

HOPE VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees of Hope Valley Climate Action ('HVCA') have pleasure in submitting their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and Charity Commission guidance.

Introduction

Hope Valley Climate Action's objects are the advancement of environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development both within the Hope Valley and more widely, by addressing the causes and consequences of climate change, for the public benefit of all people living within the Hope Valley, as well as others living elsewhere.

We continued to address these objects through raising awareness, taking local action, and advocating for the changes in policy that are necessary to mitigate the impact of the climate emergency and adapt to the changes to our climate that are inevitable. We have continued to grow as an organisation, and our monthly newsletter now goes out to over a thousand people. We work with other climate groups in the Region, and continue to engage with local and Westminster politicians and other decision makers.

In this report we summarise our activities in the year, present our annual accounts, and outline our plans for 2025.

Our Trustees

Trustees during the year were: Jeremy Wight (Chair), Roger Clarke, Faith Johnson, Louise Petheram, Stephen Platt, Davina Ripton, Sarah Roberts and Esme Ward. During the course of the year Roger Clarke, Faith Johnson, and Louise Petheram, all completed their first term of office and were re-elected for second terms. Steve Platt stood down as Trustee, and Esme Ward joined the Board.

Achievements and Performance

Awareness raising

We have continued to hold general meetings through the year, open to all. Topics for the meetings have included our 'Manifesto' for the general election, democracy and climate, and the new political landscape after the election. We went out and about to look at hedges, and discussed both active travel and renewable energy, as well as the Peak District National Park's new Local Plan. As in previous years, we had a stall at the Hope Show.

The regular column in parish magazines is now a feature in most villages.

Action

Energy

In October 2024 we teamed up with Wirksworth Community Land Trust and Transition Chesterfield to offer three online Eco Home events providing advice and encouragement to anyone wanting to reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint. HVCA's event on 22 October, which attracted over 40 attendees, focused on air source heat pumps and featured a presentation by a technical expert as well as informal talks by local supporters who have heat pumps installed in their own homes, and a Q&A session.

Wirksworth CLT's and Transition Chesterfield's workshops on insulation and solar panels + battery storage (17 and 29 October) were also well attended with very good speakers and plenty of questions at the end. The success of all three events demonstrated the effectiveness of local climate action groups working together.

We supported Eyam School in their successful fundraising efforts for the cost of installing a solar array on their roof, and have been encouraging other schools in the Valley to consider doing the same. A joint bid, with Transition Buxton, to Ashden's Let's Go Zero fund to reduce carbon emissions in local schools was unfortunately unsuccessful. We had a stall at the Green Fair at Bakewell, and commented on Government consultations on the new building regulations and reforms to the energy performance of buildings.

In January 2024 Michael Gallagher, Head of the Midlands Net Zero Hub, gave a talk at a speaker meeting. In May we held a very successful workshop about Natural Building Materials jointly with the Derbyshire County Council HEAT Hub (Home Energy Advice Team) as well as writing some articles for Home Energy Advice Team HEAT Hub website.

Land

Every fence a hedge

The report on our hedge survey was produced in April and has gone on to inform hedge planting among Hope Valley Farmers, who have taken on the actual planting now, and the Peak District National Park Authority.

We received the go ahead from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for a major tree planting project in Overdale which is planned for 2025. This will involve around 16,000 trees in a series of plots creating a woodland pasture. We have yet to calculate the carbon sequestration potential on an upland site like this.

Verges and gardens

The work of the Wild Garden group continues and included some Himalayan Balsam bashing with the river bailiff along the Derwent at Leadmill Bridge. This is an invasive plant which damages the river banks leading to more carbon runoff into the river. We envisage a continuing effort to keep it under control.

