

Camden Climate Citizen Panel – Closing meeting – 12 July 2022.

What has stood out and why?

- Wealth of knowledge and experience within the panel that we can tap into
- Metrics – frustrations from the panel
- Discussion around transport – cycle lane expansion in covid – impact on everyday life
- Presentations by council officers raised unanswered questions – comms & transport
- Lack of reference to detailed commitments in climate action plan
- Some personality clashes
- Sometimes confusing to know what impact/change we had opportunity to change?
- Net Zero climate action plan
- Willingness of council to listen and learn
- Diverse range of topics to explore and feed into
- Opportunity to feed into and shape topics we felt we could make a difference i.e., comms
- Us, being able, Camden wide, to contribute to COP26 (both in-person and Camden own event)
- Global to local interconnectedness
- In-person and being able to meet travel/transport teams, and school's work
- Level of input and steer we've got from the panel
- Sarah

Additionally, what has worked well?

- The unity of purpose for us as a panel; common issues and camaraderie
- Attitude of council, very positive towards us as a panel
- Our feedback has been taken seriously by the council
- Mixing of opinions/contributions from a broad spectrum of contributors
- Space to talk about fears and worries re the climate
- Hospitable environment to put contributors at ease

What should we celebrate?

- How well we came together, felt very heard, stuff taken on board
- Doing something so new, fun and very interesting
- What we are as a group, including the council officers, in defining the process and what we can do
- Managed to keep it going! For 2 years during covid
- Achievement within individual projects
- Celebrating that we are trailblazing
- Meeting the people behind policy change and direction, through more detailed conversation. Transport team who presented were great.
- Beginning the process of defining what the panel is/does
- Changed the way we work in some areas
- And, Abi, yay, kept it all together. Camden team brilliant throughout.

What could be even better?

- Panellist retention – dwindling attendance. Disappointing that people stopped coming and didn't fulfil their commitment
- Sometimes the jargon is quite difficult to get your head around
- Detailed examination of progress in policy areas, with reference to C.A.P targets
- Representation of all of Camden's geographical areas and demographics
- Use the panel as advocates
- Expectations – time/money, what is achievable?
- Invite voices, or hear from, that are those most affected by the impacts of climate change locally, i.e., the most marginalised
- Engagement with local councillors and MPs, and inform and impact their work
- Realistic understanding of change influence/impact possible and where we might be able to push further
- We could get more Camden residents involved/engaged
- Use the panel to nudge businesses and the less 'flexible' departments in the council
- Clearer definition of purpose e.g., where is it useful to have citizens Vs. experts? Scrutiny or co-design? Need to think about Conversations can be off-putting for those without expertise.
- Projects were interesting but we need to get updates downstream, what happened/didn't happen?
- Something said to next panel re. expectations. And what to expect, what can be achieved and when/how long?
- Maybe do some deep dive (depth) on a topic, but some will disengage
- More cross departmental engagement – the panel should become a sounding board for departments within the council.
- Need some panellists that can understand the level of detail and can help other panellists. We should ask different questions to expert/non-expert so that. Non expert panels could input on how to communicate and engage people, whereas expert panels could help review and provide solutions.
- Being very clear on accountability – who in the council is accountable for what, and what is outside the council's remit altogether?
- May be better to go narrow and deep with topics, with more continuity, than broad and shallow?
- Struggle to pick things up, cross big gaps between meetings
- Get even more voices into the process, more reflective of the borough and walks of life
- Need some form of ongoing open line of communication between meetings (engagement) – but the balance needs to be right

And, what's been missing, needs improving, adding to or reworking, and how?

- Being explicit about discrepancy between action plan and 2030 target, the council are not close to meeting climate promises and this could be frustrating at times
- Being honest about the challenges
- Background detail to policy visions – to contextualise idealistic visions

- Contribution to contract discussions central to climate action e.g., Caterlink, Veolia etc.
- Number of routes to communicate outside of meetings
- Reminded of the journey pre-CAP, most democratic process
- Sign-posting people to where they could go for deep dives
- Voices from outside the council, with partners, bring them into the process
- Give panel a voice in the 'political system'
- Scrutiny and political member involvement – but some felt panel members (some) were too strong an opinion
- A regular space where panellists can check-in with each other
- Knowing what channels or medium that works for individual members (e.g., Google Hangout)
- Visualised context for our conversations – Where did we start, now, what next, where climate was and where it is now?
- Discussion topics, and see where they have ended up in Camden, what happened and where our conversations led to
- No loss of momentum PP1 to PP2 – the journey and discussions we have had, so the hit the ground running
- More contact with councillors, committees, and other political decision makers (this would help with accountability gap)
- NOT to underestimate the story telling and journaling, where we have come from and what we have done
- Abi, Jackson, and Harold have been on the wrong end of some criticism re. what the panel wants to achieve, and that sucked energy away

Should the format stay the same, what could/should this look like moving forwards?

- Presentations and Q&A
- Video of first assembly
- Journaling of the process this panel has been on
- Social media better
- Long term action planning – 2030
- Planning more than two years ahead, panel plan beyond the next two years
- Meet more regularly, bi-monthly?
- Less presenting, more discussing. Especially less presentations that feel like council 'pr', we want to know what's not working!
- Could watch presentations in our own time to save time
- Mix it up – in-person, online option, a weekend here or there, host in the community and use partners or local businesses
- Link in with other councillors' activity, linked in with something already happening
- Make use of different marketing processes, surveys, mystery shopper etc.
- Panel Vs. campaigning or both? (advocacy)
- The current panel have been mostly white and not representative of the wider Camden community
- More creative ways of engaging, community centres etc.

Possible Future Topics for Discussion

- Rewilding/greening = e.g., big things already in the media?
- Consumption (cost of living)
- Waste
- Transport again
- Linked with storytelling
- Impact on emissions, impact of panel, impact of climate change on the people in Camden, climate change locally
- What can individuals do
- Big plastic count- Greenpeace
- Food and diet (Less meat, less processed food)

Who Would Like to Stay Involved?

- Penny
- Shana
- Will
- Anna
- Stephen and...
- Jackson!

Produced By:

Gary Austin.
C/O Involve

19th July 2022