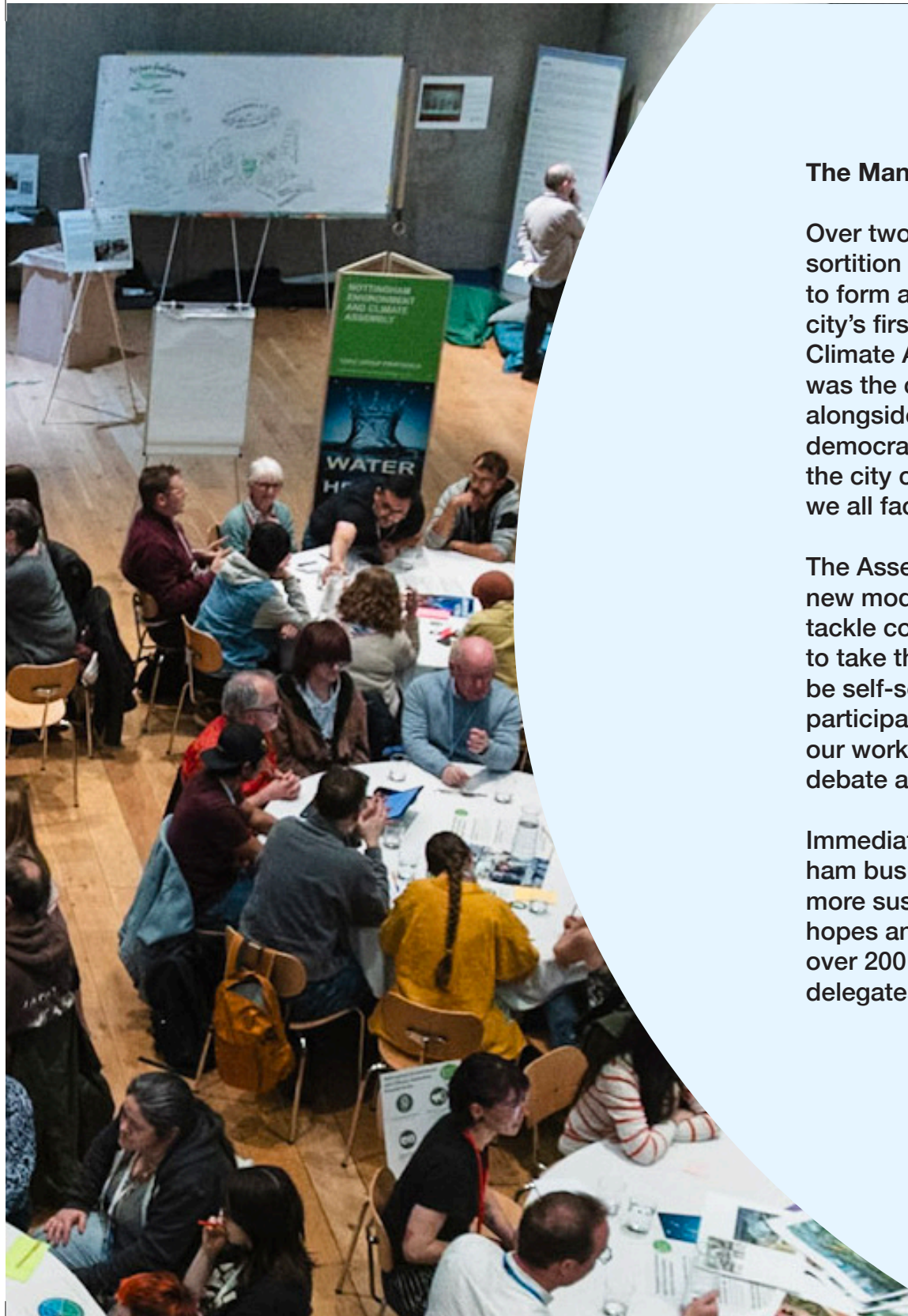




**NOTTINGHAM
ENVIRONMENT
& CLIMATE
ASSEMBLY**





The Manifesto

Over two weekends in May 2026 a group of 57 people - selected through a sortition process from over six hundred applicants from across Nottingham to form a representative sample of the population - came together for the city's first Environment and Climate Assembly. Organised by the Nottingham Climate Assembly and sponsored by the Nottingham Green Partnership, this was the culmination of a series of smaller mini assemblies across the city, alongside a Youth Assembly, that have been working towards promoting a democratic approach to Nottingham's future well-being where everyone in the city can be involved in responding to the climate and environmental crisis we all face.

