

Climate Ready Places



Community Engagement & Impact Report

Soul of the Junction SCIO
Carstairs Junction, South Lanarkshire



1. Executive Summary

The **Climate Ready Places programme**, delivered by **Soul of the Junction SCIO**, was a community-led initiative designed to support residents of Carstairs Junction to better understand, discuss and respond to the local impacts of climate change.

Rather than relying on top-down information delivery, the programme prioritised **listening, participation and place-based learning**, enabling residents to share lived experience, identify local strengths and vulnerabilities, and shape future climate action collectively.

Through a combination of interactive workshops, creative engagement, community mapping and follow-up initiatives, the programme strengthened community confidence, deepened understanding of

local climate risks, and embedded climate readiness within the organisation's wider work.

This report outlines the rationale, approach, activities, learning and impact of the programme, and documents how community insight has translated into ongoing action.

2. Organisational Context

Soul of the Junction SCIO is a community-led charity based in Carstairs Junction, South Lanarkshire. The organisation works to strengthen wellbeing, inclusion and resilience in a rural village context through creative engagement, learning, and shared community activity.

Climate readiness was identified as a growing priority for the community due to:

- increased flooding and surface water issues
- storm damage and tree loss
- power outages and infrastructure disruption
- rising cost-of-living pressures
- rural isolation and limited transport

The Climate Ready Places programme aligned closely with the organisation's wider aims around community resilience, inclusive spaces and long-term sustainability.

3. Programme Aims and Objectives

Overall Aim

To support a rural community to explore local climate impacts and build confidence, connection and capacity for collective climate action.

Key Objectives

- To create safe, accessible spaces for open conversation about climate impacts
- To capture lived experience and local knowledge from residents
- To identify community strengths, vulnerabilities and priorities
- To translate discussion into practical, place-based action
- To embed climate readiness into ongoing community activity

4. Programme Design and Methodology

The programme was intentionally designed to differ from traditional climate engagement models.

Core Design Principles

- **Community-led:** residents as contributors, not audiences
- **Accessible:** inclusive of age, background and confidence level
- **Interactive:** hands-on, visual and conversational
- **Place-based:** rooted in Carstairs Junction and its history
- **Supportive:** welcoming emotion, uncertainty and complexity

Methods Used

- facilitated group discussion
- large-scale community mapping
- guided prompts based on everyday experience
- creative and visual tools
- intergenerational participation

This approach ensured that climate discussion felt relevant, grounded and manageable.

5. Key Activities Delivered

5.1 Climate Ready Places Community Workshop

The main workshop brought residents together to explore:

- observed climate impacts (flooding, storms, power loss, access issues)
- how climate change affects daily life locally
- existing community strengths and resources
- gaps, vulnerabilities and concerns
- ideas for practical local action

Participants engaged actively through mapping, discussion and shared reflection.

5.2 Follow-Up Workshops and Engagement

Following the initial workshop, Soul of the Junction delivered further activities to maintain momentum and deepen learning, including:

- practical, hands-on climate-related sessions
- creative engagement with children and families
- community storytelling and place-based reflection
- seasonal activities linking climate, food and wellbeing

These activities ensured that climate readiness became an **ongoing conversation**, not a one-off event.

6. What the Community Told Us

Key Climate Impacts Identified

Residents consistently reported:

- increased frequency and intensity of storms
- loss of trees and shelter belts
- localised flooding and drainage problems
- power cuts affecting older and rural households
- unsafe walking conditions during poor weather

Community Strengths

Participants also highlighted:

- strong neighbour support
- practical and land-based skills
- local knowledge of landscape and history
- willingness to volunteer
- pride in place and shared responsibility

Vulnerabilities

Groups identified as particularly impacted included:

- older residents with limited transport
- families with young children
- people without access to safe walking routes
- households affected by power disruption

7. Outcomes and Impact

Short-Term Outcomes

- increased confidence to discuss climate impacts
- improved understanding of local climate risks
- stronger connections between residents
- validation of lived experience as valuable knowledge

Medium-Term Outcomes

- clearer priorities for future community projects
- climate readiness embedded into organisational planning
- stronger foundation for future funding and partnerships
- increased intergenerational engagement

Wider Impact

The programme shifted climate change from an abstract issue to a **shared local responsibility**, grounded in care, practicality and place.

8. Learning and Reflection

Key learning from the programme includes:

- Rural communities engage deeply when approaches respect lived experience
- Climate conversations benefit from creativity and informality
- Listening builds trust more effectively than information delivery
- Intergenerational spaces enrich understanding and resilience
- Follow-up activity is essential for lasting impact

The programme confirmed that climate readiness is as much about **relationships and confidence** as it is about infrastructure or behaviour change.

9. Legacy and Next Steps

The Climate Ready Places programme has directly informed:

- plans for community growing and garden projects
- outdoor learning and wellbeing activity
- inclusive use of shared spaces
- long-term resilience planning
- future climate-focused funding applications

Climate readiness is now embedded as a cross-cutting theme within Soul of the Junction's work rather than a standalone project.

10. Conclusion

The Climate Ready Places programme demonstrated that **community-led climate engagement can be meaningful, inclusive and action-focused** when it is rooted in place and shaped by people.

By starting with listening and following through with action, Soul of the Junction has laid strong foundations for a more resilient, connected and climate-aware community in Carstairs Junction.

This work represents not an endpoint, but a **beginning** — a shared commitment to preparing together for the challenges ahead.