

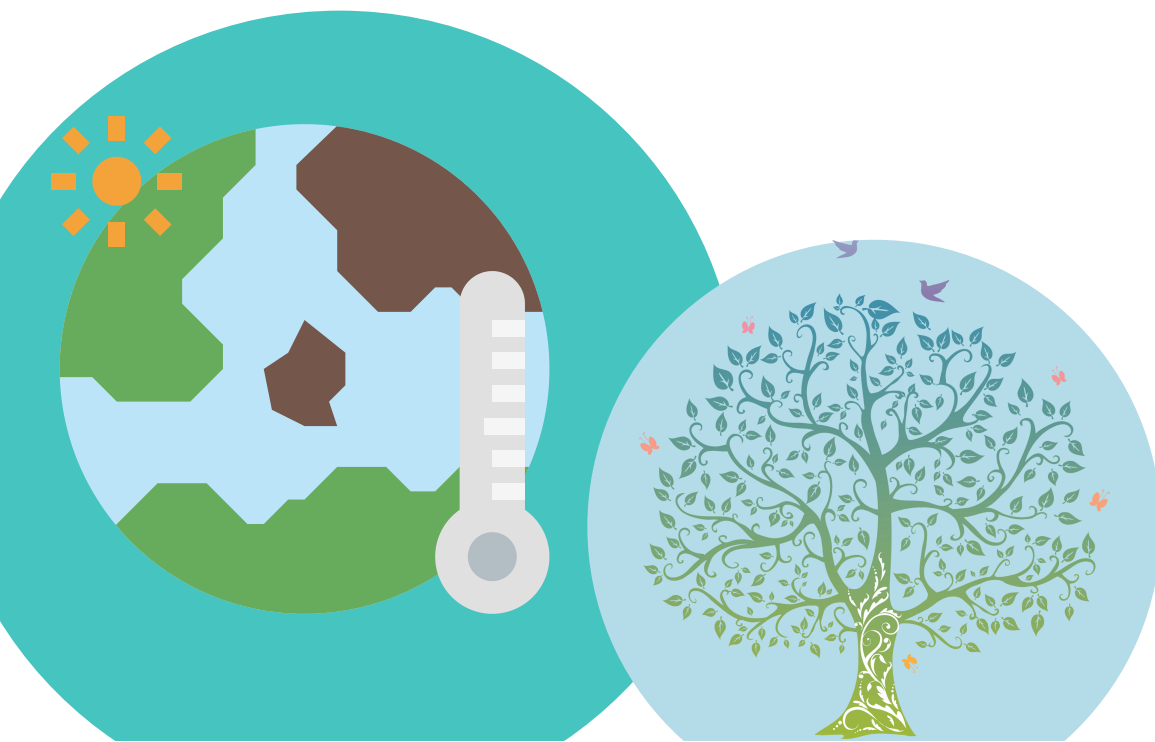


SYMBOL

**SEFTON YOUTH MAKING BETTER
OPPORTUNITIES WITH LEADERS**

Thursday 26th May 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE



INTRODUCTION

Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders (SYMBOL) meetings are an opportunity for young people to meet and work collaboratively with key decision makers in Sefton.

Young people are involved in the planning and delivery of SYMBOL activity and attendees vote on the topics that are important to them.

Being a member of SYMBOL means a young person can play an active role in their community, with a direct line of communication with key decision makers, such as Councillors, senior managers from Sefton Council and representatives from Public Health, Merseyside Police and more. There are SYMBOL meetings three times a year at different locations around the borough and more recently they have been held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

SYMBOL meetings have covered topics including:

- Sex and Relationships Education
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Activities for Young People
- Return to Education following the Covid-19 Pandemic

THE MEETING

The meeting took place on Thursday 26th May 2022 and was held remotely via Zoom.

The topic for the SYMBOL meeting was Climate Change - this was decided by the young people at the November 2021 meeting.

In the meeting we discussed the effects of Climate Change in Sefton and what young people can do to reduce their carbon footprint. We spoke about Sefton's coastlines and wildlife and how this has changed and may continue to change due to the effects of Climate Change and about Sefton Council's 2030 Climate Strategy.

In total there were 26 people on the call, 18 of which were young people, including our Young Advisors.

For the purpose of this document, we are defining a young person as 25 or younger.

GUEST SPEAKERS

At the meeting we had two guest speakers that came along and spoke to the young people about topics relating to Climate Change in Sefton.

Introduction/What is Climate Change?

Julia Thorpe – Project Officer for Climate Change and Environment at Sefton Council – gave a presentation to the young people at the meeting about what Climate Change is and how it affects the world. Within the presentation, there was an interactive quiz and a true or false section for facts around Climate Change.

Julia went on to explain the effects of Climate Change on the UK and more specifically Sefton. With Sefton being on the coast, Julia discussed heatwaves in the summer and rising sea levels.



Winners and Losers of Climate Change

John Dempsey - Engagement Officer for Green Sefton - gave a presentation on wildlife in Sefton including animals and plants/trees. John spoke about the species that do not exist in Sefton anymore as a result of Climate Change and the newer species we now may see on our coast.

