



Action on Climate Emergency (ACE) Settle & Area

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31.03.22

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Steering Group report

Steering Group members

Name	Position	Dates
Sarah Wiltshire	Co-ordinator	Current
Barry White	Secretary	Current
Tess McMahon	Treasurer	Current
Ray Hill	Membership Secretary	From Oct '21
Vacant	Assistant Treasurer	
Melanie Fryer*	Member/Food lead	Current
Richard Boothman	Member/ Internal Auditor	Current/Oct '21
Jenny Hall	Co-opted member	April – July '21
Ian Orton	Co-opted member	Nov. '21-Mar '22
Paul Cochrane*	Transport lead	Current
Andrew Pease*	Biodiversity lead	Current
Sandy Tod*	Energy lead	From Nov '21

*Themed Group leads – attend the steering group to report on themed group activities and developments, as well as on specific agenda items.

Registered address at 31.03.22:

Lower Moss Cottage. Keasden. Clapham. Lancaster. LA2 8EU

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

Insurers

Zurich for Public Liability and Employer's Liability (covering volunteers)

Website

Impress – ACE is registered with Impress for press regulation

Structure, governance and management

ACE has a steering group, elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), consisting of a co-ordinator, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer and membership secretary and up to 10 ordinary members. The steering group has the power to:

- co-opt additional members for specific tasks
- set up working groups

as required. The steering group meets (in person or via video conferencing) at least 8 times each year. Each meeting runs to an agenda and notes are made of key actions.

The steering group ensures that ACE:

- works to its constitutional objectives and methods, including financial management;
- undertakes forward planning; and
- runs regular events to involve its members such as monthly Green Cafes.

The steering group has role descriptions for its officer roles and keeps a skills audit of its members to ensure that the organisation has the skills to implement and develop its work.

ACE has 5 themed groups:

- Biodiversity;
- Energy;
- Food;
- Transport; and
- Communications (responsible for the website and publicity).

ACE is a membership organisation with members encouraged to participate in one or more themed groups in accordance with their specific interests. Each themed group has a lead member who reports the group's activities to the steering group on a regular basis. Two members' meetings are held each year with one being the AGM. The steering group reports to each of these meetings. ACE also has supporters who may become involved in our work prior to becoming a member.

Membership is open to all who are interested in actively furthering the objects of ACE, whatever their age, upon payment of a membership fee. The amount of the membership fee and any concessions are recommended by the steering group and agreed by the membership at the AGM.

The organisation's objects

Extract from the constitution:

- a) ACE is a community campaign group covering Settle and Area.
- b) ACE is action-orientated to campaign on the Climate and Ecological Emergency and on making a just transition to a sustainable net zero carbon community.
- c) To campaign on the Climate and Ecological Emergency, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- d) To promote education and awareness on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Principal activities of ACE during the year

Green Cafes, Conferences, Presentations, Displays and AGM

The steering group has run a Green Cafe each month, with some of these via video conferencing due to Covid. 15/20 people have regularly attended for information sharing and discussion on topical issues, feedback about ACE's work and short presentations. Our thanks go to Settle Community and Business Hub for the continuing use of their Zoom account and YouTube channel for hosting recordings of some of these events.

At May's virtual Green Cafe **Settle Town Council** representatives attended to launch their **Climate and Biodiversity Policy report**; at June's Paul Kelly, a member of ACE's energy group, gave a presentation about **home energy production**; December's saw a talk by Bruce McCleod, Chair of Friends of the Dales, on their **tree guard campaign**; and January's a presentation by Paul Cochrane, ACE transport group, on the **transport and energy survey** carried out during the Summer.

ACE's **AGM** took place virtually on 9th October and was followed by a talk by James Annan and Julia Hargreaves on 'The Science behind the IPCC Report and COP26'.

We participated in the **Climate Coalitions 'Great Big Green Week'** (18th-26th September) with sessions throughout the week on tree care, food preserving, our transport survey and e-cars and ended with our first 'Give and Take' Day – to reduce landfill, taking over this role from the Econite Group, which had disbanded.

In the lead into **COP26**: Pushpanath Krishnamurthy gave a talk 'Walking to COP26' before heading north for the climate talks. Whilst COP26 was taking place we held an interactive display in Settle's Market Square – asking the question 'is the government taking enough action on the climate crisis', with members of the public answering by placing a ball in one of three containers ('yes', 'no' or 'don't know'). Almost all the balls were placed in the 'no' container. An indoor display at the Quaker Meeting House was also created, staffed on the 9th November, the middle Saturday of the event.

