with Darwen using random stratified sampling
- Letters sent to 5,150 randomly selected addresses in the borough
- Registration of interest made online or by phone – 141 responses
- 32 people selected against Oversight Panel criteria

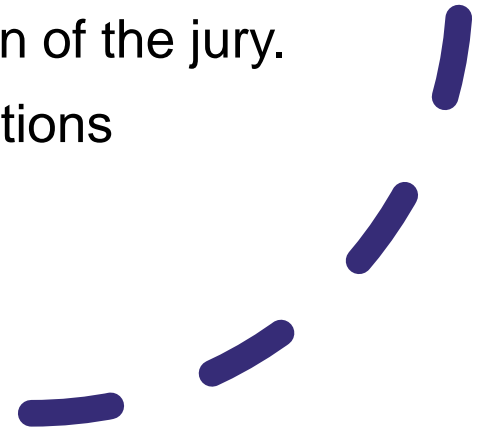


Selection criteria

Criteria	Local Population (%)	Target number of people	Originally Selected participants	Final confirmed participants
Gender				
Female	49.80%	14-15	15	16
Male	50.20%	15-16	15	16
Non-binary or Other				
Age				
15-24	16.00%	4-5	5	6
25-30	16.70%	5-6	6	6
31-44	17.26%	5-6	5	6
45-64	30.92%	9-10	9	9
65+	19.11%	5-6	5	5
Ethnicity				
Asian or Asian British: Indian	13.40%	4-5	5	5
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	12.10%	3-4	4	5
Other ethnic group	5.50%	1-2	1	2
White British	69.10%	20-21	20	20
Disability				
Yes	25.50%	7-8	8	10
No	74.50%	22-23	22	22
IMDs				
1-2	45.20%	13-14	16	17
3-4	22.45%	6-7	5	5
5-6	5.58%	1-2	1	3
7-8	20.49%	6-7	7	7
9-10	6.28%	1-2	1	0
Geography				
Blackburn	77.76%	23-24	24	24
Darwen	18.10%	5-6	5	7
Rural	4.14%	1-2	1	1
Education Level				
No formal qualifications	28.70%	8-9	7	6
Qualification below Level 4	51.50%	15-16	16	17
Qualification at Level 4 or above	19.80%	5-6	7	9
Attitude to Climate Change				
Very worried	32%	9-10	10	12
Somewhat worried	44%	13-14	14	13
Neither worried nor unworried	19%	5-6	5	5
Somewhat unworried	3%	0-1	0	0
Not at all worried	3%	0-1	1	2

Oversight Panel

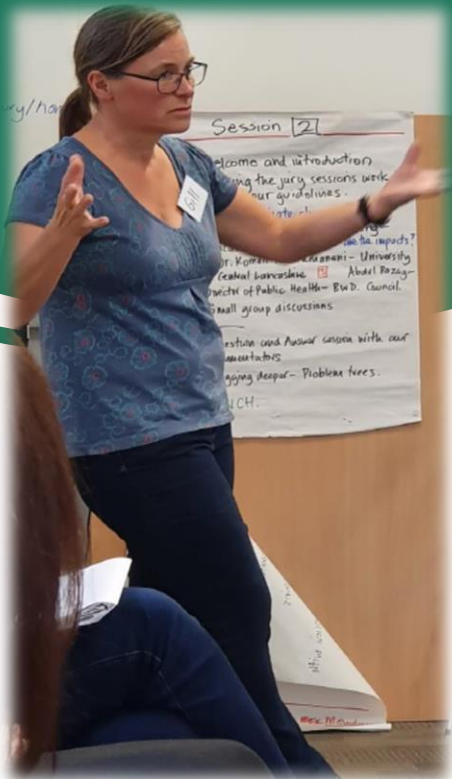
- Brings together a wide range of local stakeholders with a range of expertise to ensure that the jury process was robust and fair.
- The Panel's role was to:
 - agree the process of citizen recruitment;
 - agree upon and monitor the structure of the jury;
 - set the question that the Jury would seek to answer through their deliberations;
 - identify suitable commentators to present to the jury and to push for implementation of the recommendations.
- The Panel met four times over the duration of the jury.
- Fed back on the Jury's draft recommendations



Question set for the People's Jury

What do we need to do in our homes, in business and our local area to respond to the climate change crisis?

Jury Process



The Jury met over 30 hours, Monday September 26th to Monday December 5th, spread over six evenings and two Saturdays.

- Session 1 - Introductions and ice breaker - map what locally is and is not helpful in trying to tackle climate change
- Session 2 - Commentators: What is climate change and what are its impacts?
- Session 3 - Commentators: How does change happen?
- Session 4 - Commentators: Communications and education
- Session 5 - Commentators : Transport
- Session 6 - Commentators: Housing
- Session 7 - Reflection, deliberation and the start of recommendation writing
- Session 8 - Finalising the recommendations

