

Mickleton Climate Change & Natural Environment survey 2020



Background and Limitations

- **Undertaken by interested and concerned local residents for the benefit of all**
- **Apolitical and volunteer led. No financial contributions involved.**
- **Survey limitations**
- **SARS-COVID19 impact**
- **Survey reach 93 residents - all online (est max 5% of residents)**

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Over the past few months a group of like-minded Mickleton villagers have come together to discuss ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the care of Mickleton's environment. To find out how we in Mickleton might best reduce greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides), and care for our local environment, a survey was undertaken to gather the views of Mickleton residents. We advertised this on the Mickleton Facebook page, to residents known to the original group and via the village clubs to their members. There was also a note in the Parish magazine. To try to involve people of all ages, we gave options of paper or electronic questions and places of return.

93 households completed the electronic survey during difficult lockdown times. We used the Survey Monkey software for the questionnaire but the limit on the number of responses per survey was exceeded before a second survey link could be issued, and only 83 responses could be analysed. Thanks to all who responded and we can only apologise for this glitch.

Almost 100% of responding residents indicated that they already recycle. Over 60% indicated that they bought food locally and 60% indicated that they walked or cycled within the village. At the other extreme very few indicated that they lobbied for change and no-one responding used local public transport.

How important to you is tackling climate change?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 not at all important, 10 extremely important) the average score was 8.3 indicating that households felt very strongly about the importance of tackling climate change.

Clearly the views of non-responding residents are not accounted for and the aim of this bulletin is to encourage as many of us as possible to become interested in trying to make a local difference. After all we can only really control local ideas but if every area does this then that will make a huge national impact.

What help or advice do you need to be able to make any changes you have been considering?

The size of the text relates to the number of times that a word was used in the responses.

- a need for information about replacement/upgrade of boilers, moving from gas to electricity, home insulation, costs of renewable energy e.g. solar panels

- financial information about grants and opportunities including group purchasing

- electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging

- information about what is available locally

- garden food waste and composting information

- how to reduce single-use plastics

**garden food waste and composting information
how to reduce single-use plastics**

What needs to change in Mickleton to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carefully natural environment?

The size of the text relates to the number of times that a word was used in the responses.

many wanted a significant reduction in heavy lorries and traffic generally through the village; this included reference to reducing smoke and air pollution locally

make it easier and safer for walking and cycling in the village by widening footpaths and creating cycle routes and footpaths or road design to increase cycling and walking safety; specific locations were mentioned

underground heat sourcing for the whole village

making public transport more attractive through cost and frequency of service

increased tree planting wildflower corridors and long grass verges

local education

reduction of single-use plastics within the village

How confident do you feel about us, the Mickleton community, being able to make a difference to our greenhouse gas emissions and carefully natural environment?

This question was to find out how confident respondents were about achieving change. In contrast to the question about how important it is to make an impact on climate change, respondents felt far less confident about making an impact with an average score of 5.3 - slightly higher than a neither confident or not confident indication.

Perhaps one of the roles of the Greening Mickleton group should be to increase confidence within the village that changes everyone can make will cumulatively make a big difference to greenhouse gas emissions and improving the natural environment.

The survey suggests that residents are more likely to take action around the following;

buying local food

stopping use of single-use plastics

planting insect and wildlife friendly gardens

installing low energy (LED) lightbulbs

reducing red meat consumption

only walking or cycling within the village

switching off devices on standby

reducing water consumption

**Additional areas for exploration included:
opportunities to buy second-hand
electric vehicle purchase for next car
only filling kettle to level required**

Overwhelmingly respondents felt the key areas for change within Mickleton were heavy lorries and traffic in the village, safer walking and cycling, improved public transport, increased tree planting & wildflower corridors, reducing single-use plastics, providing local education on reducing Mickleton's impact on planet change and thinking big.

What Next?

So what is the group doing now? We have views only of ~5% of Mickleton's population so we look forward to more people becoming involved, contribute ideas and discuss subjects that interest them with others.

We have shared the results of the survey with Mickleton Parish Council and have had Zoom meetings with CDC representatives. We have a transport subgroup working on reviewing the village footpaths, cycleways and roads to see how these might be improved to encourage more walking and cycling and reduce car use in the village - and coincidentally improving safety, practicality, convenience and health. We have interested people in re-wilding gardens and in renewable energy but these and other topics from the survey will benefit from others joining in also - 'more is better'.