Thornhill Carrs recording

We continue to support the management of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts' Thornhill Carrs reserve by practical conservation action to control scrub encroachment and continuing survey work. This has included some interesting work with Natural England and Kew Gardens to measure the carbon sequestered in the sort of mixed habitat we have on the reserve. Using some hi-tec Lidar equipment we were able to measure the volume of some of the hawthorns on the reserve at different stages of development. We also took soil cores to measure the soil carbon. Combined with other data Kew were able to calculate the carbon in hawthorn scrub in different areas which will be used to inform scrub management strategies for carbon sequestration.

Campaigning

We continued to press High Peak Borough Council to start work on delivering their Plan for Nature. After they adopted the plan and recruited a biodiversity officer we have been trying to engage with them at the leadership level to ensure they follow through with the resources necessary to deliver it.

Travel and transport

The objectives of the travel and transport group have been to reduce our carbon footprint and improve quality of life through:

- Increased use of active travel for short journeys
- Increased use of high quality public transport
- Reduced use of private vehicles, particularly those powered by fossil fuels.

Active Travel

We worked with Derbyshire County Council on an Active Travel Masterplan for the Hope Valley. The Masterplan, which is a result of HVCA proposals, will identify routes for investment by Active Travel England and other organisations. Progress was slower than expected, as a result of DCC delays in appointing consultants and starting the work.

We began a new project 'Move More Hope Valley', with the support of High Peak Borough Council. This will engage residents in each of the Hope Valley villages in measures to boost walking, wheeling and cycling for everyday journeys.

We used the HVCA pre-election Manifesto to press the case for low speed limits in and around villages. We welcomed 20 mph campaigns such as that in Grindleford, but there has been limited interest by DCC as Highway Authority.

Public Transport

Public transport was the main focus of our travel and transport work during the year. We pressed the County Council, through the Bus Service Improvement Plan, to improve bus service reliability and access to real-time journey information. Partly as a result of our advocacy, a new Castleton-Edale-Buxton service and a weekly Hope Valley-Buxton shopping bus were introduced.

We set out the case for the current, highly successful, hourly all-stations train service to be increased to a train every 30 minutes, with bus connections at a transport hub at Bamford or Hope. We pressed for all-ability access to the eastbound platform at Hope station.

We met the two main Mayoral candidates and, subsequently, the new Mayor Claire Ward, to press for an ambitious approach to an integrated, high quality public transport system, based on the best European experience. We met officers in the Mayoral Authority and the County Council to explore detailed improvements, aiming to raise sights about what might be possible.

Reducing private vehicle use

Through our 'Moving Together' project, funded by Midlands Connect, we engaged local communities in the potential for car sharing, lift sharing, and shared electric vehicle charging points. The project also ran in Buxton, in conjunction with Buxton Town Team. We established an 'S33 car club' to test the potential for vehicle sharing, helped set up a new Buxton lift-sharing group, and promoted shared EV charging in Buxton, as well as identifying and publicising local case studies. Take-up was slow: formal arrangements of this kind are new in rural areas. Guidance and lessons to learn will be made available following completion of the project in March 2025.

There has been a lot of local concern about the impact of visitor parking. Our aim is for a reduction in visitor car travel. We want to review the role of park and ride, parking management, 'quiet lanes' and selective road use charging. But we did not have the capacity to explore long term options.

Integrated Transport

We believe that long term change in the way visitors and residents travel will only come about through an integrated approach, drawing together the threads from all three strands of our activity. We are grateful for the support of the Foundation for Integrated Transport which has enabled us to advocate for the radical measures that we think are needed. We have pressed the case with the Mayor, our two MPs, the Department for Transport, and the County Council. We are pleased that the Secretary of State for Transport has begun work on a national Integrated Transport strategy, and have proposed the Hope Valley as a pilot area. We have continued to draw on experience from elsewhere in the UK and Europe. Locally, we much appreciate the support of the National Park Authority and all five Hope Valley district councillors. We have been pleased to strengthen our relationship with Hope Valley Parish Councils through online meetings.

