

Transition Streets Three Rivers: Moor Park Group Case Study



Who Are They?

The Moor Park Transition Streets group are a multi-cultural group of neighbours comprised of three men and six women ranging in age from young families to retired pensioners.

The group was spearheaded by a local resident, who rallied together not just her own street, but three nearby roads as well to form a group of nine households who met regularly to complete workshops focused on living sustainability.

The Moor Park and Eastbury ward has a higher-than-average carbon footprint. Nearly half of the emissions from households in Moor Park come from heating and powering their homes, due to the area's predominance of older detached houses with poor energy-efficiency ratings. These comparatively high emissions presented a valuable opportunity for a local Transition Streets group to explore practical ways to reduce the community's environmental impact.

This brilliant group of neighbours all made impactful changes to their homes, gardens, and daily habits as a result of participating in Transition Streets, and established a thriving WhatsApp group for sustainable-minded locals to join local community environmental initiatives, extending the impact of Transition Streets far beyond their original circle.

With their monthly meet-ups now a fixture, the group plans to explore how their local school and nearby golf courses could improve their sustainability.

What Did They Achieve?

Energy:

- ✓ Homes received free thermal imaging camera surveys to discern areas of heat loss.
- ✓ Reduced and monitored their energy usage.
- ✓ Installed LED lightbulbs, and insulated hot water tanks.
- ✓ Four out of seven of the group members plan to implement further energy efficiency measures, including installing room thermostats, solar panels, air source heat pumps, loft and wall insulation, draught-proofing, and smart meters.



Water:

- ✓ Monitored water usage, started taking shorter showers, fixing leaks, using low-flow devices, and using dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.
- ✓ One participant committed to stop buying bottled water.
- ✓ Three participants also planned to install water butts to their homes.



Food:

- ✓ Four group members changed their consumption habits to reduce food packaging, and started or planned to buy more organic produce.
- ✓ Two group members said they are growing some of their own food, or plan to.
- ✓ One participant committed to reducing their meat intake, and another said they would try dairy alternatives.



Resource Use:

- ✓ Six participants reduced their consumption.
- ✓ Two members started or plan to start composting their food waste at home.



Travel:

- ✓ Started travelling more sustainably, or plan to, by holidaying in the UK, reducing flights, and walking or cycling instead of driving.
- ✓ Half of the group plan to switch to an electric vehicle in the future.



Biodiversity:

- ✓ Improved awareness of biodiversity.
- ✓ Two group members planned to create a pond or other habitat for wildlife, leave their grass to grow, reduce light pollution, and plant a tree or hedge.
- ✓ Organised a community litter pick in the Spring, with residents of all ages coming together to care for their public green spaces.



How Did They Feel About Transition Streets?

The Moor Park group completed a detailed survey before their first session and then at the final session to help evaluate the impact of the programme.

- At their final session, **all** participants agreed with the statement *“I know what practical, effective actions I can take to reduce the potential impacts of climate change on me and others.”*, whereas only half agreed with the statement before starting Transition Streets.
- Having completed the Transition Streets programme, **100%** of participants somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement *“I feel confident that I can and will make long-lasting changes to my lifestyle which will reduce my environmental impact.”*
- Only one participant agreed with the statement *“I feel connected to my local community.”* before they had started Transition Streets, yet by their final session **100%** agreed with the statement.
- **All** group members reported an increase in the number of neighbours they felt they knew following participation in the Transition Streets programme.



What Did They Say About Transition Streets?

“Interesting topics, nice group of people, knowledgeable lead from Transition Streets.” – **Moor Park resident 1**

“It was a really good programme. I hope Transition Streets can help us progress further.” – **Moor Park resident 2**

“I pulled together a group because I wanted to learn how to live a more sustainable life by exchanging ideas with like-minded neighbours, and to make a difference. The programme has been very informative and has certainly made me think about the consequences of my choices. It has also made me feel a little less helpless, and given me hope that if we act collectively, we might make a difference... but there is still a long way to go.”

– **Moor Park resident 3**

“Met great people. Some new ideas, and good services and connections.” – **Moor Park resident 4**

“Worthwhile!” – **Moor Park resident 5**

“Very good, useful, well organised. Great to work with others locally.”

– **Moor Park resident 6**

About Transition Streets Three Rivers

Inspired by the success of Transition Streets Totnes, Three Rivers District Council, together with Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE), decided to pilot Transition Streets in the Three Rivers district, using Fast Followers funding from Innovate UK, to explore the effectiveness of a community-led approach to street-level sustainable behavioural change.

For more information, please visit: <https://guce.org.uk/get-involved/>

