

Revenue, taxes and the local economy

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (15-117 and 119-235)
15	To enable villages to be sustainable for all members of society, the government should give grants, equal to parish council receipts to groups (volunteers, charitable associations) to allow them to decide upon local improvements, amenity improvements, etc. Only local organisations have their feet on the ground and know exactly what is required. This would be supported by all the groups in Skelton.	Parish Council has power to raise precept, and to promote and provide grants. Views of residents put forward through parishes.	8
50	Tax to have the effect of double water rates if private gardens are made impermeable.	Should it be law or a requirement for builders? Could explore incentivising removing concrete surfacing. Taxing seems impractical. Planning issue or a question of education. Influence for agencies, lobbying for flood defences: need the opportunity to make the case for defending against floods to central government.	3
67	Charge business rates according to the waste produced from all of that company's products and processes (not just what they dispose of) and/or a packaging tax.	Packaging: should only charge for landfill not for recyclables. Need to make recycling more economically viable. Would like to give message to producers that we don't want so much packaging.	12
117	Require that the local authority give preference to locally sourced food, building materials, paper, wood, fuel etc through its contracts. Specify which items and a percentage.	Local authority has to go for the cheapest option unless there's a good reason not to. Change in the legislative process in order to take local issues into account. Local authorities currently promote the ability to tender locally. Currently european supply chains need to be established (?).	12
119	Government promotion and new financial regulations to allow the issue of Community Bonds to finance local building of renewable energy, sustainable homes, retrofitting etc.	Bonds: government to change financial structure to allow it to happen. Would residents be confident in how money would be invested? Local authority bonds existed in the 1980s so might still be possible.	4
122	Business rates retained locally for spending on sustainability (including economic) by council.		18

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (15-117 and 119-235)
184	Ensure that all landfill tax and Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme penalties are returned to local authorities for investment in further recycling, reduction, reuse and repair measures.	Agree.	6
250	My concern for York... is being ready for the consequences of climate change and peak oil. We need to be actively trying to mitigate these by e.g. localising food production and employment, improving flood defences.	Up to the local authority to promote on a voluntary basis. Farm shops are appearing; need to encourage more, possibility to use allotment gluts. Interested in the French model of artisanelle: produce or products sold directly by the producer; everyone knows the basis on which it's sold. Year on year increase in number fo allotments in villages.	4
325	No bank in Strensall.	Importance of banks in villages: education; dissemination of information; commercial decisions. But need to be realistic about modern banking. Credit Unions are growing. Publicity for people to know what facilities are available: get shops to act as agent, mobile bank; local authority to negotiate provision; libraries.	2

Unanimous support for retaining landfill tax and local retention of business rates.

Local decision-making as general rationale. In favour of grant aid system and match-funding.

Support for measures to promote local shopping and local production based on the French model of artisanelle: sell your own scheme with no risk.

Flood Risk assessments: creating impermeable surfaces should be avoided, but feel that this is a planning issue rather than revenue as it would prove impossible to tax. There are other changes that households could undertake which could be incentivised.

When invited to select their main priority among suggestions 15-117, 67 and 117 received the most support at 35% each, followed by 15 at 23%.

When invited to select their main priority among suggestions 119-235, 122 received most support at 53%, followed by 119, 184 and 250 with approximately 14% each.

Environment: Recycling

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (40-112 and 130-278)
40	Stop delivery of plastic charity bags	Generally opposed to plastic bags, but preference for consulting with charities rather than a blanket ban on charity bags. Suggestions for different ways of delivering bags and collecting goods: a scheme for people to ring up and order a bag, using residents' associations, using bio-degradable bags. Also pointed out that bin liners and CYC green bags for businesses are not recyclable.	3
65	Make it illegal to make things that are non-repairable/recyclable (based on recommendations from WRAP)	Good idea, but would have to investigate feasibility. Would apply to manufacturers and could include packaging.	5
68	Legislation so that packaging can be taken back to local supermarkets for re-use, recycling, or they would have to pay the landfill tax for its disposal.	Stop them using packaging in the first place.	21
69	Review property law so that it is not theft to take things that would otherwise be going to landfill.	Suggested that this has particular relevance to electrical goods but could also be used to promote reuse of wood, eg old cupboards. Freecycle and community furniture stores work on these principles. Suggested that communal areas could be used to facilitate this or there could be an area at the tip where people could leave goods they no longer need. Need publicity to reinforce the idea, especially targeting people who aren't looking for the information.	4
112	Require composting toilets or reed bed systems and rainwater collection to be fitted in all new developments or on-site treatments tanks so no sewerage leaves the site and provide funding for the retrofitting of these. All recycles to allotment, garden or drinking water.	General support for including compost toilets, reed beds and rainwater harvesting in new developments. Could be implemented at the level of planning. Compost toilets and reed beds already in place at Rawcliffe Bar Park & Ride. Golf clubs could use rainwater collected to irrigate the greens. Information on these topics is not widely available.	1

