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# Adur & Worthing Climate Assembly: key learnings and what next?

SECA Conference 2023  
Chloe Clarke



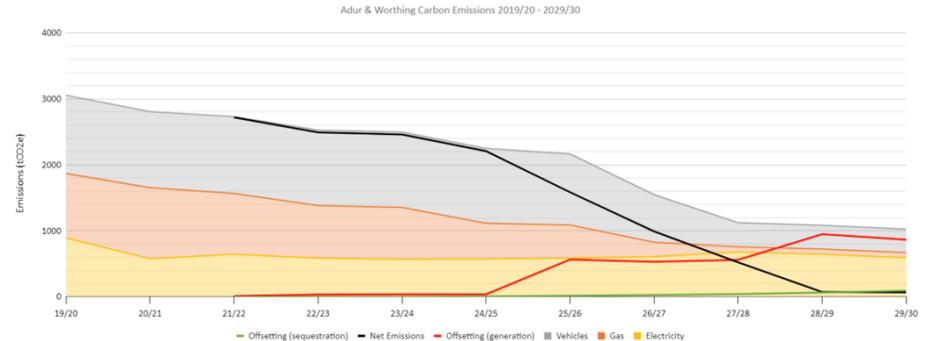
# Council commitment to Net Zero



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## Trajectory to Net Zero (AWC only)



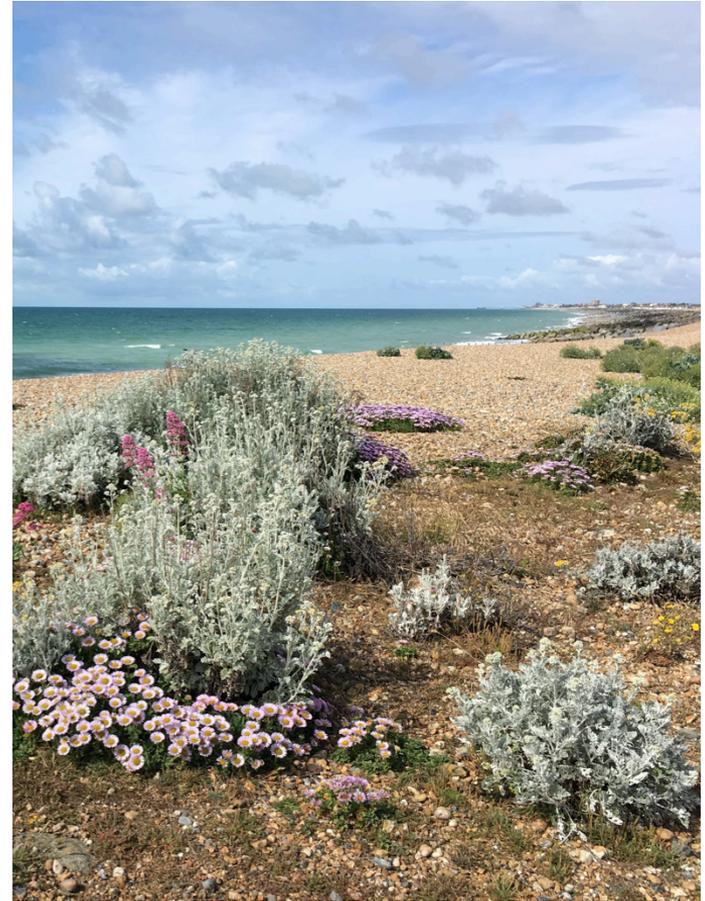
Climate emergency declared by council in 2019. Rapidly reducing carbon emissions - on track to be carbon neutral by 2030. Same focus and pace required for nature/biodiversity work.

# A&W Climate Assembly

- 43 residents selected at random
- Heard from experts on range of subjects
- Discussed, created & voted on set of 18 recommendations to address:

**“How can we in Adur and Worthing collectively tackle climate change and support our places to thrive?”**

**“What does this mean for the way we live and for our local environment?”**



<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/climate-assembly/>



# What impact did it have on participants?



**97%**  
met people I  
normally would  
not have



**97%**  
felt inspired -  
achieved  
working  
together



**100%**  
was a good  
place to discuss  
learning with  
others



**95%**  
had enough  
information to  
participate  
effectively



**95%**  
information  
received was  
fair & balanced



**84%**  
online platform  
helped feel  
more connected



**97%**  
happy that they  
took part



**97%**  
felt included



**97%**  
have had plenty  
opportunities to  
express my views

# What impact did it have on participants?

"I have a new hope that the council does/will care and act upon things that are important to the residents of the area."