Faith and Climate

The Faith and Climate network has a circulation list of around 40 members. It welcomes anyone who is interested in considering the faith dimension of climate awareness and action.

Highlights of the year included:-

- A short course of small group discussions using resources designed by Green Christian under its 'Joy in Enough' programme. These look at the economic issues that lie behind current major crises.
- Network members supported the journey through the Peak District of the Coat of Hopes – a simple woollen coat which has collected many patches on its way from Newhaven to Glasgow, sewn on by people to express their hopes and grief at the rapid climate and ecological changes.
- The installation of solar panels as part of roof repairs at St Helen's church, Grindleford. A successful meeting to hear about the project in January 2025 provided encouragement to others on their journey to net zero. Electricity generated by the panels will meet the energy needs of the Grindleford Community Shop.

Creatives

The HVCA Creative Group was a new development in 2024. It is a loosely woven, diverse group centred around a broad spectrum of creative endeavours. Members include visual artists, writers, poets, filmmakers, naturalists, sculptors, movement therapists, curators, grief ceremony hosts, a theatre designer, a landscape architect and a museum director. All deeply care about climate change and how we can creatively respond to our times with a combination of our skills and imagination.

Throughout the past year we held regular monthly meetings across different villages in the Valley. These evolved over time into a 'More than a Book Club' format, which as the title suggests refers to the potential of us reading and reflecting on books together, but not limited to that alone.

In the spring of 2024 we went on a walk towards Stanage Edge with an ecologist from Moors from the Future who helped us understand better the geological history of the landscape and the importance of peat bogs and their current ongoing conservation efforts. During the summer we collaboratively hosted *The Coat of Hopes*, a pilgrim coat that was invited to travel through the Hope Valley carrying messages of climate emergency. This patchwork coat itself was literally carried on the backs of people, walking from place to place, and with more patches of fabric with embroidered messages being added to it. While it was in the Valley a series of workshops were held, amongst them a grief ceremony, a poetry writing workshop and a cordage making workshop.

The Creative Group aspires to grow and forge connections with local communities, in order to be of service to other HVCA Groups in the long term with a unique inspiring lens creativity can bring to urgent local climate issues.

Cement

The Hope Cement works, run by Breedon, is the largest producer of cement in the UK, and by many orders of magnitude the greatest source of greenhouse gasses in the Valley. We have continued to engage with the local management, monitoring their plans for the introduction of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology at the local plant, as well as the 'Peak Cluster' proposals for a network of pipelines to export captured CO₂ to the Irish Sea. We worked with partner organisations across Derbyshire to produce a position statement on the role of CCS in the cement and lime industries.

Advocacy

Our advocacy work was dominated by elections, both for the new Regional ('D2N2' – Derbyshire and Derby, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham) Mayor in May as well as the General Election in July. For the former, we joined forces with a number of other campaigning groups in the region, brought together by

Friends of the Earth (FoE). This grouping sought to engage all candidates before the election to persuade them to commit to a climate action plan. We met both the Conservative and Labour candidates to press on them in particular the need to improve and decarbonise transport. Since the election, which was won by the Labour candidate, we have continued to participate in the FoE led coalition, lobbying the new Mayor on transport, energy and industrial policy.

In anticipation of the General Election we prepared a 'Manifesto' for the Hope Valley, setting out what we wanted the new Government to do under the headings of transport, energy and land use. We had this distributed to all households in the Valley, and campaigned for people to vote with our Manifesto in mind. In the election both High Peak and Derbyshire Dales elected Labour MPs to replace the sitting Conservatives. We subsequently met with both the new MPs, Jon Pearce (High Peak) and John Whitby (Derbyshire Dales) to impress on them the importance of urgent action to address the climate emergency.

We remain active participants in both the High Peak Green Network and the Derbyshire Climate Coalition.

In the Council elections in May 2025 Reform UK took control of Derbyshire County Council. Their stated position with regard to the climate emergency is clearly quite different to other political parties'. We will be exploring whether there is common ground, from which we can seek to work with them without in any way compromising our ambitions.

