

## North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

### Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership Climate Change Survey

Candidate name	Party	Division
Thom Kirkwood	Labour & Co-operative	Leyburn & Middleham

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

**Not good enough.**

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

**Sustainable agriculture, public transport, making homes here more environmentally friendly.**

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?

**A fund for residents to access to insulate old homes, and add solar, heat pumps, etc.**

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?

**Publicise the work already done by Richmondshire CAP to recycle not commonly recycled things and give it official council support.**

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?

**Low-intensity farming, including the rewilding of marginal land, and using agro-forestry initiatives to enable farmers to store more carbon on their land, looking out for soil health.**

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?

**Our food production, transport, and housing are the central issues now in addressing climate change, and I want to tackle them.**