

# SENS

Sustainability & Energy  
Network in Staveley



## Community action on Climate Change

# Final Report



With thanks to national lottery players

# Thankyou

We are immensely grateful for the lottery contribution to our climate change work in Staveley.

SENS is a long-standing voluntary and campaigning group, established in 2007 to promote and facilitate action on sustainability in our community.

In 2022-2023, Together For Our Planet has enabled us to reach and work alongside more and different people, through better local communication and more engagement opportunities.

This was our primary aim.

The information in this report is set out under the headings you suggested:

- information about the project online;
- advertising materials;
- photos;
- press coverage;
- testimonials and
- supporting information

It has been great fun to pull together and we hope you enjoy reading it! If you are left with any questions please get in touch.

## Information about the project online

We have been able to produce a [community newsletter](#) almost every month this year, letting people know what they can do and how they can contact us – or others – about things they might like to do to tackle climate change. Last year our mailing list was around 400, growing slowly. With funding from the lottery (to boost communications) our profile is higher and we now send the newsletter to over 690 people.

The newsletter has got better and better with a small number of paid hours from a local person to help us with messaging and presentation.

We have also begun making improvements to our [Sustainable Staveley website](#), which contains a huge amount of local information and wider links. Our web presence is a useful way for people to find out about us and make contact.

# Information about the project online

All our [newsletters](#) can be found on the webpage. We have created a calendar, making it easier for people to see what's going on, and we have included a donations button on the home screen.

The 'Take Action' section helps people see how they can take steps to tackle the climate crisis and invites them to join training, campaigns and action days.

Our very active Clean River Kent Campaign (a coalition with other communities along the river) has been a significant source of volunteering and media interest this year.

## Sustainable Staveley

[Home](#) [SENS](#) [Newsletters](#) [Take Action](#) [Clean River Kent Campaign](#) [Contact](#)

Sustainable Staveley brings together initiatives in the village of Staveley-with-Ings, Lake District which are helping to tackle the climate crisis and bio-diversity loss.



**Sustainability and Energy Network in Staveley (SENS)** was formed in November 2007 to promote sustainability action in the village. We're constantly looking at ways to reduce home energy use, exploring the potential for schemes like hydro-electric, promoting cycling and walking, encouraging projects that protect biodiversity, and various other ways to raise awareness of and tackle climate change. These initiatives are as important as ever so take a look around to see how you can get involved or contact us directly.

Please see the calendar below for our upcoming events. If you'd like to get involved or have any questions, please email: [senstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com).

Donate to SENS

Events Calendar

# Information about the project online

We've written several [Case Studies](#) about actions local people and businesses are taking to tackle the climate crisis.

## Sustainable Staveley

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### CASE STUDY: PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT IN THE MILL YARD, STAVELEY

In May 2021 SENS interviewed David Broadbent, owner of the Mill Yard, Staveley about his recent photovoltaic project. His responses are below:

**How much energy do the PV's generate on average per day?**

We produce about 7,500,000 kilowatt hours a day, but dependent on Staveley sunshine! A kilowatt hour is a one bar electric fire running for one hour.

**What happened to the energy generated?**

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### Case study: Ebike Share Scheme user experience



The Staveley Community Ebikes give local people access to 2 ebikes in the middle of Staveley, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's hoped that users will leave their car at home in favour of a more enjoyable journey, getting them outside and getting active. You can find out more about the project on the [Community Ebikes website](#).

In April 2023, Sheelagh was interviewed by SENS so we could find out more about her use of the bikes and the benefits they provided. Read what she had to say below:

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### CASE STUDY: HELLO HOME, STAVELEY

Hello Home is a local furniture shop in Staveley. It is owned by two friends who create unique pieces of furniture by sourcing and re-purposing old, unloved furniture, as well as offering new and vintage furniture and homewares. When it comes to sustainability, reuse is one of the ever important 3 R's of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. So we're all for this concept! We spoke to them about what inspired Hello Home, find out what they had to say...



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### CASE STUDY: Building and living in a low-energy 'Passivhaus'

**Still to insert pic of Passivhaus**

In June 2021 SENS interviewed Sarah and Tim Goffe about building and living in a Passivhaus. They moved from Halifax to Staveley in 2010, after many years of visiting friends here for many years and got to like the village. Sarah got a teaching job at John Ruskin school in Coniston and they first rented a house in Fairfield Cross before deciding to build their own.

**What inspired you to build your own house?**

Building a house had been a long term project, something we'd had in mind for thirty years. When the opportunity arose after we had sold our Halifax house, we researched many low energy houses and decided to go for a Passivhaus. Floor architects are based in Kentmere and are experienced Passivhaus architects and were enthusiastic about our project.