Plans for the Future

Following the General Election the Trustees, in consultation with staff and the convenors of our Action Groups, reviewed and refreshed our Strategy. The new one, intended to run to 2030, retains the same themes of Awareness raising, Action and Advocacy, and is accessible on our website.

Financial Review

HVCA receives income in the form of grants or donation. Income is allocated between projects and core based on discussions with the donor or grant making body. An analysis by project of the grants received and related expenditure is set out below. Using the definitions in the Charities SORP all of the charity's reserves meet the definition of Unrestricted Funds, those allocated to projects meet the definition of Delegated Funds.

New funding during the course of the year came principally in the form of grants from High Peak Borough Council, the Peak District National Park (Farming in Protected Landscapes funding), and Midlands Connect via Cenex (the Low Carbon and Fuel Cells Centre of Excellence). Income from private donations increased significantly from £1629 in 2023 to £6440.

Net expenditure in the year amounted to £1,977 (2023: £50,570). The net assets of the charity decreased slightly from £86,981 at 1 January 2024 to £85,004 at 31st December 2024. Some grant funding received during 2023 and 2024 is still carried forward for expenditure in 2025.

Reserves policy

Some of the reserves are designated to particular projects – being grants and donations allocated to projects less the expenditure to date thereon. Reserves that are not designated form the general reserve.

The trustees wish to ensure continued smooth operation of the charity and its projects. Accordingly it aims to keep a minimum £10,000 as general reserves to ensure core activities can continue and that projects can be properly concluded in the event of a small overrun. The level of general reserves at the end of the year, £35,403, meets this minimum requirement. This policy is reviewed annually as part of the preparation of our annual accounts.

Project finance summary

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
Hedges	3,821	11,155	(11,155)	(3,821)	0
Renewables	6,747	0	(38)		6,709
Safer Roads	840	-	-	(840)	0
Schools Climate Challenge	680	-	-		680
Summer Events	231	-	-	(231)	0
Moving Together	11,734	4,720	(9,087)		7,367
Move More	0	16,000	(5,571)		10,429
Travelling Light,	<u>34,184</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,834)</u>	<u>1,071</u>	<u>24,421</u>
Total Reserves designated to projects	58,237	31,875	(36,690)	(3,821)	49,601
General Reserves	<u>28,744</u>	<u>13,354</u>	<u>(10,521)</u>	<u>3,821</u>	<u>35,398</u>
Total Reserves	<u>£86,981</u>	<u>£45,229</u>	<u>£(47,206)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£85,004</u>

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Structure

The charity was set up in 2020 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and registered as a charity with reference number 1192830.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are elected to the Board by the existing Trustees, and recruits are identified and selected to ensure an appropriate mix of skills. New Trustees are identified and interviewed by one or more existing Trustees, proposed to a full meeting of the Board, seconded and a vote then taken. The constitution provides for the progressive rotation of Trustees by retirement after three years. Such Trustees may, by agreement, be re-appointed for one further term.

Trustee induction and training

It is a necessity for all Trustees to support wholeheartedly the objects of the Charity, and this fact is established at the interview. No other formal induction and training procedures have been established.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements set by the Charities Commission. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Organisation and management

The key management personnel are the Trustees, who are in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and none have received any remuneration. Out of pocket expenses incurred are reimbursed.

During the course of the year we developed subcommittees concerned with Policy and Advocacy, Communication and Engagement, and Executive and Finance.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy for the year.

Administrative information

Charity name: Hope Valley Climate Action

Charity number: 1192830.