Recommendations

COMMS	1) Everyone can be educated through inclusive involvement about how to make Blackburn with Darwen a better place to live, work and play. We think messages should be developed by and shared by people of all ages.
OTHER	2) We ask the oversight panel of the people's jury to assign an accountable individual / organisation for each of our recommendations & regular review meetings
OTHER	3) Improve green spaces around the borough – more maps, benches, consultation about tree planting
OTHER	4) We are aware that food waste is a big issue. We recommend more local research about causes and solutions. Communicate the findings to promote behaviour change
TRANSPORT	5) We want improvements to public transport to make it reliable, affordable, accessible, easier to navigate, clean, and safe.
HOUSING	6) National government should implement a minimum standard for energy efficiency and insulation in all homes.
HOUSING	7) People can be supported to make changes. There should be an approved list of local renewable energy installation and maintenance, more impartial information on how to make savings on energy efficiency and a solar bulk-buying scheme
HOUSING	8) Blackburn with Darwen Council needs to challenge the national building regulations to ensure all new homes have solar panels and heat pumps. We need net zero new homes by 2028 like Lancaster's target (or earlier). The Local Plan should be changed to reflect this.
COMMS	9) We need to give a sense of inspiration back to our community which will help encourage change and give hope for a better future. This can be done through creating the Blackburn with Darwen Smile awards!
TRANSPORT	10) Build upon work already being done and do more to encourage people to walk, wheel, and cycle, safely and accessibly
OTHER	11) Encourage people to grow their own food
HOUSING	12) The council and local housing providers should be encouraged to use more sustainable building practices for example investigating the use of lime mortars, and an emphasis on reclaiming.
HOUSING	13) We are worried that new homes cause emissions. There should be an investigation into why locally 1,000 homes are vacant and why the Empty Homes team doesn't have enough money to make these homes habitable.
TRANSPORT	14) Current dial-a-ride and similar services are too limited to offer a solution. Explore expansion of a dial-a-ride service to provide a cheaper, more sustainable solution to taxis and provide 'public transport' service to areas with limited bus services.
TRANSPORT	15) We want the council to do more to encourage businesses to set up company car sharing schemes and we want this activity to be measured and publicly reported to encourage take-up.

Jury Statement

We are a jury that represents the diversity of Blackburn with Darwen; different ages, genders, ethnicities and backgrounds and have all worked together to agree a way forward. We are multiple backgrounds with one message.

From our journey we are worried and frustrated about climate change. This issue has been ignored for far too long. Time is running out.

We are nervous that there are those who don't see the urgency of the issue or understand, especially the government and those in power who have a duty of care.

We are worried about how the changes that lie ahead will be paid for and the cost to the individual especially those struggling to make ends meet and this must be considered at every stage of what we do in our response.

However, we are hopeful. This process has shown us that if we break the problem down into smaller parts it is solvable. The opportunities for changes are there, there are lots of things that people can do. We can all lead the change that must happen. There is much we can do as individuals, but we need those in power, such as the council, to put in place everything to make it easy for us to take this action. This must be the start of a continuous conversation.

We must not give up, for the sake of our future generations.

All of us in Blackburn with Darwen are part of a chain supporting each other. All of us are an important link. To the council, councillors and other links in the chain, we say we must get the job done.

Launch 23rd January 2023

- The People's Jury presented their personal experiences of the jury process and what they hope to be achieved from their dedication
- Over 100 attendees from the Council, public, private and third sectors
- Members of the audience made Pledges to act on some of the recommendations
- The Leader of the Council commended the Jury on its level of commitment and was genuinely taken with the level of enthusiasm in the room from the Jury and the audience
- Report presented to Council Forum on 26th January



Post Jury

- 15 Jury members stayed on
- Shared Future retained to provide 12 months' support to these Jury members who were motivated to:
 1. Monitor action on the recommendations
 2. Be actively involved in making the recommendations a reality
 3. Attend policy related meetings to work with staff/elected members and others to explore how recommendations can be implemented,
 4. Take practical individual action as part of a group or project
 5. Undertake further learning opportunities

Review Meetings

- Recommendation 3: Provide feedback after 3 months then via 6-monthly meetings
- Two meetings held to date
- Low score on first review – criticised for providing too much information
- Jury chose topics wanted to hear about at second meeting, which meant experts weren't in the room
- Beginning to recognise that some things take time (e.g. changes to transport)
- Unhappy with no progress on what appear to be simple asks – e.g. benches

Jury Member Activity

- Met with MP for Blackburn to push for action on national level recommendations.
- Attended Festival of Making to educate and mobilise the citizens of Blackburn with Darwen on climate change
- Helped create a piece of artwork as a climate conversation starter
- Taking Carbon Literacy courses
- Working on setting up a climate café
- Want a regular radio slot to promote the climate message and work of the Jury
- Influencing CVS environment award categories
- May be prepared to become Climate Champions




Council & Recommendations

- Recommendations presented to Council Forum for approval to incorporate into our Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Incorporated most of the recommendations into our Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Holding regular review meetings, as requested
- Key Action - Climate campaign featuring the Jury
- Involving community in tree planting
- Not all straightforward
 - Benches
 - List of contractors
 - Solar Bulk buying
- Recommendations should not all be responsibility of the Council

Future of the People's Jury

- Next steps will be set by Jury – what they want to do individually and collectively
- Won't be able to provide 3rd party support in the long term (cost and procurement issues)
- Hope that the Jury will want to continue as a body and stay in touch
- Expect to be held accountable through review meetings
- Hope that some or all will become local Climate Champions



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- The need to remain at arm's length
 - Characteristics of the borough
 - Getting residents to look beyond 'the council'
 - Managing expectations of what's achievable in the short term
 - Must have a plan for what to do with the recommendations, regardless of what they are
 - Exit plan, even after a year of support
 - For some observers, Jury aimed too low
 - Rewards for Jury member time
 - More work than you might anticipate
 - Benefits for participants – confidence building



Key
challenges
and
lessons
learnt

Thank you for listening

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Links

[The Blackburn with Darwen People's Jury on the Climate Change Crisis September - December 2022](#)

The Shuttle [People's Jury articles](#)

[People's Jury x Get It Done x National Festival of Making](#)

[Get it Done](#)

[People's Jury](#)

