

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019 TO 2022

Overview

This report provides a summary of SB's main activities since the last annual meeting held in Apr 2019. As an informal community organisation we do not have to present audited accounts annually. However, the annual meeting (postponed 3 times until it could be held as a live event) provides an opportunity to take stock of our current position, review our activities, elect and re-elect officers and members of the Steering Group, present a summary of our finances and agree future plans, at least in principle.

New members since 2019 can read a summary of our mission statement and objectives at Annex B and our property holdings that enable us to generate income through our 2 Farmers' Markets, and to support other community events (usually offered free).

Coordinating Groups and Communications

The Coordinating Group (CG) meets approximately every 4 months year and comprises Tim Coombe (Chair), Bob Allan (Secretary), Heather Tipler (Treasurer) supported as required by co-opted members: John Smith, Phil Dunn (by zoom), Emma Heseltine, Phil Furneaux (representing B2Z), Chris Wills, Hilary Constable, Chris Lloyd and Natalie Naisbitt who attend when they can. CG members will be formally elected at this year's annual meeting. New members may be invited to join the CG at any time, by mutual agreement.

The Farmers' Market Steering Group (SB FMSG) meets occasionally by zoom mostly to review new traders and address issues affecting market operations.

Our supporter base grows steadily and numbers currently 493. Recruitment is mainly through the popular free Give & Take (G&T) stall at Brampton Farmers' Market and word of mouth. SB Newsletters are published roughly quarterly through Mailchimp and are now presented in 2 sections under the headings 'Think Global' and 'Act Local' to highlight national and international issues and publicise local events. Feedback is always welcome.

Farmers' Markets

The Farmers' Markets continue to be our core business and are a vital source of steady income. Considered to be an essential food outlet, our FMs were permitted to operate throughout the pandemic apart from the first 3 months of the 2020 lockdown and they have continued to be well supported ever since. Brampton market generates significantly more income than Carlisle, which in 2020 moved into the Cathedral precinct, a much grander setting than Carlisle's pedestrian precinct (ground rent is now paid to the Cathedral rather than the City Council). We organised a most successful one day Christmas market outside the Cathedral in 2021 which included crafts in the Fraternity, carols by the main entrance and Santa's Grotto on the grass for youngsters, which we hope may become a regular feature of future festive seasons.

Farmers' Markets provide a wealth of environmental, economic and social benefits for the whole community which encourage the adoption of more sustainable and resilient lifestyles as described in our mission statement and objectives which have remained unchanged ever since they were first drafted around 18 years ago. We were delighted that the Brampton Wednesday market is also flourishing again which is very good for the local economy and the buzz about the town.

Financial Statement

A top level summary of the 2021 accounts is at Annex A. Full statements for 2019 and 2020 have not been included since they broadly followed a similar pattern. The financial bottom line is the bank balances at the end of each calendar year, which are listed from Dec 17. These figures show a steady increase in net worth even allowing for the purchases of new equipment, refurbishing and repairing pop-ups, and support in various forms that has been offered to others. The largest individual purchase of the second hand horsebox for £700 in 2017 has been a sound investment and the organisation has proved to be pretty resilient both to the effects of extreme weather and draconian restrictions due to Covid-19.

Please note these additional points which supplement the summary:

- Most years we can afford to make donations to good causes and small projects to a value of around £200. Support-in-kind depends mostly on the availability of our equipment to support community events and individuals. Our in-kind support was worth £544 to the organisations that were helped in 2021.
- The slight loss of income shown in 2021 was due to a combination of illness causing short notice cancellations by traders and high winds which can result in a trading loss (we offer stallholders who battle through the elements a reduced pitch fee as thanks for making the effort).
- Our main expenses are the fees paid to our 3 part time helpers Heather Tipler, Emma Heseltine and Roger Jackson who keep the show on the road. We remain proud to be able to offer such part time work.
- Eileen Norman deserves special mention for coordinating volunteers for the G&T stall which forms the heart and social focus for the Brampton markets.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Zero Carbon Cumbria (ZCC) and the Cumbria Sustainability Network (CSN). Over the last 18 months Sustainable Brampton has been supporting CAFS in re-energising the Cumbria Sustainability Network (it was started by SB in 2008 but didn't thrive). The CSN now serves about 20 community groups in the County, and forms part of the Zero Carbon Cumbria partnership of 80 organisations (including CCC and the Local Enterprise Partnership) which is committed and funded to achieve net carbon zero in Cumbria by 2037.

Both organisations are still finding their feet but there was early successes for the CSN with its coordination of 40 Great Big Green Week activities in the run up to COP26 in Nov 21. We ran 2 of the funded events, a climate reading group and a re-energising workshop ('Together We have the Power!') to canvas opinion about potential future projects that will also support ZCC objectives. More about these below.