Perhaps you have a special interest? Tell us and we'll put you in contact with others with the same. Topics followed by interested people will be successful. Do please get in touch via e-mail (markandsonia@gmail.com) or 01386 438572 mentioning Greening Mickleton.

We want to use this information to encourage more residents to join in and to give regular, short reports on progress.

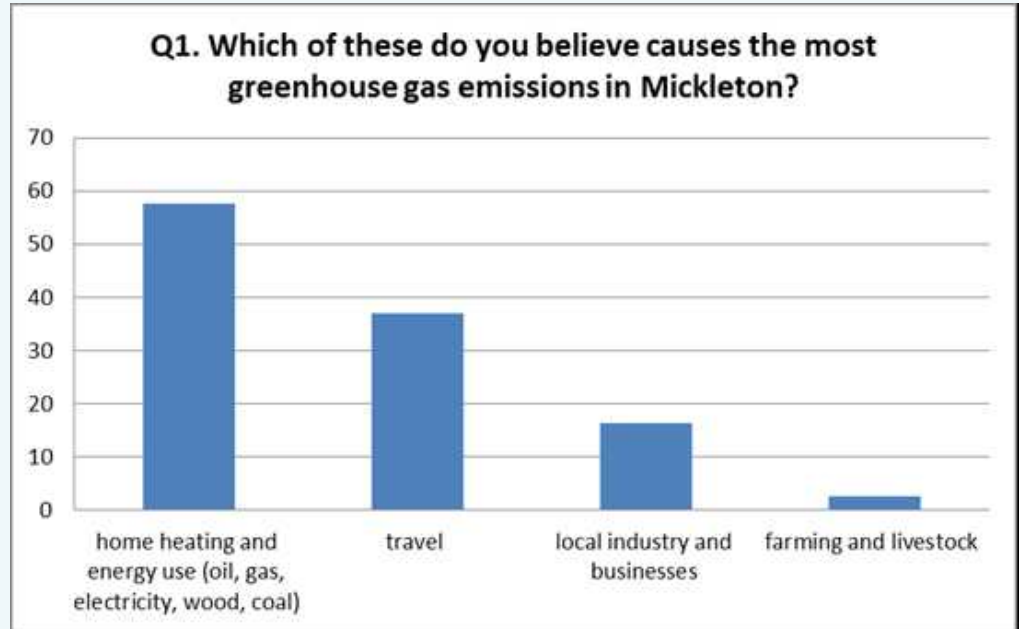
We want to approach the primary school since this could be a wonderful topic for our children to tackle (and also in senior schools) and could be woven into many different areas of their education. We're sure there are other Greta Thunbergs here! It's their future that we're thinking of.

The 13th Sept. BBC1 Extinction programme put the facts into clear perspective no matter how apparently far away.

2,000 people acting in Mickleton will make an impact.