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (40-112 and 130-278)
130	Bring commercial waste into councils targets for increasing recycling (i.e. by commercial waste in the system of Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme penalties)	Extend recycling targets to private companies like Yorwaste and Biffa; small businesses, including pubs, should be responsible for meeting recycling targets, even if they use private waste collection companies. Business recycling will be up and running in York this year.	15
213	Give the council powers to: 1) restrict wasteful packaging and promote recyclable or compostable packaging for take away food sales (i.e eliminate polystyrene boxes in favour of paper and card), 2) to require retail outlets and/or companies to collect recyclable containers (i.e. bottles and cans) against a deposit. For examples of this, look at Germany. York could promote itself as a flagship city of sustainable waste management and reduce the litter problem in the process. 3) promote the use of (standard size and shape) returnable bottles, boxes and packaging, e.g for food. This could also be first implemented in local bye-laws. McDonalds etc. would not want to pass up on a major tourist attraction. Packaging can be returned by supermarkets in empty returning lorries.	Possible to provide takeaway food in biodegradable packaging and returnable bottles work. Support for sections 1 and 2 within this suggestion. Could create incentives to reuse things: money back on bottles. Sweden provides a model of good practice on reuse. Return to sturdy, reusable packaging.	13
226	Companies should be taxed on any packaging other than cardboard and forced to accept it back for re-use or recycling as appropriate. Commercial waste should be included in the government target levels for cutting landfill and made to pay the same excess charge for exceeding those limits.	Linked to suggestion 130. (recycling of commercial waste). Should target the point of production but shouldn't just be limited to cardboard. Raised the issue of tetrapak and cornstarch packaging. Suggest that this needs to be the subject of national legislation rather than local authorities. Also raised issue of plastic toys and toy packaging.	7
278	Demand that smokers use eco-cigarettes which are fully in compliance with 'Smoking Free' law in the UK. (see website www.ecocig.co.uk).	No support for this.	0

Support for all suggestions except 278 (eco-cigarettes).

Suggestions came forward about where and how certain ideas might be implemented, e.g. compost toilets, reed beds, rainwater harvesting, reusing unwanted goods, limiting use of charity bags, etc.

Support for limiting packaging at source, i.e. at manufacturer or supplier, and for bringing private waste collection companies and small businesses into recycling targets.

When invited to select their main priority among suggestions 40 to 112, approximately 60% chose suggestion 68 (legislating to take packaging back to supermarkets, etc), with suggestions 40, 65 and 69 receiving about 10% each.

When invited to select their main priority among suggestions 130-278, the result was quite evenly split between 130 and 213 with approximately 40% supporting both, and 20% supporting 226.

