

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Heather Moorhouse	Conservative	Gt Atyon

Thanks for taking part in this survey. We hope you will see this as an opportunity to share your thoughts with voters on important climate and environmental issues. While we would ideally like candidates to answer the survey in full, we appreciate that some of the points are quite technical. Candidates come from many different backgrounds and may be drawn to local government because of a passion for other aspects of service delivery and community interest. Please feel free to focus on the questions you feel are most relevant to you. You can always add more information later if you wish.

1. The newly elected members of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) will be responsible for overseeing the county's net zero strategy. Would you support the provision of carbon literacy training (e.g. through the [Carbon Literacy Project](#)) as part of the induction programme for new councillors?

Not fully informed of this project, however any training in regard to Climate Change, zero Carbon etc , must be encouraged and made available.

2. Transport, agriculture and domestic energy are the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in North Yorkshire. In your view, how should the new NY Council tackle these most effectively?

Encourage car sharing, integrating of public transport services with better connection to encourage public usage. Provide electric power sources for electric cars.

The Environmental Lands Management (ELMS) project which is now in place and funded by the government, encourages farmers in better practise. This will help address climate change issues, alongside cleaning up the local streams and rivers.

Cleaner energy source must part of the planning process for all developments, alongside communities forming their own hubs for generating energy i.e. solar panels in public buildings, hydro where available.

3. Many politicians support net zero commitments, but some argue that "green" measures to protect the environment and climate are too expensive, will cost jobs and need to be delayed. Where do you stand on this?

Green measures are the end game; however we need to work with all sources of energy to allow us to get to the point of carbon neutral. We cannot so to speak turn of the tap, until we get all reliable sources of energy in place.

4. As we seek more energy independence nationally, what role do you see in our region for onshore wind, solar farms and fracking?

All the above should be given consideration in our area, fracking is more contentious and currently the government do not fully support this process

5. How could the future NYC use its powers under the planning system to promote sustainable development? Should there be a presumption against high-carbon development proposals in NYC's planning policies?

As said previously this should be a major planning consideration, and as a North York Moors National Park member it is something that we are addressing.

6. There are plans (in the [NY Local Enterprise Partnership strategy](#)) to double the current area of woodland in the region. Would you actively support this target?

Yes, and once again I add, that NYMNPAs are already in the process of doing this

7. Will you sign the UK Divest Pledge: "If elected, I pledge to support the council divesting its pension fund out of fossil fuels and redirecting those amounts into sustainable investments and the local economy over an appropriate time-scale. I promise to do everything in my power to make sure this happens within the first year of my term in office."

Yes

8. Would you support net zero measures as a spending priority for the new council?

Yes

9. Most districts/boroughs in NY and around 75% across the UK have declared a climate emergency. In your view, should the new NYC adopt a similar motion to underpin its decarbonisation and planning policies?

Yes

10. Is there anything else you'd like to add on your environmental or climate views?

For example, what would your future priorities be in your division and more widely in North Yorkshire? Do you have any comments on more technical matters such as hydrogen as a fuel, Drax, grid capacity, energy-

efficiency, retrofitting, peatland conservation, plastic pollution, waste, circular economy, nature recovery or the government's new energy security strategy?

Hydrogen appears to be another source of energy which is currently being researched and developed locally. To be completely honest I am not fully briefed as yet, as to what effect it would have in relation to combating climate change. I need more information on this prior, to making comment, obviously if this a source of clean energy, if certainly gets my vote.

Finally just to note that NYMNPAs are committed to maintaining and restoring their peatlands.