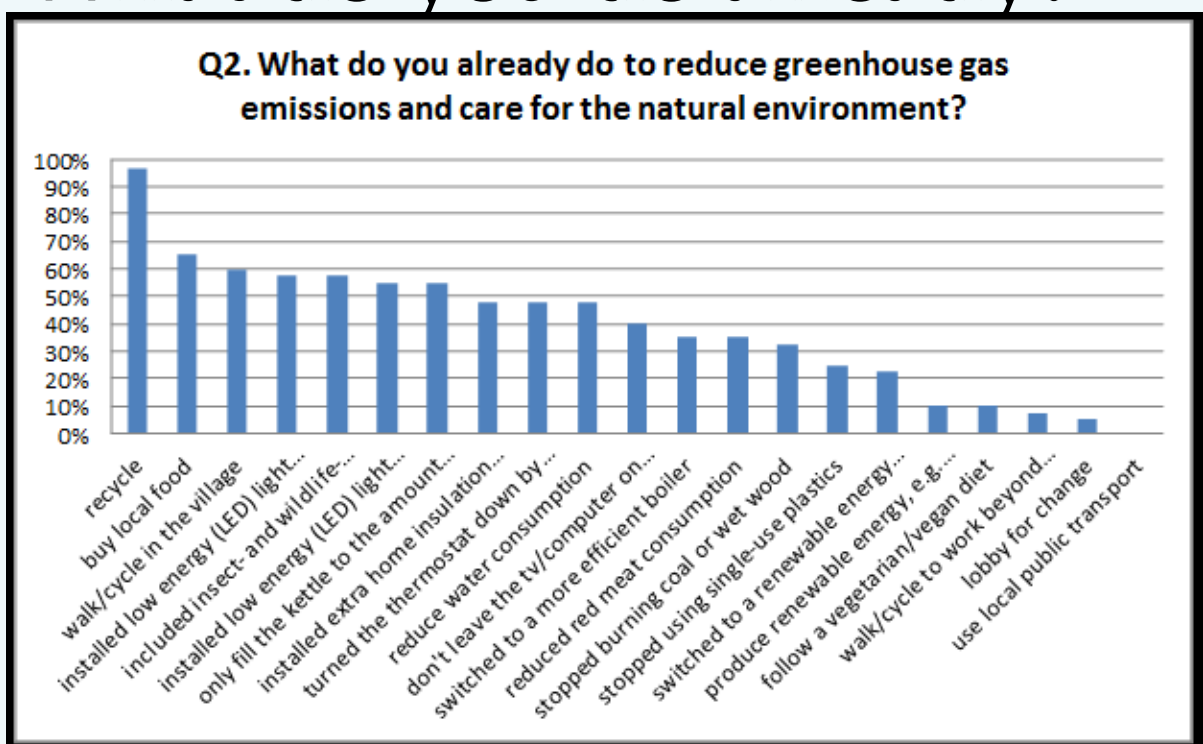
Greening Mickleton

Belief in causes of greenhouse gas emissions



In the UK (2018) transport was the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions followed by energy production.

What do you do already?



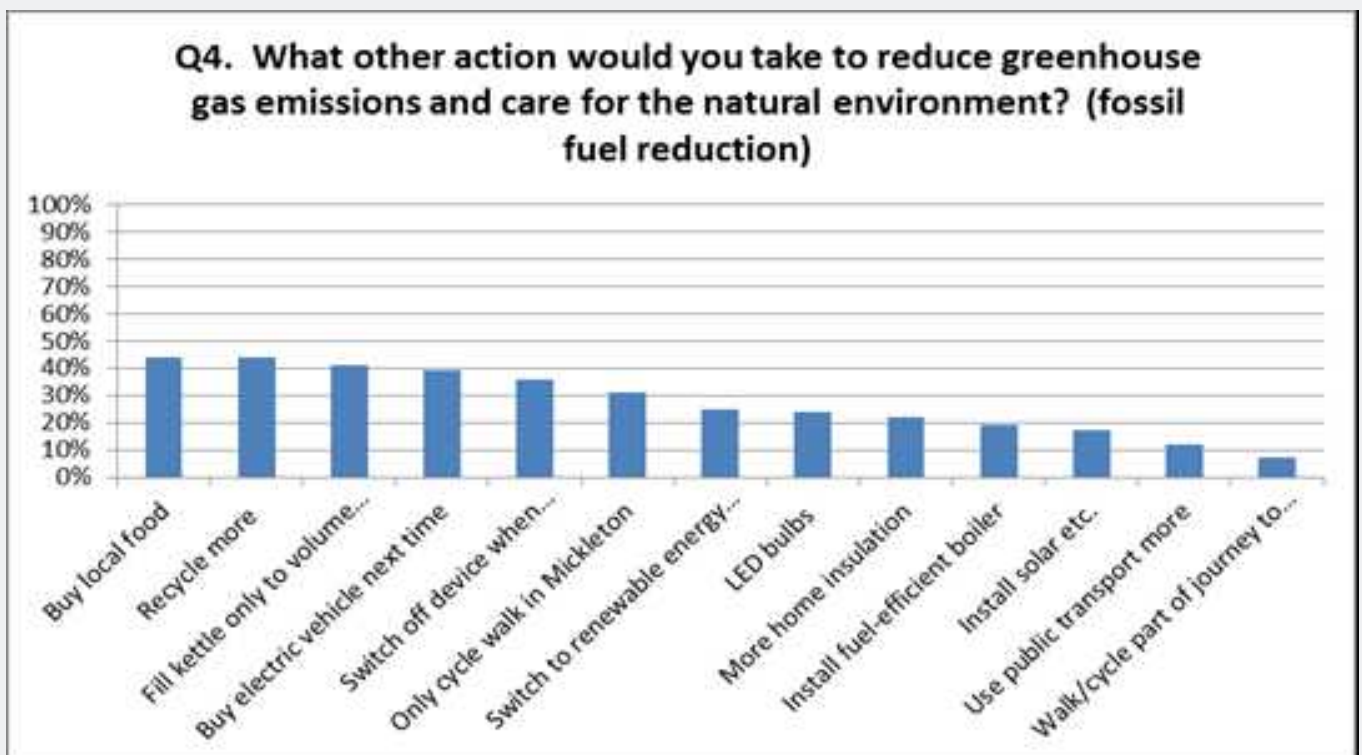
How important?

