

The following address will be delivered by local resident Ms Meg Lounds who is a member of the People's Jury Climate Change.

'We are facing a climate emergency which makes us concerned and worried about the future. We have heard from a range of experts and we now believe that if we take immediate action, we have the tools and the hope that we can address this emergency. We believe that the only suitable response will be one that brings many organisations and individuals together to work collectively and not separately. This is bigger than Lancaster. We recognise that many difficult decisions lie ahead but that we must act immediately and not allow a quest for perfection to get in the way of making progress. We need to take action today, not in 30 years time. A journey starts with a small step which all of us can achieve. The people of the Lancaster district need to see confident leadership, positive changes made and a clear plan for the future. Our City and County Councils must accept that progressive change to fight the climate change emergency will have financial implications. Not being able to fund the recommendations we have listed here is no reason for inaction as money won't matter in a world that won't exist as we know it. The response to the climate emergency needs to be one that moves away from politicians making all the decisions but instead reaches out to the wider public and communities for ideas of how to achieve our recommendations. It's time for our councils to listen to the people of Lancaster and district and take action now, leading the way to make changes in response to this emergency'.