Address: Croft Head, Aston Lane, Hope, Derbyshire, S33 6RA

Email: info@hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk

Website: www.hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk

Signed 

Chair, Hope Valley Climate Action

Date: 13. August. 2025

HOPE VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
<i>Income</i>		
Donations	6,440	1,629
Grant funding	<u>38,789</u>	<u>89,406</u>
<i>Total income</i>	<u>45,229</u>	<u>91,035</u>
<i>Expenditure on Charitable activities:</i>		
Project costs	35,690	124,754
Administration and support costs	<u>10,516</u>	<u>16,851</u>
<i>Total expenditure</i>	<u>47,206</u>	<u>141,605</u>
Net (expenditure) / income	<u>£(1,977)</u>	<u>£(50,570)</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors – Grants receivable	8,250	44,500
Cash at bank	<u>79,426</u>	<u>42,947</u>
	87,676	87,447
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(2,672)</u>	<u>(466)</u>
Net Current Assets,	<u>£85,004</u>	<u>£86,981</u>
Being TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		

RESERVES	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Allocated to projects	49,606	58,237
General Reserves	<u>35,398</u>	<u>28,744</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>£85,004</u>	<u>£86,981</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements are drawn up on an accrual basis.

Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales. It meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

b Revenue

Income is included in the SoFA when the charity has been notified in writing that a grant has been awarded, the amount is certain and pre conditions (if any) have been met.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Similarly, no value is attached to gifts in kind that although graciously acknowledged, are not material for separate calculation or inclusion.

c Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the SoFA on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT and is directly attributable to specific categories of resources expended under which it is classified

d Fund accounting

Income received, whether by donation or grant is spent on projects in pursuit of the charity's objectives and necessary central ("core") support. Income is allocated between projects and core based on discussions with the donor or grant making body. Using the definitions in the Charities SORP all of the charity's reserves meet the definition of Unrestricted Funds, those allocated to projects meet the definition of Delegated Funds.

e Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets with a cost of less than £1,000 are not capitalised, but treated as expenditure in the year of acquisition.

f Debtors

Grants receivable and other debtors are included at the settlement amount due.

g Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

h Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these financial

statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 INCOME

During the year, grants of £38,789 (2023 - £89,406) were obtained. Of this, £32,739 (2023 - £58,907) are grants from central and local government.

3. EXPENDITURE

	Projects	Admin and support	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	9,551		9,551	43,885
Consulting and Contractors	25,719	6,433	32,152	69,492
Marketing and communication	1,247	1,221	2,468	8,410
Events	38	216	254	924
Travel and subsistence	130	151	281	2,329
IT and Office costs	-	966	966	9,273
Accountancy	-	1,776	1,776	6,216
Sundry expenses	-	(242)	(242)	1,076
	<u>35,685</u>	<u>10,521</u>	<u>47,206</u>	<u>141,605</u>

4 MOVEMENT ON RESERVES

All of the charity's reserves are unrestricted, but the trustees allocate a significant portion of income, and the related expenditure, to projects, a designated reserve. The unallocated income, expenditure and reserves are referred to as "core". Where projects over spend the allocation, the shortfall is transferred from Core. Where projects have been completed and there is a residual amount in the budget, this is transferred to Core.

	Allocated to projects	General	Total
	£	£	£
Reserves at 1 January 2024	58,237	28,744	86,981
Income	31,875	13,354	45,229
Expenditure	(36,685)	(10,521)	(47,206)
Transfer	<u>(3,821)</u>	<u>3,821</u>	-
Movement in the year	<u>(8,636)</u>	<u>6,659</u>	<u>(1,977)</u>
Reserves at 31 December 2024	<u>£49,606</u>	<u>£35,398</u>	<u>£85,004</u>

5 TAXATION

The charity is exempt from taxation on its charitable activities.

6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

No fees or emoluments were paid to the Trustees of the company during the year. Out of pocket expenses amounting to £33 (2023: £123) were paid to trustees.

7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Valley Climate Action

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages and.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

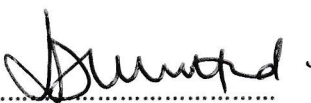
Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name  John Whitfield MA ACA Castleton.

Date 13th August 2025