



HORSFORTH CLIMATE ACTION

@HorsforthCA

HorsforthClimateAction.org

Annual Report

1.10.2023 - 30.9.2024

Contents

1. Chair's Report
2. Treasurer's Report and Accounts



1. Horsforth Climate Action Chair's Report.

Horsforth Climate Action ended its second year in a position of relative stability and strength. There have been challenges in development including a sustained period of ill health and subsequent resignation of our valued hub worker, coinciding with the Chair stepping down and changes in the membership of the steering group.

The Steering Group felt the pressure during this time, but worked extremely hard to sustain momentum and keep HCA functioning. The growth in confidence of the Steering group and the appointment of a new hub worker has reaped rewards, promoting a feeling of optimism and a desire to grow and move forwards.

HCA's ambition is still to enable **more climate action to take place across Horsforth**, thereby supporting the citywide vision of Leeds being a zero carbon, nature-friendly and socially just city by 2030.

From individuals and groups, to organisations and businesses - everyone is invited to get involved in our inclusive activities to promote climate action and to initiate their own projects with our collaboration and support. We focus on addressing climate change in a locally meaningful way.

Membership

Membership is free and open to anyone who supports the aims of the organisation, is living or working in Horsforth and its immediately surrounding areas.

HCA has actively engaged with the wider Horsforth community with over 1,500 people attending HCA events. There is a core group of 20 committed volunteers.

35 people have been members of working groups that have met regularly, producing and working on action plans covering food, nature, transport, repair, communications and energy.

Group Membership

We began the group Membership Scheme in our second year with Friends of Hunger Hills Woods joining and having representation on the Steering group. We have 6 community group members to date.

Reaching a Wider audience

- The [HCA website](#) went live in May 2024. Events and blog posts are regularly written and updated. Blogs are featured on the CAL website

- A monthly newsletter was produced. There are over 350 people on the mailing list
- Regular social media posts were scheduled and organised by volunteers in the communications group.
- Stalls were held at community events, including Horsforth Walk of Art, Breeze Leeds, BARCA community event and Horsforth Farmers Market
- We organised regular HCA Saturdays on a variety of environmental topics alongside the Repair Cafe

Current Structure

HCA is a constituted community organisation, which enables us to apply for external funding.

The Steering group, currently made up of 5 members, is responsible for governance and administration. Policies and procedures are being developed to ensure this is done legally, ethically and safely.

Also in attendance at meetings are the Hub Worker and the Development Worker from T4P who are both paid workers.

St Margaret's church acts as our local employing organisation to enable us to employ the Hub worker and have been generous in their ongoing permission to use the church space and meeting rooms.

During our 2nd year we benefitted from ongoing support and guidance from Together for Peace, and the wider Climate Action Leeds programme.

We began receiving advice and signposting with a view to continuing after the Climate Action Leeds funding ends at the end of September 2025.

We had some support from Leeds-based organisations and networked with people doing similar things, including other neighbourhood hubs..

Significant achievements include

- Leeds Repair Cafe in Horsforth continued to run monthly sessions. An average of 50-60 items registered per session, with more than half being fixed on the day, Over 500 people attended the sessions overall, in addition to a bank of volunteer helpers and fixers who live locally.
- We launched [map](#) showing initiatives to improve biodiversity inHorsforth

