



ACTION GROUP ON COMMUNITY ENERGY

Note of Decisions and Actions, Meeting 4, 27 November 2018

Present: Fred Barker, Jon Barrance, Peter Boait, James Colvin, Jim Dewey, Iain Garner, Norman Kay, Matt Partridge, Erik Wilkinson and Andy Williams

Apologies: Hugh Barton, Richard Hellen, Nadine Kloss, Christoph Rubach.

1 Review of Actions

Progress against the actions from the third meeting was reviewed. An 'action tracker' is appended, including the further actions below. On-going actions will be subject to further review at the next meeting.

2 'Next Generation' Community Energy Programme

There are two substantive strands to the programme (<https://www.next-generation.org.uk/grants>): bringing commercial solar assets into community ownership (managed by CORE Partners); and grants to support innovative business model development.

GCEC is pursuing both strands:

- Discussion with CORE Partners about potential acquisition of a solar farm in Gloucestershire is to take place over the coming weeks. It was agreed that **FB** should inform CORE Partners of asset optimisation expertise within the action group.
- Proposals for potential innovative projects are being discussed by GCEC and SWEA. The current 'leading contender' for a grant bid is around a potential 'smart energy' refurb of a theatre, plus initiatives in surrounding residences in Barton and Tredworth, Gloucester. Discussions with other parties are also taking place.

The closing date for the grant application is 13 January.

3 Stroud District Council Climate Declaration

JD and NK reported on developments. The declaration is likely to be formally considered at the Environment Committee in mid-December, and involve an aspiration to achieve zero carbon across the whole district by 2030. The importance of involving key stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils, Transition Stroud and local community groups, in developing and implementing ways forward was highlighted.

Attention was drawn to the current consultation on the Local Plan. An important step would be to designate land for renewables development in the plan. **JD** to send a form of words to promote this idea.

It was also agreed that **FB** should circulate SN&J coverage, the 'Stroudneutral' FaceB link, and the Local Plan consultation link.

The action group is keen to consider how it will be able to contribute to ways forward. It was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

4 Learning and Capacity Building

Various suggestions were made to enhance opportunities for learning and capacity building within the group, including:

- an introductory reading list for new members;
- case study site visits (eg the Arkle Centre, St George's Church and the Chipping Norton lido);
- use of meeting time to undertake joint tasks (eg scoping out consultation responses); and
- identifying ways of filling skill gaps.

It was agreed that **FB** should prepare proposals for the next meeting.

5 AOB

NK reported that he is hoping to form a group to take forward thinking about the potential for local renewable energy in Horsley village. **MP/NCAT** offered to liaise and support as appropriate.

JB reported on a talk – 'People and energy – a relationship in transition- given by Louise Kingham, Chief Executive of the Energy Institute (EI), in Bath earlier that day.

6 Next Meeting

FB to circulate a doodle poll to find a date for the next meeting in the middle of January.

COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION GROUP – LIVE ACTION TRACKER
Updated 28/11/18

| Action | Topic | People | Progress | Done |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|------|
| 1 | Energy Local Club – Dudbridge Hydro | DM/PB/ FB | PB undertook initial assessment of local grid - looks promising, including Tricorn House. FB spoke to agent for developer. Potentially interested. FB to contact again when delayed planning application for loft conversion and cladding finally submitted. | |
| 2 | PV on schools | MP | Minchinhampton scheme proceeding. Salix loan being applied for. Proposal also being considered by Forest Green school – will depend on further round of Salix funding and export tariff extension. MP to report progress to next meeting. | |
| 3 | Stratford Park Lido | FB/AW | A meeting with the Chair of the Lido working group, Jess McQuail, took place 15 November. At Jess's request a note on including an assessment of the cost effectiveness of practicable heating options in business plan development has been provided. Further liaison is anticipated. | |
| 4 | St Laurence Church | AW/HR/ FB | A site visit with the diocese sustainability expert took place on 19/10. FB/AW attended. There appears to be limited scope for renewable installs due to church use patterns (militating against heat pumps) and listed building status (preventing PV install on visible roof). Consideration of PV on the church hall was suggested. AW to maintain liaison. | |
| 5 | SWEA W/S on 'Build 2 Low Carbon' | EO/JB | Unfortunately SWEA bid to Innovate UK re PV/batteries pilot in social housing was unsuccessful. | Done |
| 6 | GFirst Energy Strategy | FB | Draft strategy should be available for review in mid-December. FB to circulate for comment and seek to re-arrange feedback session with SR. | |
| 7 | Skills inventory/member biographies | FB | Editable document in the group's dropbox facility thought to be best approach. FB to invite contributions and membership of dropbox facility. | |
| 8 | GIS mapping | RE/MP | NCAT have decided to proceed with initial local resource mapping exercise. Action group keen to consider potential wider applicability at an appropriate time. RE/MP to report back on progress. | |
| 9 | Hydro potential in | FB/RH | Bristol Energy Cooperative proposed scheme | |

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| | Stroud District | | at Netham Lock (360kWp) being discussed at event in December. JJ offer (via RH) to provide feedback. FB to ask Renewables First about viability of post-FIT community energy business models. | |
| 10 | Potential solar farm acquisition | FB/GCE C | Discussion with CORE Partners about potential GCEC acquisition of a solar farm in Gloucestershire to take place. FB to inform CORE Partners of asset optimisation expertise within the action group. | |
| 11 | Potential application to 'Next Generation Community Energy' grant programme | FB/PB/I G | Grant programme details available at https://www.next-generation.org.uk/grants . Proposals for potential innovative projects being discussed by GCEC and SWEA. 'Leading contender' for the bid currently around a 'smart energy' refurb of a theatre plus initiatives in surrounding residences in Barton and Tredworth, Gloucester. FB to report back. | |
| 12 | Draft Memorandum of Understanding with GCEC on project development | FB/IG | MoU now endorsed and signed by TS and GCEC. | Done |
| 13 | Nomination to GCEC Board | FB | FB now co-opted as GCEC Board member. MP will also be invited to attend Board meetings. | Done |
| 14 | Resilient Energy Mounteney Renewables (REMR) | FB | Details circulated by e-mail, TS newsletter and TS FaceB page re opportunity to serve on REMR Advisory Panel for review of applications for community benefit. | Done |
| 15 | NCAT discussion with Shadow Energy Minister | RE | Details of NCAT event on 29 th Nov with Alan Whitehead MP circulated by e-mail and TS newsletter. | Done |
| 16 | Stroud District Council climate declaration, zero carbon 2030 target and Local Plan | JD/NK/F B | JD and NK reported on developments. The declaration is likely to be formally considered at the Environment Committee in mid-December. The action group is keen to contribute to a way forward. One step is to designate land for renewables development in the Local Plan. JD to send form of words. FB to circulate SN&J coverage, 'Stroudneutral' FaceB link, and Local Plan consultation link. Group to consider further at next meeting. | |
| 17 | Learning and capacity building | FB | Various suggestions were made to enhance opportunities for learning and capacity building within the group, including: an introductory reading list for new members; case study site visits; use of meeting time to | |

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| | | | undertake tasks (eg scope out consultation responses); and identify ways of filling skill gaps. FB to prepare proposals for next meeting. | |
| 18 | Horsley village initiative | NK/MP | NK is hoping to form a group to take forward thinking about the potential for local renewable energy. MP/NCAT will liaise and support as appropriate. NK to report back. | |