The Assembly was run in line with the principles of a Citizens Assembly, a new model for Participatory Democracy which is increasingly being used to tackle complex and controversial issues which politicians often find difficult to take the lead on. We are aware that consultation processes often tend to be self-selecting and to have a limited range of pre-determined options for participants to choose from. We need to move beyond this. We believe that our work together at the Assembly is a significant step forward in collective debate and decision making.

Immediately prior to the Assembly, over 100 representatives from Nottingham businesses and organisations explored how businesses could support a more sustainable city, whilst citizens and residents were invited to share their hopes and dreams for Nottingham as part of a public exhibition that attracted over 200 people. The outcomes from these events were shared with the 57 delegates who formed the actual Assembly.





During the Assembly the participants heard from a wide variety of experts, visited different projects in the city centre, and spent time working together in groups with the support of facilitators and experts. They explored challenges and possibilities and proposed and voted on a set of recommendations to put to decision makers to help shape the city's path towards a greener, fairer future.

This Manifesto is the result of that work.

Who we are

We are a group of 57 citizens from across Nottingham who have come together to form a Citizen's Assembly to debate the question 'what would we like the environment of Nottingham to be in the future, and how can we move towards it?'

We have come from every part of the city, some of us having spent our lives here and some just beginning to make this our home. Some of us are grandparents, some are parents or young people, with many different understandings of the challenges that we and our city face as the climate appears to be changing at an ever-escalating pace.

We have taken up this invitation to come together for many different reasons: to learn from others, to share our views, to try and help in some way. Many of us were nervous about this challenge, some were more confident. But we all knew it was important to gather. We are constantly being told there is a lack of connection between those who make decisions and those whom these decisions affect. That there is an increasing distrust in politicians and elected officials that is leading to disenchantment, disengagement and polarisation.

Yet we know that we are living in a moment when the collective challenges we face demand increased engagement and less polarisation. That to rise to the moment we need to meet those we have never met before. That we need to spend time with people with different experiences and expectations, to debate and reflect and argue and listen. To share our experience, our knowledge, our expertise, and above all our common sense.