...is tackling climate change?

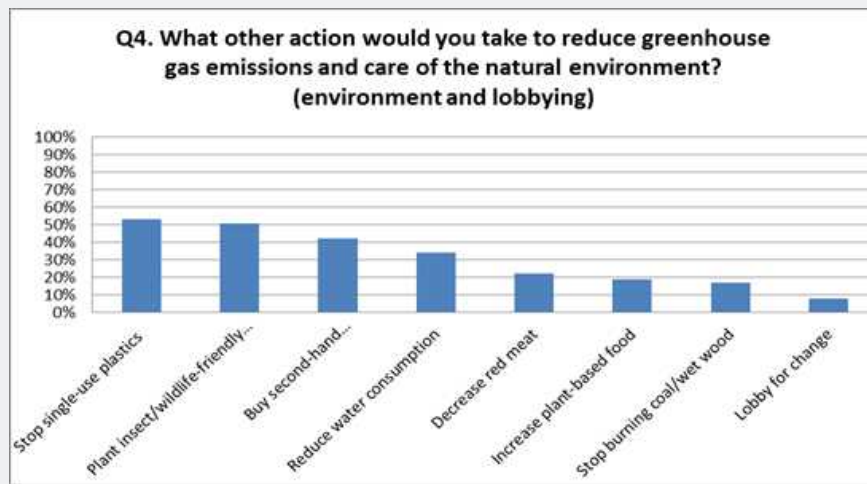
8.3

on a scale of 1-10

What other action?



What other action?



Comparing: already do vs.

- Stop single-use plastics
- Insect/wildlife-friendly gardens
- Buy local food
- Install LED light bulbs
- Reduce red meat consumption
- Don't leave devices on stand-by
- Walk/cycle more in village



What needs to change in Mickleton?

- significant references to **reducing** heavy lorries & **traffic generally**; this included reference to reducing smoke and air pollution locally
- make it **easier & safer for walking and cycling** - widening footpaths, creating cycle routes, footpaths or road design changes to increase cycling & walking safety
- underground heat sourcing for the whole village
- public transport** more attractive through cost and frequency of service
- increased **tree planting, wildflower corridors** & long grass verges
- local **education**
- reduction of single-use plastics** within the village

How confident?do you feel about being able to make an impact?

5.3

on a scale of 1-10

Anything else?

- the survey was a **positive start**
- people to **come together as a village** force
- education** is crucial
- the importance of **involving children and young people**
- offers of experience** around eco-homes and the planning system
- concerns about commuting** beyond and within the village
- parochial **politics could be a barrier**
- 10 people offered** to be involved further

Focus areas: information

Provide information on:

- Reducing **energy consumption** at home
- Reducing **travel within the village**
- Local campaigns** (on key topics)
 - Wildlife-friendly gardens
 - Local food sources / allotments etc
 - Single-use plastics reduction
- Reinforce the value** of local action

Tree planting

Powering the planet: conserving energy for a brighter future

How often do we stop to think about our dependence on energy – we assume it will be instantly available at the flick of a switch. Energy is fundamental to our lives – it powers our homes, provides light and heat, fuels our transport and, in the form of food, it fuels our bodies too. Without it, daily life as we know it, would change beyond recognition: no home heating or lighting, no cookers or fridges, no TVs or computers, no washing machines or tumble dryers. Yet we are inclined to take it for granted – that is until the lights go out, or we have to pay the bill.