ZCC is now in the process of setting up a series of Sector Groups (energy, land use, waste, housing and transport) to help the partnership develop the transformational agenda required to meet its challenging net zero targets. ZCC is committed to welcoming new ideas from individuals and communities. Sustainable Brampton supporters are well placed to contribute and we are seeking volunteers willing to represent the community in sector group discussions. The CSN network enables key messages from these groups to reach further into Cumbrian communities than most other methods of communication can achieve. Enquiries to me.

Great Big Green Week, Re-energising Sustainable Brampton and the Food Agenda. A link to the output from the 'Together We Have The Power!' workshop in Sep 21 is [here](#) which showed the strongest support for the development of more food based projects. These could be through encouraging more food growing opportunities on spare plots, food swapping, composting techniques, cooking classes and increasing awareness of food provenance and its full cost, including food miles. Progressing this agenda will depend on identifying new volunteers.

Refill Hadrian's Wall and the Plastic Campaign. Our local Refill campaign to eliminate the single use plastic water bottles used by many walkers along the Wall started back in 2019 and involved South Tyne Sustainability, Sustainable Carlisle and ourselves promoting the use of refillable containers and tap water. The project was halted by the pandemic but is now to be progressed again by citytosea.org.uk/campaign/refill/.

Vegetable Plotters. An informal scheme was started this year to match people with gardens they can't manage with gardeners looking for places to grow vegetables. This a free service, Sustainable Brampton's role mainly being to facilitate informal agreements between the 2 groups.

Brampton and Beyond Energy (BABE). Sustainable Brampton members have been supporting detailed BABE studies over the last year to develop an emerging plan to harness the potential of the sewage treatment works at Middle Farm to provide the community with power, heat, fuel and fertiliser. This project also has the potential to be replicated elsewhere in the County which if successful would be a game changer. I can provide more information on request.

Brampton 2 Zero (B2Z). SB is partnered with B2Z, a brand new organisation formed earlier this year. brampton2zero.org.uk is committed to achieving net zero emissions for the Brampton community through a series of linked projects ranging from renewable energy generation, EV charging, carbon sequestration through tree planting, biofuel and hydrogen production, enhancing biodiversity and education (but not all at once!). The aims and objectives of both organisations complement one another neatly. Enquiries to Phil Furneaux at phil.f@brampton2zero.org.uk.

Climate Reading Group. Sponsored by the Cumbria Library Service this group of about 15 people meets roughly twice a year to discuss climate change related books they have been reading. The next meeting will be towards the end of the summer. Anyone is welcome to join at any time and there is a wide range of recommended books held by the Library from which to choose a topic of interest. Enquiries to me.

The Harmony Project. [The Harmony Project](#) has been developed by the Sustainable Food Trust <https://sustainablefoodtrust.org/> and forms an integral part of its wider educational remit, working with teachers and educators to re-frame values based teaching and learning around natural laws and principles which show the world as an interconnected whole. Over the last 18 months Sustainable Brampton has been encouraging local schools to investigate the free teaching resources that are available and has been working with the Youth Coordinator in Zero Carbon Cumbria to increase awareness in schools of the Harmony project's potential. Enquiries to me.

Campaigning. Over the last 3 years Sustainable Brampton members have supported national and local campaigns including: Fracking Policy (against), the Local Electricity Bill (for), Cumbria's Coal Mine (against), Border Rail (for) and various Carlisle Plan consultations.

Another Way. In Jan 19 'Another Way' was founded by Amy Bray as a charity to empower people to change their own lives for the health and happiness of themselves, their community and the planet.

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See <https://www.another-way.org.uk/history/>. A stalwart Sustainable Brampton group supported the launch by walking to the nearest Wainwright at Carrock Fell one stormy day in August. See <https://www.another-way.org.uk/another-waywright/>

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Community Climate Fund. The CSN Climate Fund will continue to offer significant financial support to new projects over at least the next 4 years, including awarding larger grants to support capital intensive community renewable energy projects. The most critical resource required for achieving success remains people. Enquiries to me.

ZCC Sector Group Engagement. As ZCC gathers momentum there will be increasing opportunity for community organisations and individuals to influence future planning policy directly. Citizens Assemblies and Juries have already proved their value in Copeland and Furness and involvement in ZCC Sector Group discussions should provide another good opportunity to contribute to the development of wider zero carbon policies. Enquiries to me.

WHS Sustainability Week. SB, B2Z and ZCC are working with William Howard School to organise a sustainability themed programme after exams during the week **18-23 Jul** which will include classes involving the Maths, Science and English Departments plus music, poetry, food, visits to Bolton Fell Peat Moss, Talkin Tarn and a small sustainability fair. This will be an important event as it involves young people who are too often missing from community groups. Enquiries to me.