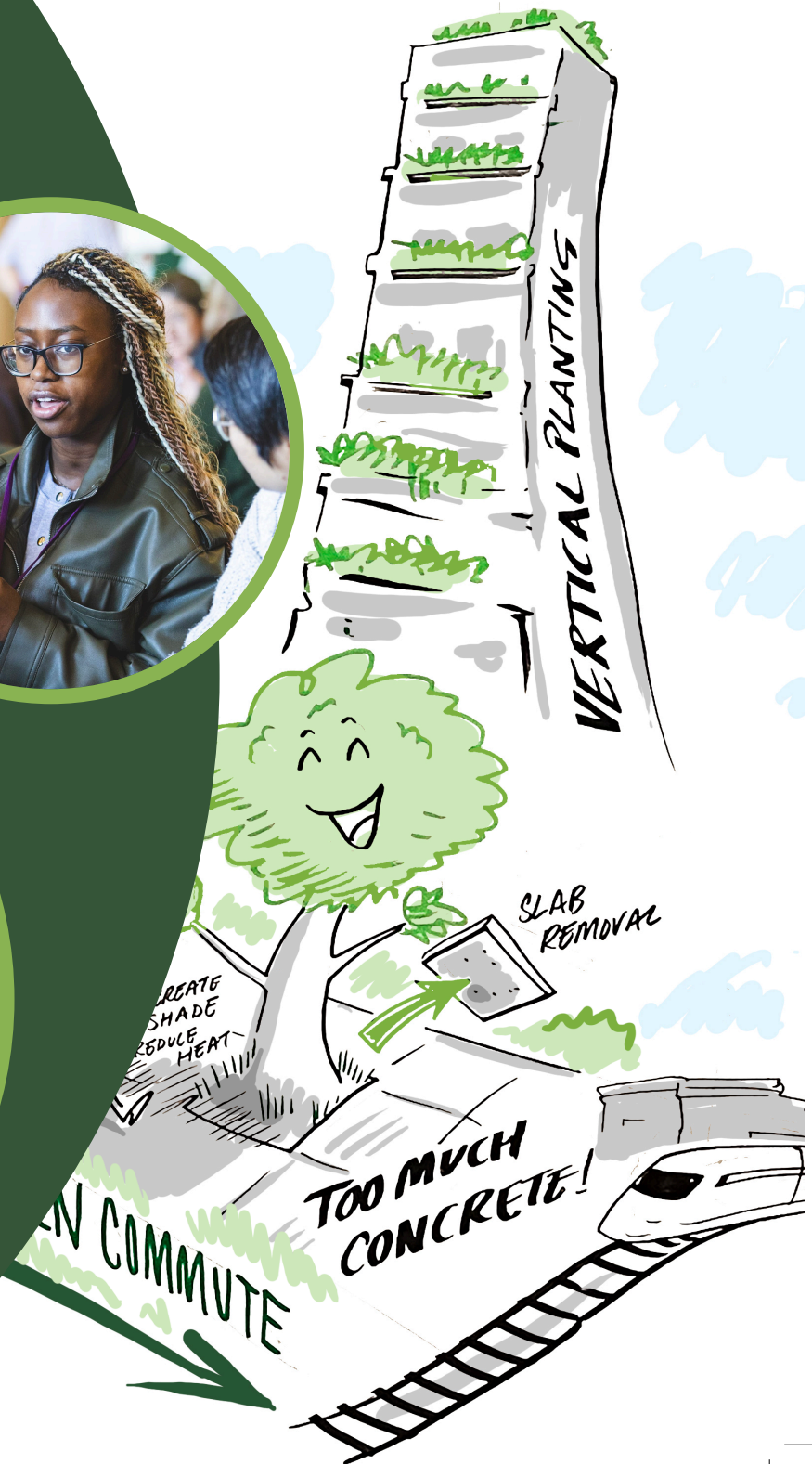
This is what we have done. We have taken our role of being a citizen, of being a resident of Nottingham, seriously. And we have carried out our work with curiosity, humility, and respect; with patience, trust, and friendship; and a belief that positive change is possible. We understand that you cannot have a collective vision without putting the work in to have a collective conversation.

It has not been easy, but it has been rewarding. We all feel energised by the work we have done and are looking forward to seeing how you will take it forward and build on what we are handing over to you. Treat it with care.

It is clear from our conversations that we are excited about the potential for our city if we truly begin to work in partnership with nature and communities. Again, and again the words 'health' and 'nature' appeared together as we looked forwards to a time of clean air and waterways, of more abundant natural spaces, of re-emerging wild-life, of a city where pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised, and where children can play safely in tree-lined streets. Of bringing Sherwood Forest back into the soul of the city with the Green Heart reaching out to every neighbourhood through long green arteries. When nature is considered in all policies, practices, and decision making in every corner of our city; from Aspley to Sherwood, Bulwell to Wollaton.

We also see the opportunities for communities to bind together in new ways, strengthening the social cohesion within our shared city, as we embrace and liberate our collective skills and understandings to work towards this positive future. And we see this work as being absolutely inter-generational, building on the local knowledge of our more elderly residents alongside the energy, playfulness, and commitment of those in our schools and colleges to change the world for the better.





