

People, Environment and Belonging (PEB): Building Community Resilience Across Herefordshire

Over the past year, more than **80 PEB briefings** have taken place across Herefordshire, bringing together residents, councillors, community organisations and local leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. These conversations have created valuable spaces for communities to reflect on local risks, share experiences and identify practical actions that strengthen resilience.

Recently, PEB hosts from **Hereford, Leominster, Ledbury, Hay-on-Wye and other communities** came together to reflect on what they have learned and to consider the next phase of this growing movement. Their discussions revealed a remarkable level of consistency in the concerns and priorities being raised across the county.

Key themes emerging from community conversations included **food security and local resilience, flooding, extreme weather and increasing heat, health and social inequalities, community preparedness, democratic accountability and local leadership**, and the importance of **trusted local communication**. Perhaps most significantly, communities expressed a desire to move beyond awareness and towards meaningful action.

Hosts shared that the most successful events combined thought-provoking film screenings with facilitated discussion and, crucially, clear opportunities for participants to take practical next steps. These approaches helped turn concern into engagement and strengthened local networks of support.

Looking ahead, participants agreed a number of priorities for collective action. These include sharing learning and resources between hosts, engaging parish councils and community leaders, exploring resilience-planning tools, developing practical resources for communities, strengthening engagement with MPs and councillors, and building stronger networks focused on food security and community preparedness.

The message from across Herefordshire is clear: **people are ready to engage with climate adaptation and resilience**. The challenge and opportunity now is to connect local initiatives, strengthen collaboration and support community leadership so that resilience becomes

embedded within every neighbourhood and community across the county.