Festival of Nature. SB and B2Z will also be supporting the Festival of Nature on **18/19 Jun** organised by North Pennines AONB and the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre at Tullie House (<https://www.cbdc.org.uk/>) with other partners including the Fellfoot Forward project team (fellfoot-forward/) and both Cumbria's Wildlife and Woodland Trusts. Enquiries to me.

The Repair Café and Big Friendly Garage. SB are organising a pilot Repair Café day in the Hut at Brampton Community Centre during one of the Farmers' Markets in Jun or Jul. If successful it will be repeated regularly and it is also hoped that a synergy will soon develop with the Big Friendly Garage project also in the Hut to provide space for practical and retired crafts folk to offer services and to undertake routine maintenance work at the Community Centre. Enquiries to me.

Partnership Development. Sustainable Brampton already enjoys partnerships with the Brampton and Beyond Community Trust, Lover's Lane, Brampton 2 Zero, Zero Carbon Cumbria, the Cumbria Sustainability Network, Sustainable Carlisle, Brampton and Beyond Energy and South Tyne Sustainability. We will continue to seek new opportunities to work collaboratively with others over the coming year. Enquiries to me.

Conclusion

Much has changed both globally and locally over the last 3 turbulent years and this report has highlighted just some of our activities in the period. However, there remain plenty of new opportunities for anyone with the time and enthusiasm to help us achieve a more sustainable future. Changing attitudes is just as important as preventing climate change!

We would be pleased to see you at the annual meeting tonight which will also provide another opportunity to discuss the future of the organisation.

Jim Cowie



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TBJ COOMBE

28th March 2022

timothycoombe@damhead.me

SB Summary of accounts as at 31 Dec 21		
Bank balance as at 31.12.17	£8,300	
Bank balance as at 31.12.18	£10,070	
Bank balance as at 31.12.19	£11,468	
Bank balance as at 31.12.20	£10,840	
Bank balance as at 29.12.21	£10,684	
Summary of income and expenditure during 2021		
	Income	Expenditure
Brampton Market		
Ground rent		£37
Market manager		£1,080
Marketing staff		£440
Driver		£660
Totals	£3,730	£2,217
Carlisle Market		
Ground rent		1345.00
Market manager		1090.00
Marketing		360.00
Driver		720.00
Totals	3700.50	3515.00
Other income		
Hire of gazebos (see note 1)	£183	
Bank interest	£3	
Grant Great Big Green Week	£200	
Other outgoings		
Equipment (ground spikes)		£45
Equipment maintenance/repair		£232
General expenses (see note 2)		£1,332
Donations (see note 3)		£191

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In kind donations (see note 4)		544.00
Depreciation of assets (@20%pa)	Initial cost	Current value
Horsebox trailer (2017)	£700	£286
23 gazebos and panels (2017)	£2,300	£754
Generator purchased (2017)	£600	£246
2 3m x 3m Rockall gazebos (2018)	£700	£286
White festival tents (2019)	£200	£0
Total	£4,300	£1,572
Note 1		
Pop-ups are available for hire to any organisation who can afford to pay. Pre-pandemic events included the Wigton Christmas market.		
Note 2		
General expenses include: account management/oversight, event expenses, room hire, sanitiser, spare parts and repairs, design and printing, website and marketing costs etc		
Note 3		
Small donations have been made to the following organisations: The BCC Bee Garden, Lover's Lane, Warwick Bridge Corn Mill etc		
Note 4		
In kind donations include: Pop-ups for Susan's Farm Open Day and BCC Community Day, Free stalls for WHS Tanzanian stall, all Sustainable Carlisle's stalls, Warwick Mill's first month etc		

SUSTAINABLE BRAMPTON

Mission: *To reduce our impact on the environment and make the transition to a more sustainable and resilient future*

Constitution objectives:

- *reduce the area's carbon footprint*
- *reduce its dependence on oil and other fossil fuels*
- *reduce pollution and protect the natural environment*
- *develop the sustainable use of local resources*
- *localise provision of goods and services*
- *provide a local focus for individual and collective debate and action on sustainability issues and activity*
- *educate the community about sustainability issues*
- *promote sustainable behaviour and lifestyles*
- *lobby for appropriate action at all levels of society*
- *support efforts by others to make the community more sustainable*
- *help to build a stronger community through supporting links between community organizations and through the empowerment of individuals and groups*

Equipment owned by Sus Brampton

MAIN ITEMS

Horsebox trailer

6kW generator

25 gazebos from various sources

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Gazebo spare parts

14 x 6' tables

Display boards (table and floor)

Extension cables (x 3) and set up eqpt

Market banners (x 6) and sail flag

2 Chalk boards

2 permanent advertising A-boards

2 cable mats

Security equipment for trailer