# Advertising Materials

Most of our advertising, messaging and recruitment is through facebook, which has had a massive boost thanks to the lottery support. We are reaching more people (30% growth in followers this year) and have excellent links with other local facebook groups and networks who can help circulate information. As well as active individuals, the school, parish council, community noticeboard and several local businesses all routinely share our posts.

## Did you know?

**SENS**  
Sustainability & Energy  
Network in Staveley

SENS is at the heart of many Staveley community projects

- Sustainable Staveley
- Clean River Kent Campaign
- Community ebike share scheme
- Community damson orchard
- Great Big Green Week



For more information about our projects, see our website:  
[www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk](http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk)

**Sustainable Staveley**  
Published by Jenny Botts Bottomley · 29 March ·

This evening come along to our Pop-up Repair Café, in the Institute 5-7pm. Bring life back into you defunct items and join us for a free hot meal at 18.15pm.

**Sustainable Staveley**

**Pop-up Repair Café**

Wednesday 29th March, 5 - 7 pm  
The Institute, Staveley (opposite the Abbey Square bus stop, and public toilets on Main Street)

If you've got some fabric in need of a fix or a stitch needing a sew, then our marvelous menders can breathe life back into your defunct items. Join us for a hot meal at 6.15 pm or volunteer your time and skills with us as a mender. All are welcome!

 **COMMUNITY FUND**

[www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk](http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk)



[See Insights and Ads](#) [Boost post](#)



**SENS**  
Sustainability & Energy  
Network in Staveley



**SENS is an informal group of people who take action to promote sustainability and biodiversity in our local area.**

We work together, through practical projects, campaigns, and events. In the face of the global climate emergency, we want to raise awareness of ecological and sustainability issues by taking action locally in the Kent valley and surrounding areas.

We're always looking for new ideas and new faces, so get in touch! It would be great to meet and hear about the issues that matter to you.

Contact [senstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com)

[www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk](http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk) | [FB.com/SustainableStaveley](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableStaveley)



## CLEAN RIVER KENT

**Our local rivers need protection from pollution. Join our campaign to help keep the wonderful river Kent clean.**

The river Kent runs through a UNESCO world heritage site and is home to internationally critically endangered species. It is well-loved and well-used by people for all sorts of recreational activity. But it is being polluted, and needs our help!



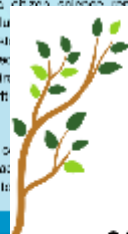
In 2022, we...

- Published a clean river Kent charter, action plan
- Published a checklist of pollution
- Shared our findings with the Environment Agency and the Environment
- Linked up with...

In 2023, we want to...

- Do more citizen science data
- Continue to hold polluters to account
- Campaign for positive action to...

To volunteer  
To donate  
[www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)



## Sustainable Staveley Great Big Green Week

24th September - 2nd October 2022

### WHAT'S ON

**Friday 30th September**  
Ebike share scheme official launch  
3 - 6pm outside Hawkhead Brewery



**Saturday 1st October**  
Harvesting & pruning work party  
10am - 1pm at Elf Howe community damson orchard

Sewing focused repair café - hand and machine  
2 - 5pm (food 5 - 8pm) in the Institute Room, Village Hall

**Sunday 2nd October**  
Dark Skies Talk, 7 - 8pm at Staveley Village Hall

[www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/GBGW2022](http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/GBGW2022)  
#GreatBigGreenWeek



**SENS**  
Sustainability & Energy  
Network in Staveley

# Advertising Materials

We do still print leaflets periodically; at face to face events they are a useful prompt, and we regularly put posters on all the local noticeboards.

For in person events we also have a feather banner and a QR code to promote and signpost.

# Photos

There are lots of pictures of our activities. Here are some of our favourites



River dipping with South Cumbria Rivers Trust, as part of our Staveley Community Plan Day





# Photos - Working with Cumbria Development Education Centre on the Green PLACE project with the school, in the community



## Photos - Clean River Kent Campaign

This has been one of our most successful profile raising and volunteer engagement projects ever.

More than 120 people have been involved in gathering data and supporting local monitoring to build an evidence base and make an application for Bathing Water Status on the River Kent.

SENS works closely with neighbouring communities along the river. Our Parish council is also very supportive and active on water management, championing investment in our waste water infrastructure, alongside our campaign.



Watch our short video and see the website for lots more information and pictures. The results from our 2022 monitoring are also available there.

# Photos - Litter picking on the streets and in the river



These pictures were taken by local photographer [Jumpy James](#), as a donation to the project. With thanks.