Underpinning the specific proposals that are laid out in this manifesto are four visions for Nottingham; the city in which we live, work, and play:



We want a green and vibrant forest city, where the streets are peaceful, and the air and water are clean for future generations to enjoy.



We want a city that places both nature and residents at the heart of its decision-making processes.



We want a city where every neighbourhood thrives, with inclusive community led initiatives for a sustainable future.



We want a city that we can get around safely and quickly by walking, cycling, and using affordable, expanded, and sustainable public transport.

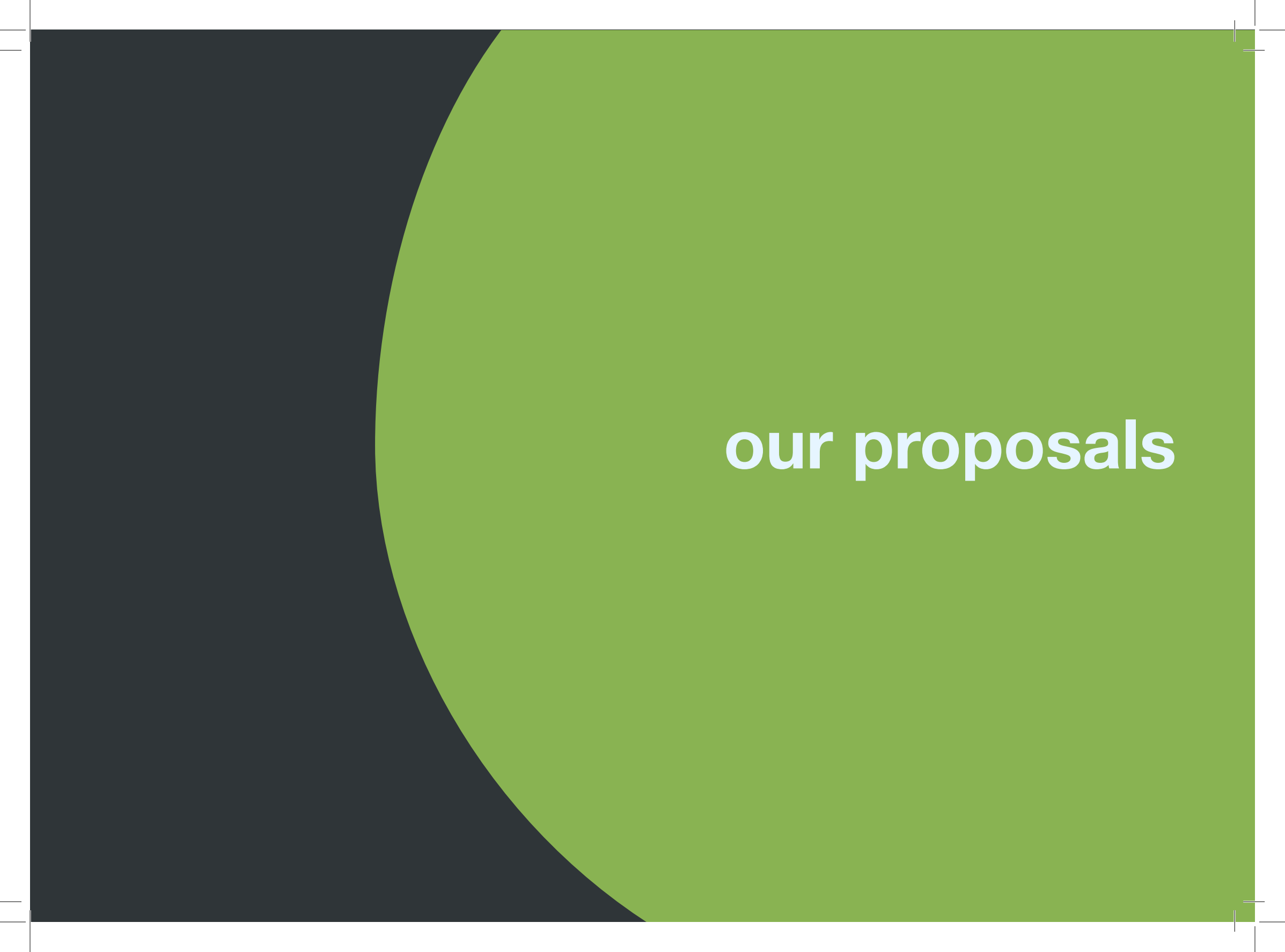


These visions have driven our discussions and the proposals we would like you to consider. We know that for radical and impactful change we need a range of approaches based on transparency, education, financial and social incentives, public engagement, and solutions developed within communities.

These debates and decisions were not always comfortable and there were ideas - the creation of an ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) in the city; the public ownership of public transport; the creation of a network of community groups to help manage local water and environmental matters; the promotion of plant based diets; and making Nottingham a firework free zone - which received significant support but did not meet the threshold to be included as policy suggestions.

Having ended our work together by voting to put the following ideas forward as proposals we hope they will now be acted on and adopted by communities, businesses, institutions and the Council.





our proposals



Buildings and energy

It is vital that our buildings are more energy efficient. All new developments should be sustainable and energy efficient. Retrofitting should be extended to all types of housing across all areas of the city; we know that the private rented sector is particularly in need of support.