As a post-COP event we jointly hosted a virtual conference with Settle Town Council, 'Cutting Our Carbon', launching a 'Settle Roadmap' report on carbon reduction produced by Leeds University. There were, in addition, presentations by York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Council, Craven District Council (CDC) and Hubhub, the latter promoting an energy reduction campaign on behalf of CDC for Craven residents. Questions and contributions about next steps were also made by those attending.

In March 2022 a follow-up event - '**Cut Our Carbon in Energy & Transport**' - featured speakers and individuals, businesses and community groups who are already making changes to help us further our low/zero carbon ambitions locally. We also launched ACE's energy group's idea for looking at the potential for more renewable energy locally – more under energy themed group below.

We have had **stalls**, when Covid restrictions have allowed, at Settle's Christmas lights switch-on and at a Christmas Fayre held at Settle Victoria Hall. We have given **talks** online to Settle Rotary, Settle Library and Cononley Cleaner Greener Group.

A monthly newsletter is sent by email or by post, covering topical issues and forthcoming events.

We have also discussed the best ways of involving younger people as we are under-represented by this age group. We have links with Settle College and have been invited to be involved with the development of their community garden. As Covid restrictions are coming to an end we anticipate being present at events involving younger people and families from later in Spring 2022.

Organisational development

We started a membership scheme in June 2020. By 31st March 2022 we had 46 members, with an additional 80 people on the mailing list. Those on the mailing list are actively encouraged to become members. Members are entitled to propose motions and vote at the AGM and General Meeting (held in the Autumn and February of each year).

Public and Employers liability insurance were obtained from Zurich from 21st July 2021 and Impress registration for press regulation was also obtained in July 2021. We have safeguarding and photography statements, a privacy policy and a complaints procedure in place. All current statements and policies are reviewed annually in April.

An internal audit process was introduced in October 2021, with Richard Boothman, a member of the steering group, carrying out this role.

Joint working

- (I) **Settle Town Council (STC)** – in October 2021 the Council appointed new members to its Climate Change and Biodiversity Group and recommended a change of status to a sub-committee of the Planning and Environment Committee with a review of the Group's terms of reference. These were finally agreed by the Council at its meeting on 6 December 2021. Owing to pressure of other business the Group was unable to meet before the May elections.
- (II) **Craven Climate Action Partnership** – we have continued to support the partnership through our local activities. We promoted Craven District Council's three month energy saving campaign, facilitated by the environmental organisation Hubbub, between mid-November 2021 and Spring 2022.
- (III) **Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT)** – ACE was a partner in YDMT's 'Together for Trees' project – more under our biodiversity themed group.
- (IV) **Fossil Free North Yorkshire** - ACE continues to be represented on the organising committee by ACE's secretary, Barry White. Fossil Free North Yorkshire is making progress on its campaign & is gaining support from North Yorkshire County Council councillors with regards to taking steps to divest its pension funds from fossil fuels.
- (V) **Settle Community and Business Hub** - we have had initial discussions with The Hub regarding the development of a **green advice service**. This proposal remains dormant as this report closes.
- (VI) **Other groups** – ACE also continues to work with ROOTS (Respect Our Old Trees Settle), local churches, COBRA (local emergency response group), Friends of the Dales, UK Youth Climate Coalition, Cumbria Action for Sustainability, Zero Carbon Yorkshire.

THEMED GROUPS

Biodiversity (lead Andrew Pease)

A year (well) spent outdoors removing tree guards in Kelcow Woods, Giggleswick. 5000 trees were planted in this wood around 10 years ago and were in dire need of having the plastic guards removed. Over half the guards have been removed and put into dumpy sacks. These will be sent to Skipton where YDMT are running a scheme to recycle used guards. We aim to have removed all the guards by May and have sent all the bags to be recycled in June 2022.

We also had 2 sessions tree planting. First in The Hawes, a private wood up past Scaleber Force on the way to Malham. Then we spent a day at the Wild Ingleborough project where we did some tree planting and had a tour around the site with a few members of the team.

Energy – (acting lead Sarah Wiltshire to October 2021, Sandy Tod from November 2021)

The group has continued to focus on how to develop community renewable energy for Settle and its surrounding area with a view to creating a Local Area Energy Plan for adoption by local councils and key organisations. Following on from our online conference 'Cut Our Carbon in Energy & Transport' the group showed the film 'We the Power' about how a community in Germany had taken over the local grid and successfully powered it using a range of renewable energy technologies. With support from those present at the film we ran a conference in March - 'Cutting Our Carbon in Energy and Transport' - featuring speakers from Electricity North West (one of our Distribution Network operators), Settle Hydro, Craven District Council's climate initiatives and ACE's energy group on home energy generation. There were also a range of organisations showing their low carbon actions including St John's Methodists Eco Group, Dales Bus, Northern and the Settle Carlisle Railway Development Company. A next steps workshop on 21st May, 2022 was also promoted which will look at renewable energy within the local landscape with appropriate technologies being proposed.