Environment: Energy

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (22-123 and 182-298)
22	Make shops/companies let out the vacant rooms above their premises in return for a sustainable grant to make them energy efficient.	Like the idea in general but not keen on enforcement, prefer encouragement. Not a new idea: living over the shop worked for many years, though the idea of a grant to make it energy efficient is new. Living over shops is a good idea but it's not suitable for everyone (eg. families and those with access problems) and separate access could be difficult to organise. Energy efficiency gain will be increasingly valuable. Can't afford not to do something about this.	2
35	Support for insulation purchases. Better insulation reduces carbon emissions, warming and helps save us all money! Better threshold for new houses too.	Question of whether this would apply to private and public buildings. Suggested that financial help be provided to householders in more deprived areas and that private landlords be forced to meet minimum standards of energy efficiency. Making older properties energy efficient is a big issue, especially in York. Need a more creative approach to secondary glazing of older properties. Need to retro-fit our old properties because so much of the housing stock is older.	9
61	Requirement to install Wind Turbines adjacent to the ring road roads (& other trunk roads) - This is clearly about both processes. The ring road is an almost derelict area, noisy and for the most part distant from housing. We should establish a series of Wind Turbines which are owned by the community and the profit used to support further greening of York and surrounds and help create a more equal community.	Like the idea as wind turbines are really noisy. Community support for keeping energy locally. Suggest combining with 23. Like idea of installing wind turbines generally. Unsure about the ring road as a location and about financial viability. Excellent idea. Differing views about the economic viability of wind turbines. Community benefit may reduce NIMBY attitude.	6
111	Require minimum levels of insulation before properties can be sold or rented (some financial aid for owners to bring buildings up to standard and limited exemptions for hard to treat properties eg listed buildings).	Energy efficiency requirements for landlords. Not unreasonable to require achievement of minimum standards. Definite exemptions for listed and older buildings.	2
123	Generate energy via community renewable energy so that money comes back into the community.	Fantastic idea if it can be demonstrated to be viable.	16

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (22-123 and 182-298)
182	Put environmental sustainability at the centre of Local Area Agreements (rather than sidelining it as is currently the case) and require all 'Sustainable Community Strategies' to include detailed plans (with annual targets) for cutting greenhouse emissions in the local authority area by 40% by 2020.	Put obligation on local authorities. Do not agree with the wording. Need some idea of how and incentives to do so. Put in clear hard targets so not just general statement of intent.	6
214	Give the council powers to: 1) to restrict usage of outdoor heating e.g gas heaters used in pubs. Also include restrictions on heating in e.g shops who leave their frontage wide open. 2) Relax conservation rules on listed buildings to allow double glazing and better insulation as well as renewable energy installations (solar water, photovoltaics) on roofs etc.	Would like to see some controls introduced, but it would be difficult to enforce and there would be objections from pubs. Gas heating is not using that much energy so concerned about government intervention. Differing opinions about conservations laws: some in favour of relaxing them, others not. Architecture: not only preserve the past but look to the future with good quality modern architecture.	3
265	Extremely limited renewable microgeneration, especially solar hot water heating. Disgusted at the variation in price, and quality of installations, I self-installed a solar hot water heating system a couple of years ago and I have slashed my gas bill.	Council could facilitate bulk-buying and therefore offer a discount. Would have to be carefully costed to ensure it's financially viable. Would not be suitable for conservation area. Known advantages of solar in other circumstances.	6
270	Hydro-electric power scheme on Foss Weir.	Could be combined with 61 and 295: giving the council power to introduce sustainable energy projects. Doubt this idea is viable.	6
295	Community renewable energy projects.	Neighbourhood / district heating schemes in new build could be developed in this way.	12
298	Do everything required to bring in personal carbon budgets/rationing within 3 yrs.	Would need a lot more research. What would the penalty be? Doesn't take into account different lifestyles. Runs the risk of seeming big brotherish and heavy-handed. Would like people to take steps of their own volition, which might be fairer. Prefer to see more information on impact our behaviour is having in terms of carbon use, so people can choose. Incentives would be good. 3 year target enormously ambitious. Might be able to introduce scheme for people to know their own carbon use.	2

Suggested grouping together a number of the suggestions under the category of giving the council power to create its own sustainable power supply (61, 123, 270, 295). It was felt that this was the most important point to emerge under this theme.

General support for sustainable power generation but concerns expressed about the economic viability of the different projects.

General preference across all suggestions for encouragement rather than enforcement.

Concern about achieving balance of conservation and energy efficiency.

When invited to select their top priority among suggestions 22-123, almost 50% selected 123, followed by 26% in favour of 35.

When invited to select their top priority among suggestions 182-298, 35% opted for 295, followed by 18% each for 182, 265 and 270.