Educate younger people to create pride in their neighbourhoods and to become more active within their communities.

Develop a pilot community energy scheme that streets can bid for to show what can be done and to develop community cohesion.

Food and Health

Use early education to help children make healthier choices through active involvement in growing, preparing, and eating foods.

Incentivise community growing and local food production. Invest in community gardens and agriculture. Use local produce for school dinners.

Make food waste useful. Initiate a food waste collection service for composting across the city - including homes, businesses and universities - to be used in community growing.

Widen access and exposure to healthier foods. Offer subsidies to smaller local shops offering healthier produce and meals and pay for this by taxing less healthy outlets.

Charge less for social wellbeing activities, such as going to the gym.





Nature

Increase the amount of green space in the city, so that everyone has access within fifteen minutes' walk from where they live.

The Mayor and Council should create a network of green community centres and sustainable hubs in each ward or suburb focussing on local food markets, skills workshops, and youth activities.

Skills and engagement

Information on environment and climate related activities should be shared with all Nottingham residents in order to provide data, promote best practice, celebrate successes, and to highlight issues and any remedial action taken.

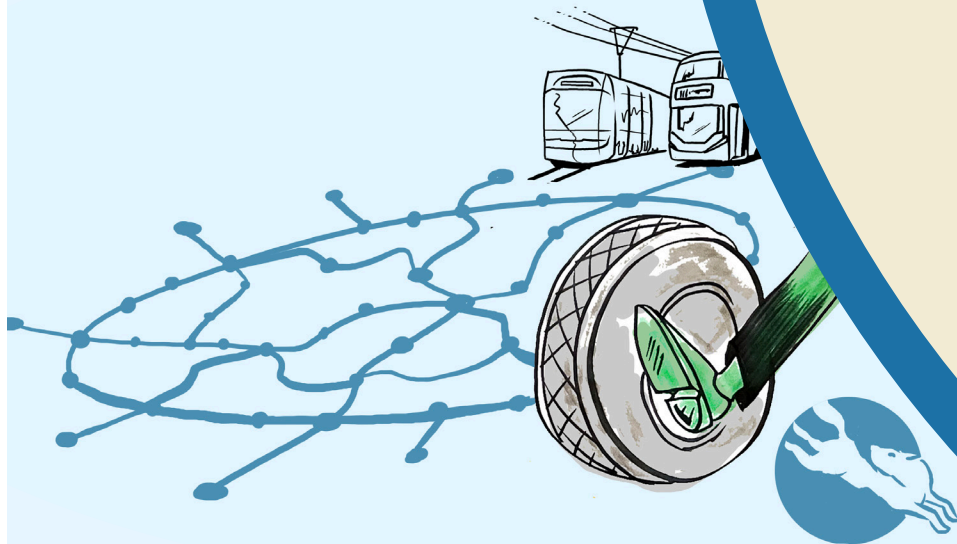
Work more closely with schools. There are many opportunities to develop links with these important community hubs in many areas around food, growing, sharing, and skills.