**Pre-Assembly, 70%** thought the climate assembly would lead to positive change and support the place to thrive



**89.5%**



**Pre-Assembly, 58%** thought the Councils would act on what came out of the climate assembly



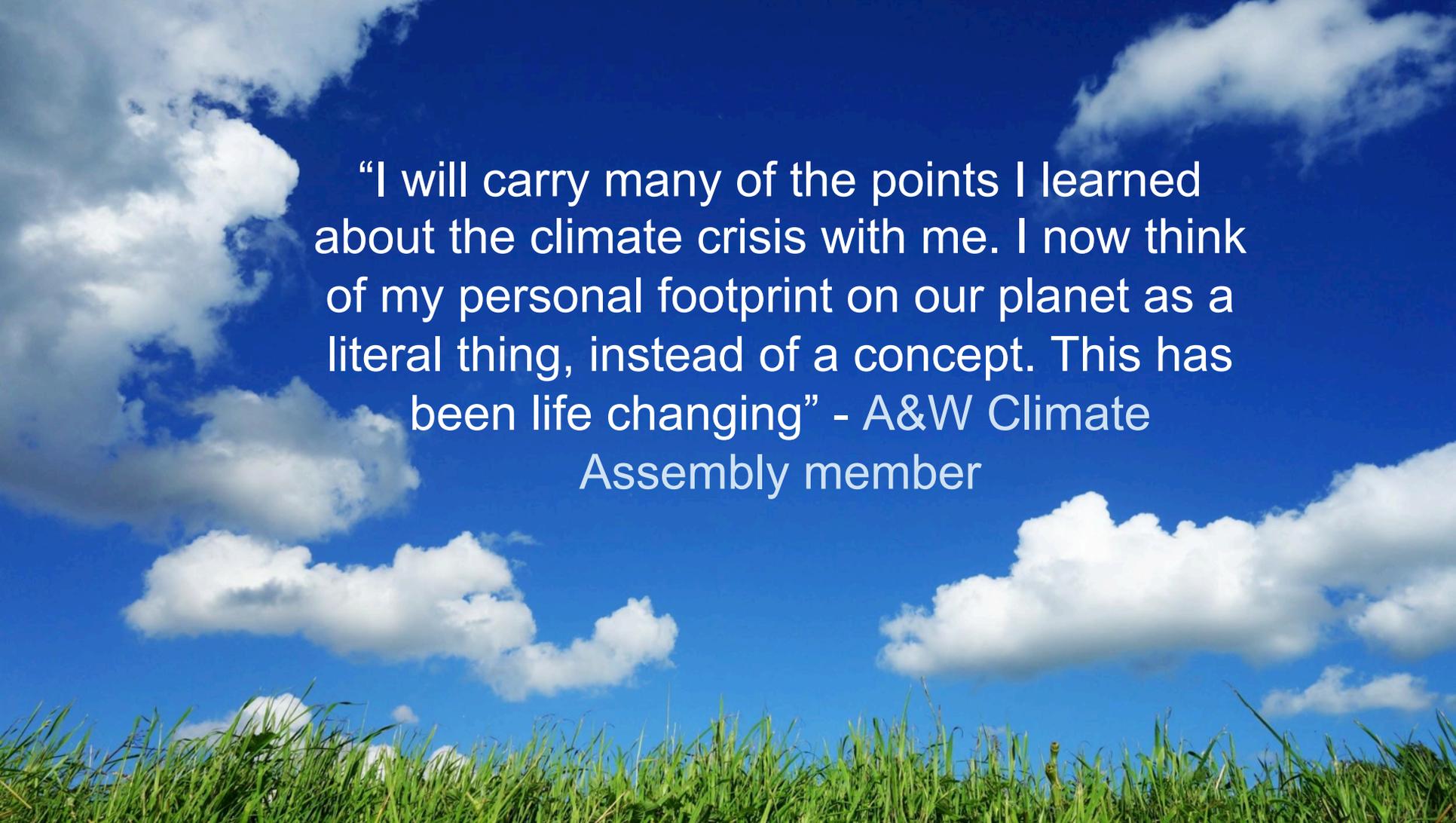
**76%**



**Pre-Assembly, 33%** thought that Adur & Worthing Councils listened to residents



**61%**



“I will carry many of the points I learned about the climate crisis with me. I now think of my personal footprint on our planet as a literal thing, instead of a concept. This has been life changing” - A&W Climate Assembly member

# Reflections & recommendations

## ➤ Be prepared

- Resource intensive
- Difficult to maintain momentum
- Budget for pre & ongoing engagement/support

