

Your thoughts about climate change and healthy ageing in Cardiff

June 2023

On 12th May 2023, the [Healthy Ageing in a Changing Climate](#) project team brought people aged 60+ together at the Central Library Hub in Cardiff to discuss:

- what climate change means to you
- what impact extreme weather events have on you and your community
- what exists & what is needed in your community to respond to extreme weather

We have summarised the discussions below. On behalf of the project team, we would like to thank everybody for their participation in this event.

Next steps: This event is part of a larger project looking at the implications of climate change on healthy ageing. Over the summer we will host a follow-up event with the local community and key organisations responsible for supporting climate change interventions. This will feed into a set of recommendations and resources to support the design of climate resilient Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.



Climate resilient housing is needed

Many felt that existing housing was not climate friendly or appropriate for extreme weather – particularly heat and flooding, and there is a need for more thinking around what climate resilient homes will look like. For extreme heat, people suggested changes to the positioning of housing, insulation and ventilation. Paving over gardens was also seen as a big issue for flooding due to water run-off, with the sense that people do not receive advice about this.

Improvements in mobility and transport

Many were concerned about getting around the community during extreme weather, with impacts such as being blown over during strong winds and challenges using road crossings during flooding. People also highlighted that everyday journeys could be problematic and there is a need for improvement. Basic transport was felt to be a human right, with the need for a more integrated transport network which enables people to better connect different modes of transport as well as rest in between (for example, more benches in streets). Expansion of electric cars, encouraging active travel and car clubs were also suggested.

Better planning, communication and empowerment

People felt that there should be joined up working across sectors so that spaces can be shared/best used for climate change and other purposes. Also, people felt it was important to keep the community up to date on climate issues and ensure advance planning for extreme weather events so that people know what to do – for example, how to respond to emergency alerts. There were also some issues around trust and belief in government (including locally) and the need for people to be included in the change making process.

Integrating outdoor green spaces

There was discussion about the importance of open, outdoor and green spaces and for these to be better embedded into the environment, for example more tree planting, preserving old trees and integration of pocket parks. However, it was felt there were issues with how this was dealt with locally (tree roots causing issues on pavements due to not being planted properly, trees are needed in the city centre too so it becomes cooler – not just in parks).

The aim of the UKRI-funded Healthy Ageing in a Changing Climate project is to gain a better understanding of the factors that contribute to the resilience of older people to climate change in the UK. It explores how we can build on existing dimensions of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (AFCCs) to deliver inclusive and climate resilient communities and cities.

For more information visit:
www.ageandclimate.com

Project Team

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