Transport

Improve the efficiency and connectivity of public transport, and make it more affordable

Pedestrians should be prioritised alongside an integrated transport system and all new roads should have wildlife corridors.



Waste

Give incentives to green businesses through lower business rates for those that are environmentally friendly and tariffs for those that are not. Create an environmental scale for businesses as we currently do around food hygiene.

Promote information around how to repair and recycle and develop incentives such as a deposit scheme for bottles and a clothes swap scheme for schools and communities.

Work with schools to inform children about environmental issues, food waste, and recycling.



Water

Prioritise multi-use infrastructure to mitigate flooding - such as rain gardens, green roofs, water squares, and permeable paving - in planning and regulation. This could include incentives or conditions for planning and needs to involve all agencies working together with developers and communities.

We want communities to be proactively engaged in the development and ongoing use of these local flooding solutions, alongside more common usage of water butts and planters.

Having spent this time together and having voted on these recommendations we have one final proposal, perhaps the most important:

Set up a taskforce to follow through on this manifesto, putting concrete plans in place with demonstrable impact.



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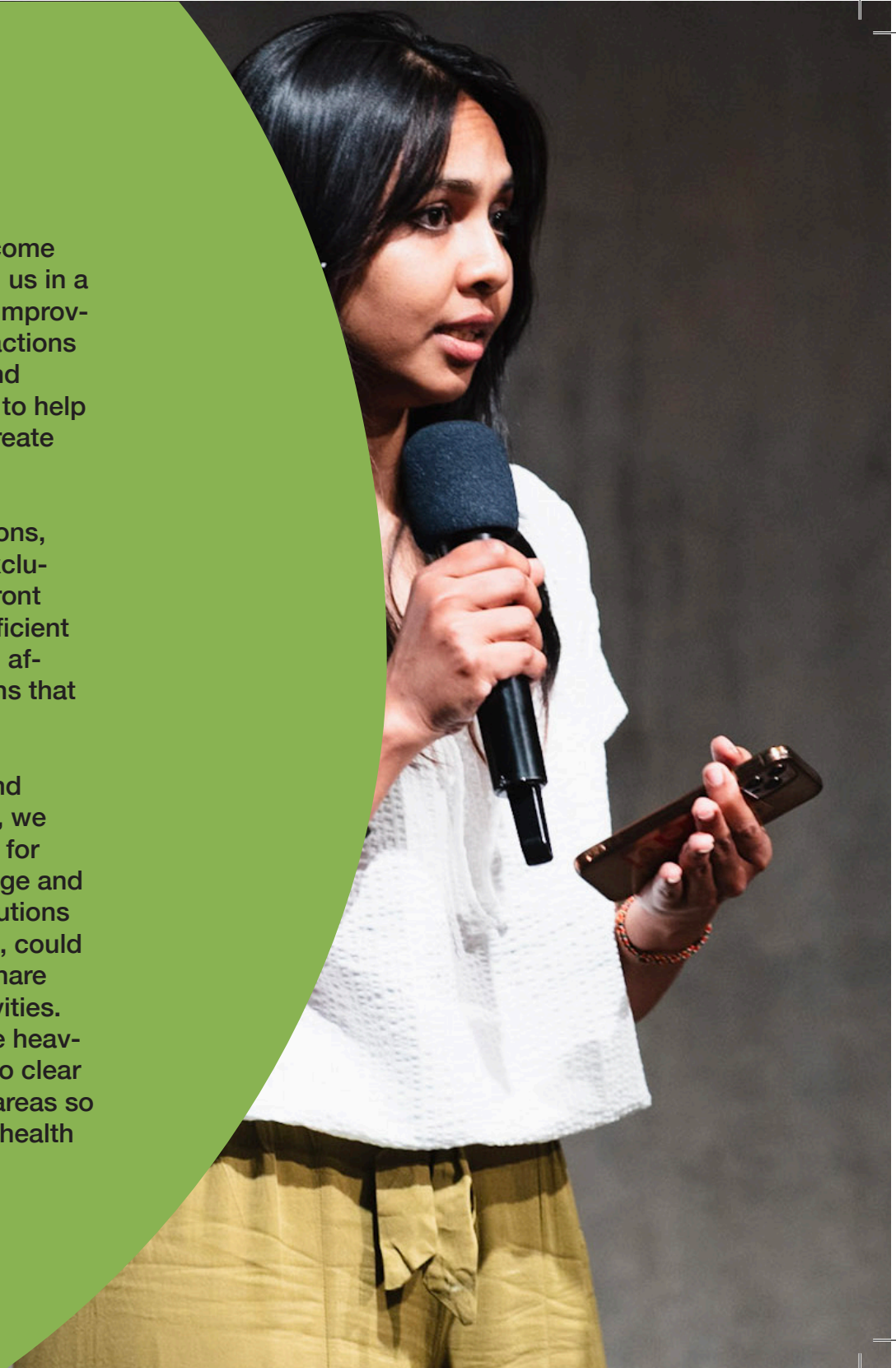
We would also recommend, having seen the power of this process to formulate ideas that can garner widespread support, that more assemblies of this sort take place across our city. The challenges we face are real and are demanding. To drive the change that is needed with pace and commitment we must use the wisdom and knowledge of our residents and to bring people together with different perspectives and understandings. Once the genie is out of the bottle, once people are given a genuine chance to have a voice and to shape policy, then our democracy becomes healthier, and we can start to progress with imagination and hope.