## ➤ Broad vs focussed?

- Overwhelming levels of content
- Recommendations not wholly achievable
- Get the whole community involved early on
  - [London Borough of Newham](#)

## ➤ Part of a journey

- Better governance and buy-in required
- Comms and engagement journey
  - [Climate Outreach](#)



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# Progress made

## ➤ 15 of 18 recommendations

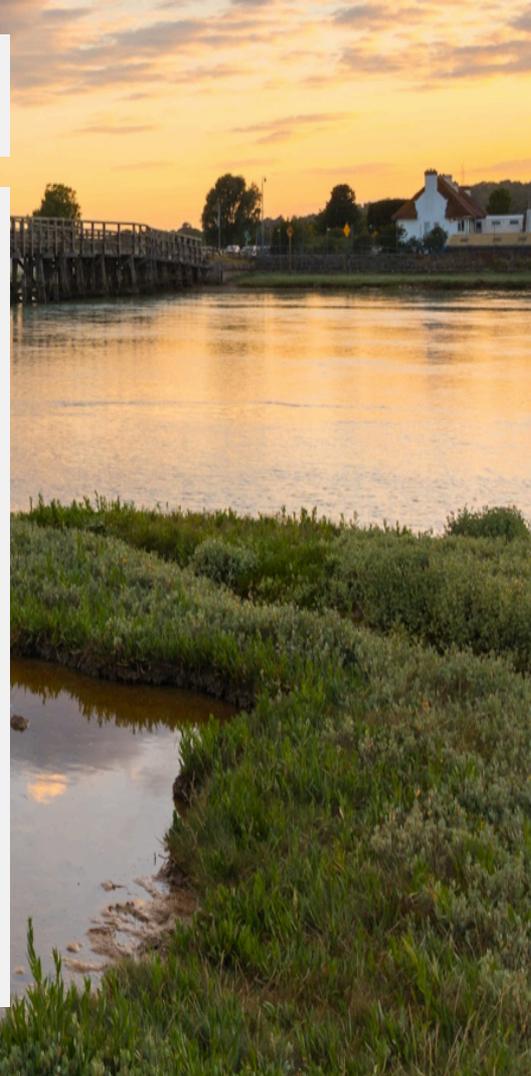
- 7 being delivered
- 8 underway / partially delivered
- 3 not started

## ➤ Communications

- Blog, online magazine, social media, press releases
- Climate Action AW fortnight
  - [Webinars / community-led videos](#)

## ➤ Embedded across council

- Sustainable AW / Our Plan
- Recognised as having value
- Participatory approach continues



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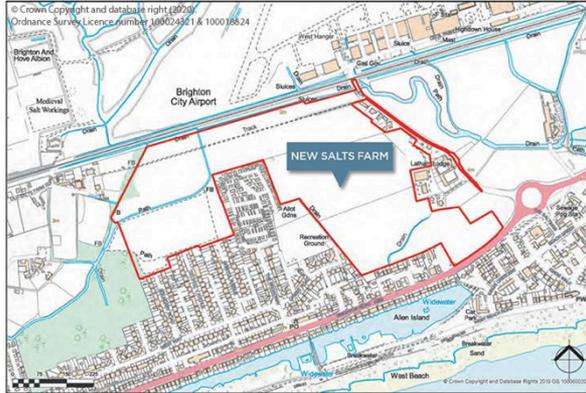


**OUR PLAN**

# Case study: New Salts Farm



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*“Develop New Salts Farm and Brooklands as centres of excellence, educating and engaging residents and schools around key themes, e.g. growing, pollination and biodiversity, recycling, energy use, reducing plastics, sustainability”.*



# Case study: Lancing Vision

- Update the Lancing Vision (2012) to inform future Levelling Up bid and the Local Plan update



## Lancing Now and Into the Future



**299**  
People participated



**7** community conversations were held



Which engaged **96** people who live and work in Lancing



**203** people responded to the survey

**181** online



**22** by hand



**232**  
Residents engaged



**18**  
Local businesses / employers



**25**  
people from local interest groups / associations



**24**  
people from institutions i.e. NHS / Schools / Council



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**IDEAS**  
ALLIANCE

Coast to  
Capital



# Case study: Site management plan



- Cissbury Fields - 100 acres
- Chalk grassland
- SDNPA / residents association
- Strong community engagement
- Proposed management of site hampered by dog waste issue



# Questions?



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## **Website:**

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/climate-assembly/>

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/sustainable-aw/>

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/climate-action/>

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/renaturing/>

## **Social media:**

#ClimateActionAW

#SustainableAW

#AWClimateAssembly

## **Sustainability blog:**

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/our-stories-your-councils/chloe-clarke/>