

# Ways to Protect the Environment



<b>Date</b>	Thursday 5 March 2026	<b>Time</b>	2.30 - 3.30pm
<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jacqui Warren (Torbay Council)</li> <li>● Elaine Blagden (Taleblazers)</li> <li>● Sarah Omell (Torbay Council)</li> <li>● Lisa Money, Johanna Morrell &amp; Rebekah Daws</li> </ul>		
<b>Agenda</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● partner catch-up &amp; updates</li> <li>● a roundup of what we heard in PBY that is relevant to this group</li> <li>● a catch up of what work partners are already doing that addresses those needs, and an open discussion about how we expand/broaden/deepen existing provision</li> <li>● emerging thinking - partners welcome to bring along their own</li> </ul>			
<b>Summary</b>			

## Partner catch-up & updates

### Elaine Blagden: Taleblazers

- Earthworks activity at Treacle Valley is continuing and an application for further funding has been submitted.
- A Bat Walk & Talk event will take place in March as part of British Science Week.
- Taleblazers continues to run alternative provision 5 days per week.
- A Duke of Edinburgh project is underway with Rich working in collaboration with a large Torbay school and the Life on the Edge project.

### Jacqui Warren: Principal Climate Emergency Officer, Torbay Council

- Internal work: Advanced Delivery Programme improving council buildings, including schools (e.g. solar PV and heat pumps).
- Community and partnership work: Collaboration with Davina Luther and Rachel Geary to deliver Shaping Tomorrow Together sessions to encourage community climate action.
- GB Energy funding will support community energy generation projects (solar and wind).
  - Expressions of Interest are currently open but further access opportunities are expected.
- Strategic developments: Matthew Green (South Devon College) has become the new Chair of the Torbay Climate Partnership.
- A Green Skills Plan is being developed with Connor Connelly (Economic Development team).
- Introduction of electric buses to Torbay, forming the second largest electric bus fleet in the UK, launching next week with a dedicated event at South Devon College.

## **Sarah Omell: Community Safety, Torbay Council**

- Sarah is exploring how community safety and climate action agendas intersect, including:
  - Community response during emergencies
  - Food security
  - Community resilience
  - Links to the Community Safety Strategy

## **A roundup of what we heard in PBY that is relevant to this group**

Feedback from young people highlighted:

- A desire for places to be outdoors together
- Nature and outdoor spaces help regulate emotions and wellbeing
- Interest in learning about nature and the environment
- A strong desire to take action (activities, practical involvement)

The group discussed:

- How to expand opportunities for outdoor and environmental activity
- How to reduce barriers to participation
- How to improve awareness of opportunities for young people.

Jacqui noted that colleagues at SWISCo hold a budget for play park improvements, and youth feedback could inform this work.

Lisa mentioned this small win action. To help young people discover opportunities and build a positive narrative about youth action partners agreed to use the hashtag #PoweredByYouth (or #PoweredByYouthTorbay) when promoting activities or opportunities where relevant.

## **Emerging Thinking**

The group discussed the Imagination Station concept: spaces where young people can gather to contribute ideas, creativity and action around climate issues.

- **Pilot Funding:** A £7,200 grant has been secured from The Network for Social Change to pilot the project. The opportunity came after a film created by young person Ivy was presented to the network.
- **Pilot focus:** Testing an Imagination Station model at People's Parkfield. Exploring future funding opportunities, including the National Lottery's new environmental focus.

The Impact Group agreed that this project should be supported and adopted by the group as a shared piece of work.

There was also discussion about:

- Involving Davina and Rachel in youth climate sessions
- Creating further youth-led films or storytelling to share young people's ideas further.

## **Next Steps**

- Convene a meeting with Ivy and her group, Davina & Rachel + Jacqui (if needed)
- To plan the pilot and explore how we can support young people's involvement. Partners such as Taleblazers and Play Torbay may also support wider youth participation.

## AOB

- Jacqui shared information about the Together for Tomorrow programme delivered through Libraries Unlimited, which has received four years of National Lottery Climate Action funding. The programme is mapping groups doing environmental work, particularly in Paignton. Jacqui will introduce Lisa to Rosie and Clare to explore collaboration opportunities.

Actions	Owner
Share GB Energy Expression of Interest information with the group.	Jacqui
Connect Lisa with SWISCo lead Dan Vickridge	Jacqui
Introduce Lisa to Rosie and Clare (Libraries Unlimited) regarding the Together for Tomorrow programme.	Jacqui
Convene meeting with Ivy, Davina, Rachel (and Jacqui if available) to plan the Imagination Station pilot.	Lisa
Share Powered by Youth environmental insights summary with the group.	Lisa