# Photos - Gardening club at Staveley Primary School with the master composter



# Photos - Great Big Green Week



## Cumbria's first community e-bike share scheme launches in Staveley

13 October 2022

COMMUNITY



The Staveley community has the first e-bike share scheme in Cumbria, launched by the Staveley Community Hub.



By Andrew Young  
2,848 views  
@staveleycommunityhub

0 Comments

A COMMUNITY has banded together to develop and implement a bike sharing system where residents can borrow to ride bikes for leisure, work or shopping.



In GBGW October 2022 we ran a series of events in the community including:

- A Damson Orchard workshop
- a Repair Café
- launch of the Community Ebike project
- a 'Dark Skies' talk by Friends of the Lake District

In GBGW 2023, which is in June, we will be continuing to engage people by providing a range of activities and talks and a fun quiz to get people thinking about climate change facts, and what they can do.

# Photos - Ings Summer Fayre



Family fun,  
information sharing  
and home made  
hydro-power.

# Photos - Community ebikes scheme



Staveley is trialing a groundbreaking community ebikes scheme, run by SENS volunteers. It offers members very reasonable hourly hire rates on two bikes, to reduce car-dependency. The scheme has been set up with 'open source' replication in other places in mind.

Together For Our Planet has supported this significant work through support for SENS communications and promotional work.

Photo credit James Vincent



## Photos - Fruit tree grafting with South Lakes Orchard Group



This training has been so popular we have run it twice. It encourages people to think about growing trees in their space, and to think about local fruit and food production.





# Photos - Community Orchard Work Days



# Photos - Repair Café with Simply Repair



Fixing things together, learning new skills and talking about waste. SENS has hosted five repair café events this year, with help from [Simply Repair](#).



# E-bikes put village in gear

A COMMUNITY has banded together to develop and implement a bike sharing system where residents can subscribe to ride bikes for leisure, work or shopping.

Staveley's pay-as-you-ride e-bikes are claimed as the first community e-bike scheme of its kind in Cumbria and the UK. Starting initially with two e-bikes based in Staveley Mill Yard, they will be available to book 24/7, 365 days per year, for as little as an hour to anyone over 14.

The scheme has been developed by volunteers working in partnership with Wheelbase and other local businesses. The Sustainable Staveley (SENS) pilot project received a National Lottery Community Fund grant as part of the CABS Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership's emission reduction programme.

Toby Dalton, director of Wheelbase, said: "We are proud to be working in partnership with SENS, helping to facilitate Cumbria's first community e-bike share scheme."

"Wheelbase have seen a real boom in the popularity of e-bikes in recent years, with customers recognising the obvious benefits of travelling by an electric pedal-



Staveley residents with their new e-bikes

assist bike that helps to cut through some of the typical barriers to cycling while also contributing to a greener transport initiative."

Isobel Stoddart, of SENS, said: "We are thrilled to launch the Stave-

ley community e-bike scheme."

"This will open up the quiet lanes around Staveley for anyone to explore on two wheels, whatever their level of fitness and how hilly it is."

fast becoming an ecological means of transport and a means for less athletic riders to return to the road.

Over in Staveley, near Kendal, for example, a community e-bikes scheme gives residents and workers access to two machines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Established thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund grant, as part of the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership's emission reduction programme, it is backed by SENS, Staveley's volunteer-run sustainability group.

The project is aimed at anyone with, for example, an appointment in Kendal or Windermere, or those fancying a ride up Kentmere on a sunny afternoon, those keen to try out an e-bike for the first time or get back on a bicycle after not riding one for a while. They can be booked on annual or six-monthly subscription or by monthly membership with rates as cheap as £2 per hour.

Back at Lillswater, while the world may have turned flat my spirits have peaked and even after 16 miles I'm left wanting more as Steve and the e-bike sensation opens up a whole new world of sustainable travel.  
[ullswaterebikes.co.uk](http://ullswaterebikes.co.uk)  
[communityebikes.org/staveley](http://communityebikes.org/staveley)