Food (lead Melanie Fryer)

Articles were written for the newsletter and website including: April - Food Foundation Veg Campaign; May – imported veg; June – update on veg campaign; July – issues with BBQ's, using milk bottles rather than cartons; August – petition against using pesticides. The Food page of the website was updated regularly. Offers of local seeds and plants were given.

The food group met using video-conferencing to discuss the problems of waste, composting and planned the preserves evening to come.

In September we supported Clapham Sustainability Group's composting work and led an evening session looking at preserving methods, as part of the Great Big Green Week. November saw the promotion of the Northern Real Farming Conference for Regenerative Farming. In March 2022 a presentation to Bradley Gardening Club on holistic gardening was given.

Transport (lead Paul Cochrane)

The year was dominated by two major themes, the country's emergence from lockdown and the group's local transport survey.

In expectation of 'bouncing back better', the group considered the local implications of the Department of Transport's [DfT] national bus strategy, *Bus Back Better* and duly responded to NYCC's *Bus Improvement Plan*. *Bus Back Better* was closely

followed, like urban buses in rush hour, with the DfT's even bigger document about the Government's *Transport Decarbonisation Plan*. Both strategies aim to increase the number of people using public transport. Transport decarbonisation in rural areas was recognised to be particularly challenging because a great many of the residents here live beyond the existing transport networks. A one-size-fits-all innovation like Demand-Responsive Transport would probably work in large towns and cities up and down the country but was unlikely to achieve the desired outcomes in places like the Dales. The critical issue here is that the destinations that local residents are drawn to are so widely distributed. Local district planning appears to be founded upon the mistaken and simplistic expectation that economic growth could be created by building anywhere, regardless of where the existing infrastructure and populace happen to be. Transport policy is only one element of the response to address climate change. The other is space planning: new build homes and workspaces need to be located where they facilitate the decarbonisation of transport (see 'Ebsham' net-zero spatial planning model - https://www.rtpi.org.uk/research/2020/june/net-zero-transport-the-role-of-spatial-planning-and-place-based-solutions/#_Toc61515513). The group will monitor the fortunes of the NYCC Bus Improvement Plan and Craven District Council's Local Plan over the coming year.

Our local transport survey was developed in anticipation of there being a new normal for local residents and to follow-up on Settle Town Council's transport survey of 2014. With people working from home through lock-down, had remote working become embedded or had workers been drawn back to their workspaces and a daily commute? Our survey to find out was launched in August 2021. Of the 2,500 paper questionnaires distributed around Settle and its surrounding villages (approx 33% of residences), an impressive 586 (23.4%) forms were returned with a further 155 returns completed on-line. One of the key outcomes was confirmation that Settle & Giggleswick residents lived in a '15 minute neighbourhood' - where most of the shops and services that residents need are no more than a 15 minute walk away (85% of respondents). This is in-line with the transport models for our area. What was unexpected, but understandable nevertheless, was the relatively low take-up of cycling within the 15 minute neighbourhood. Facilities for cyclists are poor and the roads are perceived as being dangerous for cyclists. This insight was used in the justification for the group's successful campaign for cycle stands and signage on Ashfield car park, funded by Cllrs Hull and Staveley through their ward member grants. The full results of the survey were presented at the ACE/Settle Town Council 'Cutting Our Carbon' conference on Zoom on 13th November 2021. The group will continue to look for further opportunities to promote cycling and bus travel, and to feed the findings of the survey into local transport planning.

The group also continued to monitor transport services and developments in the district, receiving monthly reports about the re-started bus and train services, plans for the provisions of EV charging points on the town car parks (Ashfield - done, Booths - not yet, Whitefriars - maybe?), members' own travels by public transport (most notably a trip to Orkney by train and boat), members' travels by public transport (beware Lancaster Bus Station), and their experience with electric vehicles. Members also contributed to the *North Yorkshire Rural Transport Strategy*, *Safe Cycling Craven*, and a bid for more community transport to the *Northern Customer and Community Improvement Fund*.

Communications (lead Barry White)

It's been a year of consolidating our communications activities with continued coverage of our work in the Craven Herald and Settle and District Community News as well as in the Yorkshire Bylines. We updated locations for the distribution of our posters and leaflets; revised and reprinted our recruitment leaflet and produced an ACE badge designed by Roger Huddle (who designed our logo).