In conclusion

We know that our city is moving in the right direction in its move to become carbon neutral and to respond to the climate challenges that are facing us in a way that will benefit everyone. Yet we also know that we need an ever-improving connection between policies enacted by decision makers and the actions that are demanded of us to make the city more sustainable. We can, and must, embrace this moment for it is a once in a generation opportunity to help people re-engage with their neighbours, streets, and communities to create the healthy and vibrant city in which we all want to work and live.

We know that some of these proposals have difficult financial implications, and it is vital to understand the central importance of poverty, social exclusion, and marginalisation when creating the necessary policies to confront this challenge. Affordable public transport, healthy food, and energy efficient homes are essential. There is a feedback loop between knowledge and affordability and those who can least afford to make the kinds of decisions that will minimise their climate impact need support to do so.

But money is not everything. Alongside education from an early age, and greater transparency over the climate impacts of businesses in the city, we need to find ways to give communities power, support, and ownership; for local schemes to develop and thrive so that inter-generational knowledge and creativity can be unleashed as we explore and share the innovative solutions that are demanded of us all. Underused buildings, such as Debenhams, could be transformed into community pop up spaces for small businesses, share and repair shops, farmers markets, artist studios, and educational activities. Every bus stop could have a green roof. Local repair cafes can be more heavily promoted. Car clubs and car sharing should be encouraged. It is also clear to us that taking action in one area can have positive impacts in other areas so that what might start out as a climate action has knock-on benefits for health and social cohesion.



Ultimately environmental sustainability and local participation go hand in hand, requiring as many of us as possible working on all kinds of scale to build a city where everyone is proud to live and work. And throughout this process, this shared adventure, we must continue to talk to each other, as we have done in the creation of this Manifesto, to learn from our successes and our failures. If we work together with ambition and imagination, we believe that Nottingham, as it welcomes residents and visitors with its green open arms, can become a truly inspiring city for generations to come.



CLAIRE WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS



Nottingham
Green
Partnership



PRICE &
MYERS





Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust



Nottingham
City Council



NOTTINGHAM
COLLEGE



Nottingham Trent
University

marsh:grochowski
architect