**SENS**  
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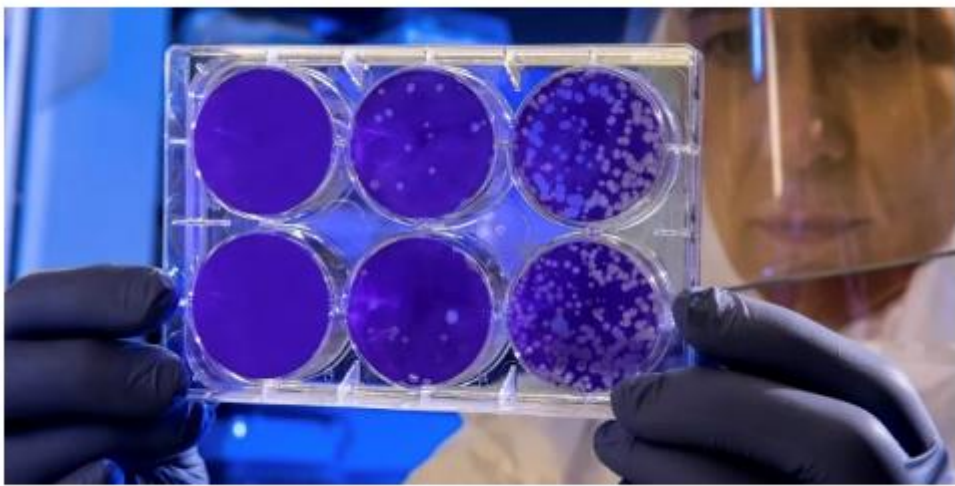
## Press Coverage

There has been significant local and national interest in the Community ebikes scheme.

In June we are being included in a piece for Countryfile on BBC television.

Cumbria Life magazine and Westmorland Gazette, print and online coverage





**Pollution levels in the River Kent**

One of  
survey



I was the slow but steady progress of the river... The discovery of a few 100 of...  
 It has been a long time since I...  
 The river is not the only one...  
 The river is not the only one...  
 The river is not the only one...



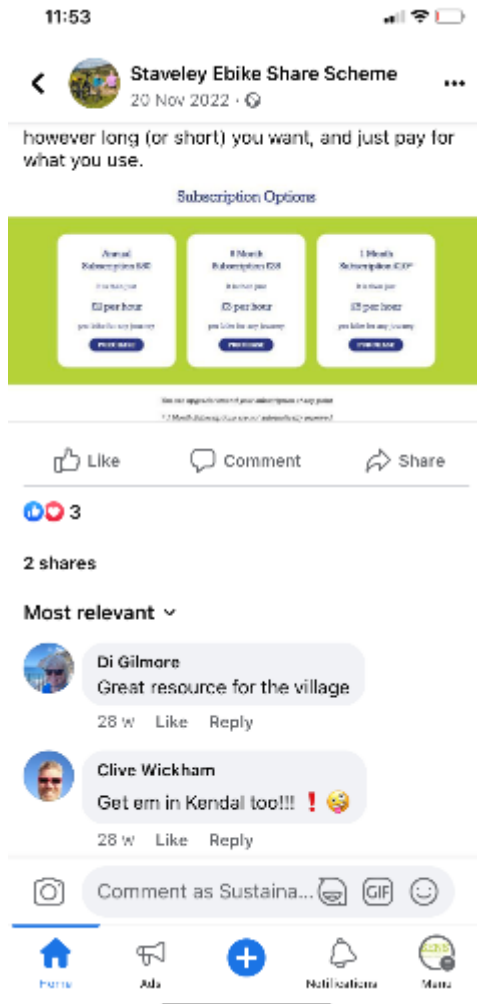
Print media,  
Westmorland  
Gazette,  
Cumbria Life  
and online  
Byline Times

We have had success in local and national media with the Clean River Kent Campaign and Bathing Water Status application. This has included print media, online news coverage, TV and radio.



# Testimonials

The community ebikes scheme generates user feedback in order to make sure it can continue to improve and meet changing needs.



Di, scheme subscriber:

*I think it's a really good scheme. Staveley are privileged to have a Community Ebike Share Scheme. I love the idea that visiting relatives and friends can use them under our personal subscription.*

Sheelagh, scheme subscriber:

*I would definitely recommend the scheme, it certainly changed my perception of e-bikes. I found it easy to use and the variation in settings meant you could tailor the degree of assistance to what was required.*

# Testimonials

People and organisations have publicly endorsed the work of the Clean River Kent Campaign in Staveley and beyond.

Jim McMahon MP – Shadow Environment Secretary

*“I've visited community groups up and down the country. A really good example making a difference is the amazing work that the [Clean up the River Kent](#) campaigners do as they look to improve water quality where the Tories have failed. They and others deserve better and I'm committed to addressing that!”*

Lake District Folk Festival organisers

*“The Kent runs alongside the temporary campsite we had on the Rec, and enhanced the visitors experience of the village. Let's do what we can to protect it. We applaud your efforts at CRKC. I am already on your mailing list and hope to get more involved in future activities.”*

# Testimonials

We ask for feedback at our Repair Café events, and also see comments in response to facebook posts. Here is a selection of what people have told us about Staveley Repair Café.

“A personal bike tyre tutorial! Thankyou!”

“Quick, friendly and effective mend. Brilliant!”

“Personal satisfaction in a job well done.”

“I have learned a valuable life skill here today.”