Housing Planning Land Use etc

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (37-124 and 153-318)
37	Require developers to lease land they own, but have not developed, to local councils to use for community purposes. The land could be put to good use by communities to provide facilities for local residents (allotments/playing fields). The developers would retain ownership of the land which councils would be barred from using in ways that prevented its subsequent development in the long term. The land would be leased to local communities at a nominal rate.	Group felt that this is a good idea, but questioned the feasibility given the short timescale. It wouldn't facilitate continuity and long-term planning for sports clubs, etc.	4
43	Introduce legislation to ban the sale of properties in new developments as second homes. (See Hungate example where new properties are being marketed as second homes, which contributes nothing to meeting local housing need.)	Group thought that this would help to provide affordable homes for sale or rent but that it would need to be implemented nationally and monitored carefully. There were concerns about people's right to buy a second property. Different level of council tax on second homes with additional funds ring-fenced for affordable housing.	0
44	Introduce legislation to give local communities the same rights to appeal against planning decisions as developers. As part of this, empower local authorities to provide an independent fund to which local communities can apply for financial support when contesting development proposals and provide government funding to support this.	It was pointed out that residents have a right to appeal but need to be aware of the criteria, and that it is the issue rather than the volume of objections that affects the outcome of planning decisions. Concern about how community might be defined. Support for the idea of a fund to help individuals object to developments and challenge planning decisions, allowing a better balance between developers and individuals. Also expressed concern that this be directed at big developments rather than	5
45	Make it clear in legislation that local authorities make the final decision (through their Local Development Framework process) regarding housing allocation target numbers for their area, whilst still requiring them to cooperate and discuss housing strategies at a regional level.	Issue of allocating enough land to housing, but also raised problem of what happens in a recession. Suggested a local housing inspector. National policy to increase housing density. General preference for local decision-making.	11

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (37-124 and 153-318)
118	Requirement that trees, bushes etc. used in landscaping be those that produce an edible crop eg fruit and nut trees, fruit bushes or those suitable for coppicing.	Support suggestions promoting food security, wildlife protection and biodiversity.	5
124	Change of regulation so that community-based ambient renewable energy facilities are classified as general permitted developments (not requiring planning permission) but for community initiatives only, not for external companies.		10
153	Let the City of York keep 100% of council house rental income.	General support for this on the condition that funds could be used to upgrade council stock and increase availability of affordable housing.	14
202	Improvements to Fulford Ings. It is mostly in private ownership but the public have access to it and it has Site of Specific Interest status. Natural England works with landowners on a management scheme but is finding it difficult to fund this. There are many things which would improve the site by preserving its biological diversity and making it more accessible to the public. Work needed would include improvements to the drainage and footpaths, new fencing gates and hedging. See sheet for full details.		1
220	Councils should have the power and funding to buy any houses/apartments that are unsold for more than a year and make them available as affordable housing for people on their housing waiting list. This would both help to re-start the housing market and force developers to sell to a housing association/local council or cut their prices to meet what people can afford to pay in the current recession rather than they be left standing empty.	It was suggested that this might be too much interference with the market and that it assumes that the council has funds to purchase new developments. Raised the issue of how value would be established. As rents for affordable housing are set by the government and lower than market value they	1
260	Lots of green trees but nothing useful about those trees ie not edible or beneficial to bees etc. Lots of sealed surfaces (driveways and road and pavements)...	Support suggestions promoting food security, wildlife protection and biodiversity.	3

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (37-124 and 153-318)
296	Encourage local initiatives to plant fruit bearing trees in local landscaping schemes - look for every opportunity and make this a positive local <sic>	Support suggestions promoting food security, wildlife protection and biodiversity.	2
310	Planning decision should remain local, not overturned by appeal to central government.	Issue raised of using a council-administered fund to object to council planning proposals.	8
318	Many houses in York have walls unsuitable for cavity wall insulation. Could the Council obtain technical advice on an effective method of insulating such properties or even help with funding? In conservation areas only inside walls could be treated.	Council already provide advice to residents about insulation. Doubts about whether this falls within remit of the Sustainable Communities Act.	5

Support for suggestions 118, 260 and 296 which promote food security, protection of wildlife and biodiversity.

Support for retaining higher proportion of rent on council properties and suggestion that council tax rate should be higher on second homes, but in favour of ring-fencing this additional income for investment in affordable housing.

Support for a council-administered fund to help individuals challenge planning proposals and decisions.

When invited to select their top priority among suggestions 37-124, suggestions 45 and 124 each received support of about 30% of those present. When invited to select their top priority among suggestions 153-318, over 40% favoured suggestion 153, followed by 23% supporting 310.

