

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership Climate Change Survey

Candidate name	Party	Division
Margaret Lowndes	Green	Upper Dales

1. What do you think of the existing North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council climate change commitments and targets?

They are ambitious and achievable as long as the commitment is there and the plans are driven and monitored.

2. What do you think the top climate action priorities of the new Council should be? Please mention up to three.

To reduce the amount of car travel in the region; to enable residents to access and improve home insulation; to support green energy projects such as solar farms.

3. Which statement below best describes how you feel about action on climate change in the context of all that the new North Yorkshire Council will have to do?

1) All service design and budget decisions should help and not hinder the transition to net zero carbon emissions across North Yorkshire.

2) The impact of service delivery and budget decisions on climate change should only be considered where it does not entail excessive cost.

3) The need to keep costs to a minimum means that climate change should be a secondary consideration in making decisions on service delivery and budgets.

4. If elected, what one thing do you personally want to achieve in the Richmondshire area to tackle climate change?

I would like to see the region move away from its reliance on fossil fuels, with residents and businesses encouraged and enabled to move to sustainable energy options.

5. If elected, would you support a minimum commitment to convert all council owned and council contracted vehicles to Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles and Zero Emission Vehicles, and provide associated recharging and refuelling infrastructure?

Yes

6. If elected, would you support the early adoption of local plan policies and the introduction of incentives to ensure all new development and changes to existing buildings help the Richmondshire area to transition to net zero carbon emissions?

Yes

7. What more do you think the new Council could do to help local residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their waste and to recycle the waste that they cannot avoid generating?

The Council could illustrate more clearly how much the disposal of waste costs the individual. In the more rural parts of the region, there could be more regular mobile skip collections for larger items. In addition, recycling collections from holiday cottages should be the same as collections for residents.

8. If elected, what changes do you believe are needed over the next 5 years to the use and management of our rural landscape to best address climate change?

The rural landscape should be managed with the long-term in mind. Wilder areas and woodland should be increased to sit alongside farmland in order to improve conditions for nature and biodiversity. I would also like to see the end of heather burning on the moors. It is detrimental to wildlife, pollutes nearby villages and detracts from the enjoyment of visitors to this beautiful place.

9. And finally, in a single sentence, what would you like local people to know about your stance and commitment to taking action on climate change?

I believe that addressing climate change is not an option and that all decisions should be made with that essential premise in mind.