- The [Horsforth Bioblitz](#) survey launched using the iNaturalist App
- Nature Friendly Gardens, an Open garden event was hosted.
- Nature Walks took place, including an insect walk and a birdsong walk and Moth Trapping event
- The [Community composting scheme](#) got up and running at Inspirations Nursery with funding from Feed Leeds: the community composting scheme was initiated and up and running at Drury Field Community Orchard, funded by HCA
- Street audits of 3 key shopping streets in Horsforth were carried out.
- The first [Kidical Mass bike ride](#) took place in collaboration with Leeds Cycling Campaign.
- We funded and organised climate education provided by DEC (Development Education Centre) for primary school teachers in Horsforth
- We worked with uniformed groups (Cubs and Brownies) producing environmental artwork for the HCA event at Horsforth Walk of Art
- We funded litter picking kits for every primary school in Horsforth
- We planned and began a Thermal imaging Camera pilot scheme.
- We took part in the 10th Anniversary of Horsforth Walk of Art 2024, with 650 - 700 people attending our event.
- We held our HCA Saturdays on the first Saturday of the month on different environmental themes, including Plastic pollution, Gardening, Transport, Clothing, Energy and Apple Day.
- We worked with the Grove cinema to screen the film 2040.
- We collected unwanted tech with 50 donations received at 2 HCA Saturdays.
- We received 20 Bike donations which were passed onto the Big Bike Fix.
- We attended Community events including Breeze Leeds and Barca Family Day
- We took part in events at Horsforth Library as part of Green Libraries week Oct 2023.

Ongoing Challenges

There is still a need to increase and sustain public awareness and participation. Steps are being explored to ensure HCA can develop and grow, in order to support and enable development of significant local initiatives. Time is always a limiting factor as we do this - we still have plenty of ideas but have had to slow our pace a little in order to keep things achievable.

The Future

We have continued to build our presence in Horsforth since September 2024. At the writing of this report, we are already some way into year 3 and are making progress on some of our aims. We have developed an action plan to help us develop in a

realistic and achievable way, although it is still ambitious. Our website is continually updated with news of upcoming events and blogs of past events. We continue to develop and build on our social media presence. Our HCA Saturdays have worked to increase our visibility and to engage with residents.

The aims for the year 2024/25 include:

- ★ To continue to develop and build partnerships with local community groups.
- ★ To become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- ★ Agree and secure funding and governance when the partnership with Climate Action Leeds ends in September 2025
- ★ Continue to run HCA Saturdays and further build on our visibility and engagement with local residents
- ★ Strengthen the relationships we have already developed with other interested groups and organisations e.g. Leeds Trinity University, Climate Hubs.
- ★ To establish initial links with local businesses.
- ★ Grow, support and value our volunteer base in order to sustain and strengthen current working groups and activities, and develop new initiatives and groups, such as developing the Clothing Swaps and building on the nascent work around energy.
- ★ To establish community wide events such as Walk to School Week and a Green Fair.

Ideas from our membership

We continue to develop ways we can support our membership to develop their own ideas and put them in contact with like-minded people.

Conclusion

Horsforth Climate Action has made huge progress in establishing itself as a local group committed to contributing towards the transition towards a zero carbon, nature friendly and socially just community for Horsforth & Leeds.

There are still challenges to overcome in the drive to establish a significant and growing movement. The engagement of the local community and the development of processes to provide support, information and expertise is still crucial.

Penny Lewis

Chair of Horsforth Climate Action

Horsforth Climate Action (HCA) Treasurer's Report for Year 2

Horsforth Climate Action Accounts 1.10.2023- 30.9.2024

Income

Brought forward 1.10.2023	2011.73
Year 1 underspend transferred from St Margaret's	1521.14
Hub grant (+ £2000 retained by St Margaret's Church)	6000.00
HCA event donations	281.87
<u>Repair Café donations</u>	<u>1398.55</u>
Total income	11213.29

Expenditure

HCA events/publicity	1662.76
Newsletters	720.00
Website	110.40
Insurance	157.00
Repair Café expenses	9.98
Community composting Drury Field	2000.00
Compost caddies West End School	220.00
Horsforth Community Garden grant for raised beds	680.00
C Tomes grant for children's booklet	386.80
Litter picking sets for schools	199.46
<u>CAL grant spending (relaxed mowing)</u>	<u>107.94</u>
Total expenditure	6254.31
Balance carried forward 30.9.2024	4958.95

Penny Pinn -
Treasurer of Horsforth Climate Action