

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership Climate Change Survey

Candidate name	Party	Division
Tom Jones	Conservative	Scotton & Lower Wensleydale

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

North Yorkshire County Council has made real strides towards tackling climate change, particularly by reducing the carbon footprint of the council by over 40%. Richmondshire has committed to achieving net zero by 2030, and I think this commitment should be made by the new council too.

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

Improving recycling rates; Improving biodiversity; Reducing carbon footprint.

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 many of the grass verges on the side of our roads cut using traditional haymaking techniques, which would promote wildflower growth.

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?

No

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 new council needs to run an intense information campaign so that people understand how easy it can be to reduce waste, as well as continue to support the Government's work to tackle unrecyclable waste at source by working with packaging companies.

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?

I believe that over the next 5 years we have to arrest the decline in biodiversity by encouraging land use that provides a boost to nature.

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?

The core of Conservative philosophy and of the case for protecting the environment are the same - no generation has a freehold on this earth.