Transport

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (148-290)
148	Legislation to reduce the horse-power rating allowed for private vehicles, perhaps with application/proof of use necessary to buy high-power agricultural/load towing 4x4 vehicles.	Concern that legislation limiting choices, etc. would alienate people and also that this issue is already addressed by taxation and congestion charges which are related to the size of the vehicle. Suggested that tax on fuel might be preferable.	3
183	Give local authorities full powers and appropriate funding to re-regulate bus services.	Quite positive about the proposal but also explored alternative methods of improving and securing bus service and raised the issue of cost: could it be cost neutral? Suggestions included having minimum service specification, or franchising contracts to get income back to local authority, which would require tight service contracts. Need bus routes and services to be dependable.	17
204	On the spot fines for parking on the verges is merely cosmetic and will not address the issue of cars obstructing pavements, so it would be much more helpful if there were on the spot fines for parking on any raised pavement areas. This would assist not only the blind and partially sighted but also those in wheelchairs or with walking frames... Cars also park over the lowered pavement access area thus forcing wheelchair users and their carers to negotiate kerbs - not acceptable. The quality of life and environment is impaired by those who park on any pavement area and on the spot fines would send a message that it is unacceptable in York and hopefully would lead to the problem being solved.	Discussion suggested that it needs to become socially unacceptable to park on verges, by encouraging people to park in driveways and addressing the issue of enforcement. Not in favour of two-tier system of enforcement; it needs to be clear whether this is the responsibility of the police or the council. Also notes regarding cycle lanes and road use - relevant to this suggestion or part of 290?	1
211	I would like to see air compressed cars only allowed in the city centre. Can you, in association with Yorkshire Forward, invite MDI (vehicle manufacturer) to start production here?	Raised questions about the availability of air-compressed cars: who produces or supplies them? Suggested that electric cars might be a better option.	1
223	The national curriculum should be changed to include being a safe road user (including cycling and driver education). The national 'Bike It' cycle training should be government funded to be offered free in all schools.	Do not support changing the national curriculum as group were generally satisfied with the voluntary training that is currently in place. Adding it to the curriculum would necessitate removing something else.	0

ID	Proposal detail:	Citizens' Panel comments	Citizens' Panel voting (148-290)
290	<p>Take bold steps to deal with the appalling traffic problem and make commuting a pleasure:</p> <p>a) Make public transport more favourable in cost and convenience than use of cars. Slash prices, increase frequency and charge motorists coming into the city to help pay for the public transport.</p> <p>b) During rush-hours give an extra green light for cyclists to give them a head-start (and an incentive).</p> <p>c) Make cycling on narrow busy roads safer e.g. Haxby Road; could it have a one-way priority system like the Huntington Road?</p> <p>The solutions are out there. Look at Holland or Switzerland as models for how to solve urban traffic. It is achievable. Don't just tinker at the edges.</p>	<p>General support for the suggestion but feel that it might not go far enough; more radical measures are needed to address the hierarchy of road use and need to have a debate about road use. Suggestion addresses question of ownership of roads and public spaces, and is linked to suggestion 183 (reregulating buses). It also raises the issue of congestion charging. Pointed out that pedestrianised streets in centre of York are good, but businesses also rely on other forms of transportation. Congestion is a deterrant for cyclists and reduced bus service is a problem. Suggestions from the group included: congestion charge for single occupancy cars; charge car drivers more and make public transport cheaper; have fleets of smaller buses as the large purple buses are never full. The issue of balancing space for cycle lanes with the need to keep traffic flowing also arose in relation to another suggestion.</p>	13

Lots of discussion about 290 – the need to have a debate about road use and rebalance the hierarchy of road use. Generally positive towards the suggestion, but thought it didn't go far enough. Pointed out links with some of the other suggestions, e.g. reregulating buses, and suggested more radical measures that might be considered, like congestion charges and a smaller bus fleet.

Quite positive about reregulating buses citywide, linking it to the wider debate about ownership of the roads, and also offered other suggestions for improving bus service.

Expressed general wariness about overly prescriptive measures (148, 211, 223). Feel that voluntary training on road safety is sufficient without changing the curriculum, legislation about vehicle size might alienate people and, in relation to parking, it needs to be clear to road users where responsibility for enforcement lies, with the council or the police.

When invited to select their top priority from the suggestions under discussion, suggestion 183 (reregulating buses) was marginally more popular than 290 (hierarchy of road use) with 50% and 40% respectively.