

News



Spring 2026

Newsletter of Brampton 2 Zero www.brampton2zero.org.uk

B2Z AGM on 10 March was a great opportunity for volunteers to share a potluck supper and catch up on all the current B2Z projects.



Brampton Fell Moss Regeneration

Jean Shimmin outlined recent progress: three diggers have been on the Moss to undertake the earthworks. This included a large bund which is a catchment area for water from the adjacent field and smaller bunds where ponds two to three feet deep are already forming; ducks were observed. Water outrun is being measured in the original stream using equipment installed by Lancaster University and the data will be shared with scientists across the country and used to show the positive effect of Natural Flood management



systems. In partnership with the farmer and Natural England planning is in place for a bird hide, a boardwalk, a pond dipping platform and a seating area for educational and recreational use. One of the next significant jobs will be to trim off some of the top grass so there is less competition for some of the wetland plants to thrive. Access to the site is restricted at the moment as the works continue but we are planning **a guided tour of the transformed site on 26 April at 11am**. We expect it to be a two hour session - full details TBC.

Phil has made a video with more details of what has been happening - please click on the QR code above or link to:

<https://youtu.be/DxF6r6eJM8A>

Newtown/Irthington trees

Tree plant Newtown to Irthington Footpath : Jean Shimmin



Jean has been back to review how the trees are doing; it is four years since the earliest ones were planted by the footpath and some are now substantial trees and the survival rate is high. On the bank she counted 388 trees which is remarkable given the number of badger setts and rabbit holes on site and the clear nibbling of some leaves by deer. The good news is as the planting is now well established there will be no need for bracken bashing this year.

Unity Bog



Kathy Arthur traced the story of B2Z involvement in Unity Bog, near Gelt Woods, which is managed by Natural England. The Bog is an SSSI, significant for its biodiversity and the carbon capture on site as long as it remains wet. The site was threatened by naturally seeding birch so we initially removed any

saplings and then controlled the site to keep the birch cover down. This has involved a lot of spadework over the last couple of years but by 2025 we could see real progress (see picture below) and only needed loppers to cut back the new growth. The impact of the work on biodiversity was demonstrated in the summer of 2024 when, using light-traps at night, Rob Pickett carried out regular moth-trapping sessions and recorded just over 200 different species. Earlier that year we also introduced an information board for walkers and visitors. At the moment we are waiting for Natural England to allocate further funds for continued restoration.

Unity Bog: Kathy Arthur

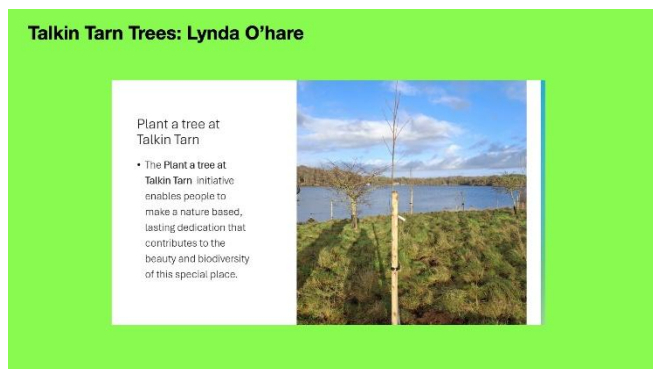


Plant a tree at Talkin Tarn



Lynda O'Hare described the successful 'Plant a tree' scheme which has been running for the last two years. So far it has contributed about £2,000 to B2Z funds to help us cover administrative costs. We request a donation of £50 for a single tree and £100 or more for a circle of 5 trees; purchasers receive a card with

a personal message, a photograph of the tree and a W3W location. We purchase them from the Rockcliffe tree nursery during the planting season (October to March) with the most popular requests for rowan and purple beech. Most of the trees planted to date are at the end of the Tarn (near The Nest skygazing pavilion) but we have recently been allocated a new spot in the woodland area away from the water.



Rapid EV Community Charge Hub

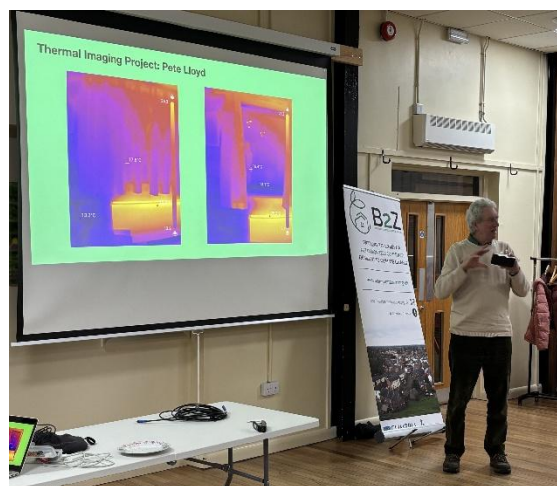


Lancaster University Physics student Amy Ferra was awarded an internship with B2Z over the summer (2025) to write a feasibility study for a community EV charger in Brampton. She introduced her feasibility report and is part of a team including Charge my Street and B2Z to find a location for the charger. The aim is to provide an economic alternative as 30% of Brampton homes cannot accommodate an EV charge enabling emission free transport. A County Council Grant has paid for business