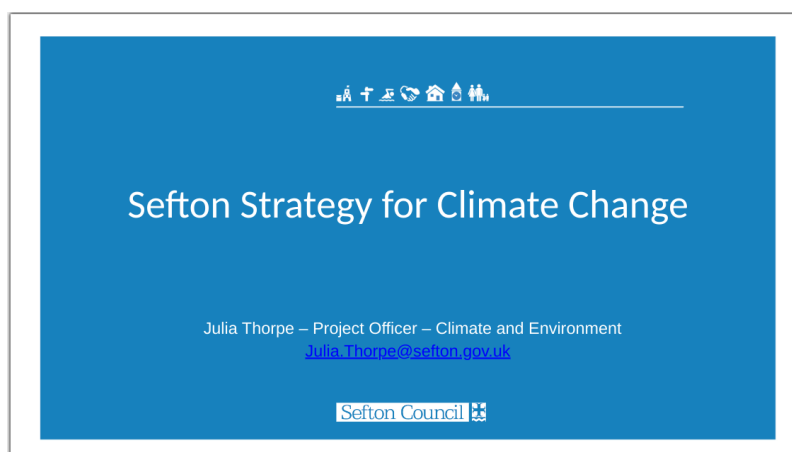
There were a range of photographs shown that were taken by John which the young people at the meeting really enjoyed.

Sefton Council - Climate Change Strategy 2030

Julia Thorpe presented later on in the meeting about Sefton Council's Climate Change Strategy to be Net Carbon Zero by 2030.

Julia explained Sefton's emissions as a borough and what Sefton plan to do to achieve their goal. This includes more LED lighting, tree planting and improving insulation and glazing in town halls.

Julia went on to explain about Sefton's summer consultation and asked young people how they would like to get involved.



WORKSHOPS

Within the SYMBOL meeting, Sefton Young Advisors facilitated two workshops. The workshops were in the form of breakout rooms on Zoom and in each breakout room there was a mix of both Young People and Officers and Elected Members from Sefton Council.

The breakout room workshops were a good opportunity for Young People to connect with Senior Leaders, Elected Members and Officers from Sefton Council to discuss their views.

Views were collected on a JamBoard where the Young People could add their own comments and then notes were collated and feedback to the main room.



WORKSHOP 1

We asked young people; 'What do we, or others do, that contributes to Climate Change?'. Young people told us...

- Using cars instead of walking for short journeys
- Air travel
- Leaving lights on
- Throwing plastic into the sea
- Fast fashion
- Deforestation
- Burning coal
- Single use plastics
- Not recycling
- Leaving water running
- Intensive farming



We then asked young people; 'What can we change?'. Young people told us...

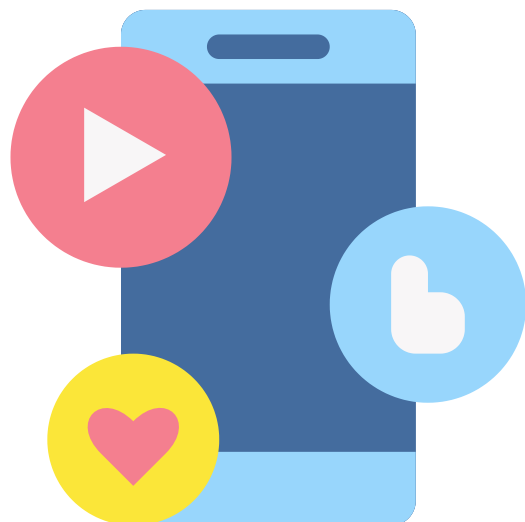
- Insulating homes better, such as double glazed windows
- Turning off lights
- Car-sharing
- Walking instead of driving
- Using public transport
- Shopping more sustainably
- Eating less meat
- Recycling clothes
- Avoiding landfills
- Recycling plastics/glass/cardboard
- Using tupperware/bottles instead of single use
- Having eco-friendly lightbulbs



WORKSHOP 2

We asked young people; 'How do young people want to be consulted with about Climate Change?'. Young people told us...

- Online through social media
- Through schools and colleges
- Coming to youth groups
- TikTok videos would be fun and engaging
- Instagram posts that are attractive to young people so we would respond
- Having a stand at an event eg. at a family fun day
- Sending out questionnaires through social media



We then asked young people for feedback and questions on the Sefton Council 2030 Strategy. Young people told us...

- Is the progress of the strategy going to be shared with the public?
- How much power does the Council have to significantly change the ways of our borough?
- What is living streets in the strategy?
- Good document which is really informative

The questions and feedback above were put to Officers from Sefton Council at the meeting. Sefton Young Advisors will follow this up to gain feedback for the next SYMBOL meeting.



ENGAGEMENT

For this SYMBOL meeting, Young Advisors created a poster and agenda leaflet that was shared widely. The information was shared on Twitter from Young Advisors, Sefton CVS, Sefton Council and was re-tweeted by partner organisations.

Young Advisors shared information with schools and local cub/scout groups and it was shared through the 'Big Green Envelope' which is a newsletter sent to schools.

Unfortunately, considering all of the different ways that the information about SYMBOL was shared, numbers of young people were lower than we had hoped.

For our next SYMBOL meeting, we hope to have a face-to-face meeting which we hope would encourage a better turnout.

MORE INFORMATION

At the end of each SYMBOL meeting, we ask the young people present what they would like to discuss at the next meeting.

The two most popular topics were hate crime and poverty.

The SYMBOL planning group will discuss with Sefton Young Advisors about the topic for the next meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sefton Young Advisors would like to thank all those that attended, presented and spoke at the May 2022 SYMBOL meeting.

For more information about SYMBOL or Sefton Young Advisors please email:

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