We wrote to the three candidates standing in the Settle Penygvent division election on 5th May, seeking their views on what they would do about the climate emergency if elected for the final year of the County Council and then as the representative for the first four years of the new single council – the new unitary authority North Yorkshire Council. The results can be seen at: <http://acesettleandarea.org/north-yorkshire-county-council-election-settle-candidates-quizzed-on-the-climate-emergency/#more-1697>

Our web site continues to play an important role in communicating to our members and the wider public on a range of climate related issues. However, to date we have not received any feedback on our postings from readers. Our Facebook group remains active - with postings by ourselves and a number of regular contributors, and about our events. We also have a Twitter account and have been raising its profile, in particular since January 2022 with often daily postings. Regularity, topicality and making and responding to comments are keys to a significant social media presence – we could do more if we had dedicated people with the time to focus on these.

The communications group will start work this autumn on redesigning our web site.

Lobbying and consultations

- We submitted comments to Craven District Council regards a planning application for 41 additional houses at Lord's Close, Giggleswick, in January 2022. Commenting on the need for the developer to be more ambitious in their low carbon features and provision of a more biodiverse development.
- We raised with Northern, through Settle Carlisle Development Company, the impact of a change to the use of Dales Railcard, – with the first train on which the card could be used changing to after 8.15am and therefore penalising those people using the card for commuting/attending school.
- Our transport group carried out a transport and energy consultation over the Summer – more about that under our transport themed group.

ACE Annual Accounts to 31.03.22

(internally audited)

ACE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 01.04.21 - 31.03.22

	Notes	2021/22	2020/21
		£	£
INCOME			
Donations from Steering Group members		0.00	100.00
Membership subscriptions	(1)	986.00	676.00
Donations included in membership payments	(2)	129.00	84.00
Donations at meetings and events etc.	(3)	272.52	0.00
Donations - badges. Other	(4)	67.60	0.00
TOTAL		1,455.12	860.00
EXPENDITURE			
Room hire/hosting		30.00	50.00
Refreshments for meetings		8.00	0.00
Website design, hosting, security, maintenance etc.	(5)	0.00	106.25
Stationery, paper, laminating pouches, banners etc		259.70	262.80
Themed Group expenses	(6)	74.40	0.00
Other campaigning expenses		41.75	0.00
Expenses, travel etc		0.00	0.00
Bank charges	(7)	72.00	60.00
Insurance/Impress (website publishing regulator) etc	(8)	284.19	0.00
TOTAL		770.04	479.05
NET INCOME		685.08	380.95
Total funds brought forward		493.65	112.70
Total funds carried forward		1,178.73	493.65

ACE BALANCE SHEET AT 31.03.22

	Notes	31.03.22	31.03.21
		£	£
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		0.00	0.00
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and prepayments		0.00	0.00
Cash		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		1,178.73	793.65
Total Current Assets		1,178.73	793.65
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Creditors and accruals	(9)	0.00	300.00
Total net assets		1,178.73	493.65
<u>Funds</u>			
Funds brought forward		493.65	112.70
I & E		685.08	380.95
Total funds		1,178.73	493.65

Notes to the Accounts

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

- (1) Membership subscriptions: £986 was the figure for the actual receipts for the year, £310 more than the previous year, reflecting a gradual increase in the number of members, to 46 members at 31.03.22 (35 at 31.03.21).
- (2) Donations included in membership payments: some members pay more than £2.00 per month, and any extra is treated as a donation. This figure also increased: from £84 to £129
- (3) Donations at meetings and events etc. These started again from October 2021, as some ACE events started to take place in real life. The £272.52 came from the Give and Take Day in Oct. 2021 (£65), stalls over the last weekend of Nov. (£94) and the Green Café at Victoria Hall in March 2022 (£113.52). The donations accompanied refreshments, small items and ACE badges.
- (4) Donations – other. £50 was a donation from a Steering Group member towards insurance. £17.60 was for ACE badges.

EXPENDITURE

- (5) Website design, hosting, security, maintenance etc. With the ACE website set up in the previous year, with input done on a voluntary basis, expenditure in the year was zero. ACE has an arrangement with Mark Dale, Mixed Solutions, for when there is a need for paid support.
- (6) Themed Group expenses. Each themed group was allocated up to £50 for the year.
- (7) Bank charges: £6.00 per month
- (8) Insurance is now paid each June/July: Zurich £224.19. IMPRESS (website publishing regulator) £60.

BALANCE SHEET

- (9) Creditors: Loans from Steering Group members: these were to help meet the requirements of opening a bank account with Unity Trust Bank, with an initial deposit of at least £500 in June 2020. The final £300 was repaid by June 2021.