advice from Cybermoor and a financial model developed which offers a viable alternative to the cost of fuelling a petrol/diesel car. As there is a 20+ mile gap between Carlisle and Newcastle charging facilities the EV hub could also be signposted to travellers on the A69.

Over the next month or so Amy will be canvassing specific local groups, putting together a business plan and looking at planning permission and site layout. Between May and September 2026 B2Z will be raising funds and finding grants to support the hub. If all goes well installation of the EV charger and community access will be in place by January 2027.

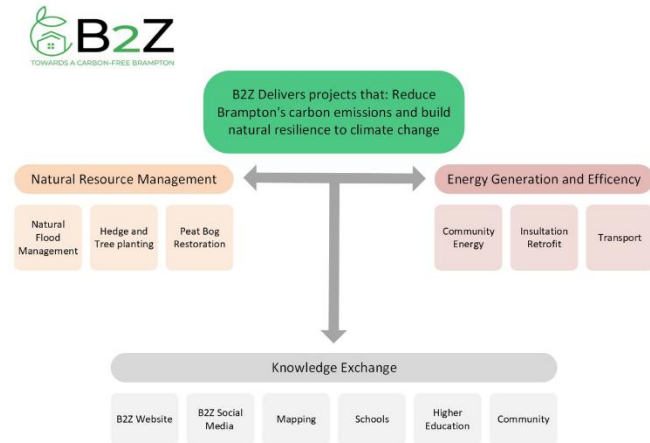
Thermal Imaging Surveys



Pete Lloyd described the successful work of the Thermal Imaging Survey team. He outlined how straightforward the procedure was, using an attachment to a smartphone, and how the images clearly demonstrated where heat was lost. This is now the second year the team have worked in partnership with Futureproof Cumbria to undertake surveys in this area. The team held another successful sign-up event this January at the B2Z coffee morning at the Moot Hall. Anyone interested in a survey should get in touch.

Volunteer activities

Mike Siddell, a new member of the CIC Board, introduced a diagram (see below) to summarize B2Z's work. The Board encourages volunteers to suggest new projects which reflect B2Z's areas of interest; there is some



discretionary funding available so do speak to Mike, Phil, Phillip or Michelle if you have any ideas. The meeting agreed a regular potluck supper and review of progress on projects, with more time for discussion, would be useful – dates TBC.

Rebecca Stacey, ex Futureproof Cumbria and now at the Carbon Literacy Project,

offered B2Z the chance to take part in a Carbon Fresk: a 3 hour community group activity which explores carbon literacy and could incorporate a “What can we do next” discussion with volunteers. The meeting agreed a session in Autumn 2026 would be a good idea – date TBC.

Brampton 2 Zero CIC AGM 2024-5 also took place on 10 March : full minutes available via the website. Pam Cronin is stepping down as Clerk to the Board although, we’re pleased to say, staying on as book keeper. Other Directors appointed or re-appointed were: Mike Siddall, Michelle Rae (Treasurer), Phil Furneaux (Chair) and Philip Sage. If anyone is interested in joining the Board or taking over the minutes from Pam please let us know and we can chat through the requirements with you. We welcome volunteers who are interested in our

ideas and objectives whether from Brampton or beyond.



Community Energy & Great British Energy Community Fund



The Great British Energy Community Fund

This fund, launched in 2023, supports the feasibility and development of local energy projects that are at least 50% community owned and of benefit to local residents. Our project, in partnership with William Howard School and Prospus Energy, is to build an on-site Energy House to supply ground source heating as well as utilizing the heat from a small data centre. This means the whole school can be powered efficiently and takes out six existing gas boilers. We are delighted to have just had confirmation of a £40,000 grant for a feasibility study which will be completed between now and 31 March 2027. If our study is rated as sufficiently innovative and the school chooses to progress with the scheme there will be up to £100,000 of funding available to set up a community benefit cooperative and then apply for a share offer. We are working closely with William Howard so the project will become part of the school curriculum.

Would you like to volunteer?



We need volunteers to help with a range of activities to achieve a net carbon zero community. **For more information about anything in the newsletter** or

general enquiries about our activities please email: enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk