

Vocal

VCSE networks facilitated by
Salford CVS



Monday 20th May 2024

**Vocal Environment
Network**

**Blackleach Country
Park**

Chaired by: **Martyn Wilcock, Salford CVS**
Speakers: **Hoon Teo Seong, Green Teach CIC**
Jo Regan, Salford City Council
Richard Marshall, Blackleach Country Park

Number of people registered: **13**

The Network meeting began with a presentation from **Hoon Teo Seong from Green Teach CIC**, about the Community Land Trust and Chat Moss wetlands.



Chat Moss is a vast carbon landscape in Salford and covers 30% of Salford. It is the largest area of Grade One and Grade Two farmland in Greater Manchester and is the largest woodland. Chat Moss contains lowland peat bog, one of the rarest habitats in the UK.

Peatlands are globally important for carbon sequestration, flood reduction, water storage and local cooling. It also supports lots of specialised biodiversity. Out of 100 solutions, peatlands are currently the best available solution to prevent runaway climate change and to start CO2 drawdown.

Over the last 100 years, Chat Moss has become a mosaic landscape. Traditional farming methods have resulted in a biodiverse landscape that has provided the habitats for over 70 bird species.



Mosaic local farming also reconnects people with the environment and helps to provide:

- employment for local people
- a sense of community
- a strong local economy
- safer local food
- draws down carbon emissions
- higher nutrition locally
- healthy environment and green spaces
- social cohesion

However, from the 54 farms which occupied 3000 acres on Chat Moss, only three are now productive farms for local food. Farming on the Moss is in decline with farmers being part of an aging demographic. The lack of succession opens up the remaining farms to the prospect of takeover. Port Salford, an industrial developer, plan to build warehousing on the Grade One and Grade Two farmland.



In 2010, Jannine MacMahon and her family purchased Mulder's Farm on Chat Moss. Now named Moss Lane Farm, it was conceived of as a mixed use farm, embedded in the local community of Irlam and Cadishead. It offers multiple work and income streams and offers holiday activities and food programmes through its affiliate organisation, Green Teach CIC, as well as linking in with partners such as Lancashire Wildlife Trust to protect habitats on the farmland.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Moss Lane Farm will have to be sold. The owners wish that the farm remains part of the local community to provide local food and environmental legacy. The idea of a community buy out scheme has been brought forward which will ensure this. Chat Moss Land Trust has been formed to expedite the community buy out. The scheme will allow income streams to be put back into running and maintenance costs for the farm whilst providing long term leases for tenant farmers. The community would have direct stake and direct say in the direction of the farm development to benefit local people and the local environment.

Blackleach Allotments

The attendees had a tour of Blackleach Allotments as led by Jo Regan, Salford City Council and Richard Marshall, Blackleach Country Park.

Updates from attendees

Nina shared that free Tuesdays for Salford residents has been extended for another year at the RHS Bridgewater.

Grants

Martyn shared some information on Salford CVS' upcoming grants.

Live grants:

- Health and Wellbeing Fund - Up to £1.5k or £5k
- Answer Cancer (Small Grants Fund) - Up to £2k
- Answer Cancer Innovation Fund (Swinton) - Up to £2k
- Healthy Schools Partnership Fund - Up to £5k or £10k

Coming up...

- Impact Fund: Tackling Health Inequalities - large grants
- Achieve Asset Fund
- And more!

See: <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/live-grants>

- Or sign up to our funding e-bulletin <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/signup>
- Contact us at: grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
- Or call us on: 0161 787 7795