Global energy consumption has grown rapidly over the past century, fuelled by increasing prosperity, an expanding population, and longer life expectancy. With ever more new appliances and ‘gadgets’, all of which rely on electricity to function, energy demand continues to increase year on year. In the mid 1800s coal began to replace wood to generate energy for home heating; at the same time increasing amounts of fossil fuels were required to supply the rising level of car ownership. Only now are we becoming aware of the hidden costs to our health and the health of our planet by the extensive burning of fossil fuels. Our modern energy-intensive way of life is without doubt the prime cause of the rapidly accelerating climate crisis with its associated problems of floods, fires and famine – and the insidious rise of sea levels worldwide. The impacts of climate change now feature regularly in our news bulletins and increasing numbers of people agree we need to take positive action to address them.

But enough of the bad news. Jonathon Porritt’s new book: ‘Hope in Hell’ is subtitled ‘a decade to address the climate emergency’. The ‘Hell’ section graphically describes humanities impact on the Earth but the ‘Hope’ indicates we are still able to do something about it – though the time is short...

So what can we do to ‘conserve energy for a brighter future’? In simple terms we can use less, and produce more from sustainable sources. By doing so we will reduce our bills and at the same time reduce the impact of climate change.

Home heating and hot water typically account for more than 60% of our annual energy use. Many of our homes are poorly insulated, single glazed and have older, less efficient forms of heating. To address this a new Green Homes Grant will launch later this month, in which the government will pay two-thirds of the cost of energy-efficient home improvements up to the value of £5,000 per household. Insulation, double glazing, solar thermal and heat pumps are eligible

<https://www.homebuilding.co.uk/advice/green-homes-grant-what-is-it>

But many of us could do much better by simply being more efficient. Here’s a few ideas:

90% of the energy used by washing machines is used to heat the water. Reducing the temperature from 40°C to 30°C could cut energy consumption by almost half. Wash at 20°C and you could save up to 66%

Remember, an electric hob won't get hotter any faster by cranking it up to the max – it'll just create wasted energy when you have to eventually turn it down again

Boiling a 3kWh kettle, for 10 minutes a day will cost over £27 per year; if you half fill the kettle, it will take half the time and only cost £13.50 a year! If you are serious and just want a cup of tea, put one cup in the kettle (you'll get your tea quicker!)

Setting your fridge to 3-4°C and your freezer to between -15°C and -18°C is perfectly adequate. Every degree lower than this will use up to 5% more energy

Check your light bulbs - I'm amazed how many folk have not bothered to do this. The cost of LED lamps is now minimal; they last up to 50X longer and use up to X10 less energy

Turning your TV on to standby will save a lot of energy; turning it off completely will save even more

Switch off all your equipment overnight. Off! - not on standby. If this is too challenging consider investing in a smart extension power strip which will do it for you!

- Computers use almost the same amount of power while they sit idle as they do when they're working at maximum capacity, unless you programme 'sleep mode' which means they will automatically reduce power – until you need to use them again
- If you are upgrading, newer monitors (LCD or LED) use far less energy. Turn your screen off whenever you're away from your desk – after all, you are not looking at it!
- If you are thinking of changing your car – at least consider electric (EV). The choice increases daily and prices are dropping. There are pros and cons but in my experience, running a Nissan LEAF is saving a fortune on fuel, has free road tax, produces minimal emissions, and most of the time it gets its fuel from the sun.

And finally – if you are not currently on a renewable energy tariff why not switch? You will help promote the further installation of solar, wind and water power and make a useful contribution towards reducing climate change.

For more ideas checkout:

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/blog/energy-saving-tips> <https://www.ovoenergy.com/blog/lifestyle/power-hungry-appliances.html>

The 'Greening Mickleton' team are setting up local advisory groups to support their expanding programme and we already have individuals who can advise on energy issues, traffic & transport and making your garden more wildlife-friendly.

Please phone: 01386 438572 or email me: markandsonia@gmail.com for further information