



ACTION GROUP ON COMMUNITY ENERGY

Note of Decisions and Actions, Meeting 6, 4 March 2019

Present: Fred Barker, Jon Barrance, Peter Boait, Hugh Barton, James Colvin, Jim Dewey, Derek Ekins, Richard Erskine, Richard Hellen, Julian Jones, Norman Kay, Nadine Kloss, Jill MacKeith, Matt Partridge, Erik Wilkinson and Andy Williams

Apologies: Pat Sykes

1 Review of Actions

Progress against the actions from the fifth 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 How to help unlock the flow of low carbon projects across the district?

To achieve carbon neutrality across the district of Stroud by 2030, there will need to be a large increase in renewable energy generation, the decarbonisation of heat, a decisive shift to electric vehicles and large-scale retrofit of buildings.

In recognition of this, the group discussed a draft paper on 'How to help unlock the flow of low carbon projects across the district?' The paper focused on four main topics - neighbourhood planning, building public support, developing viable community energy business models, and identifying potential sites and projects. For each topic, the paper presented: the relevant aspects of the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy (GSES) and draft Stroud Carbon Neutral 2030 strategy (SCN2030); available guidance and case studies; and potential initiatives.

The following actions arose from discussion:

- It is important to develop an understanding of the types of community owned projects that might have **viable business models** over the shorter term. For renewable electricity this might include PV projects with high on site electricity use or power purchase agreements with substantive local users. There might also be viable business models for heat projects that qualify for the Renewable Heat Incentive. It was recognised that it would be helpful to identify the parameters that could help define viable business models. The GCEC Board will be discussing this at its next meeting. **PB/FB** to report back. **RH** and **AW** also expressed an interest in contributing.
- Low carbon projects are more likely to be permitted in areas with supportive/enabling **Neighbourhood Plans** (NPs). It was recognised that it would be helpful to have an overview of the state of neighbourhood planning across the District, to identify where there are early prospects for positive plan development. **FB** to contact SDC officer with oversight of neighbourhood planning. **HB** offered to act as link to Stroud Town Council, which is about to review its plan.

- Low carbon projects are more likely to be successfully developed where **local 'climate action' groups** have initiated discussions, developed ideas and proposals, and built local support. Transition Stroud will be organising a 'skillsgain' workshop for initiative-takers interested in setting up new groups in their local community. It has also produced a [briefing paper](#) on good practice and case studies. The importance of sharing information and experience on between groups on local energy projects was highlighted. **FB** to make contact with any new local groups to encourage link in with the CEAG.
- It would be helpful to populate a **visual map** of the district showing where there is: opportunity for positive NP development; 'climate emergency' declarations by Parish/Town Councils; and interest in establishing new local 'climate action' groups. It would be opportune to help establish new groups in Parishes where 'climate emergency' declarations are made. **FB** to consider further.
- With regard to potential developments in **AONB** areas, it would be useful to review case studies of where developments have been permitted. **MP** to provide case studies.
- On the potential for **E-Car Clubs**, there had been some discussion in Stroud Valleys Car Club which identified hurdles relating to capital costs and space for charging points. **FB** to e-mail NK and JB re possibility of further discussion with SVCC.

6 Next Meeting

FB to circulate a doodle poll to find a date for the next meeting in the second half of April.

COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION GROUP – LIVE ACTION TRACKER
Updated 9/01/19

Action	Topic	People	Progress	Done
1	Energy Local Club – Dudbridge Hydro	PB/FB	PB undertook initial assessment of local grid - looks promising, including Tricorn House. Planning application for loft conversion and cladding at Tricorn House approved. FB has contacted agent to seek a meeting.	
2	Stratford Park Lido	FB/AW	Lido working group awaiting SDC funding for business plan development, which will include an assessment of the cost effectiveness of practicable heating options. FB to maintain liaison.	
3	Nailsworth Climate Action Town (NCAT)	MP/RE	Minchinhampton school PV scheme proceeding. Salix loan applied for and pre-accreditation being sought. MP in discussion with E4A about development funding for potential PV farm. GIS Mapping project on-going. MP to report progress to next meeting.	
4	Horsley Energy Group (HEG)	NK	NK has sought 'holding policy' in support of renewables in Neighbourhood Plan. Next meeting of HEG discussing potential initiatives, including e-bike loan schemes, domestic retrofit and local PV. NK to report back.	
5	Carbon Neutral Randwick (CNR)	DE	Range of initiatives under discussion, including micro heat networks. Also considering need for new Neighbourhood Plan. DE to report back.	
6	Gloucestershire Community Energy Cooperative	PB/FB	Grant application to Next Generation programme for smart energy refurb of Olympus Theatre did not succeed. Potential PV site acquisition via CORE Partners not proceeding due to sale to commercial competitor. GCEC Board considering next steps in context of GSES and SCN2030. PB to report back.	
7	Hydro potential in Stroud District	FB/JM	FB to circulate links to planning statements for Bristol Energy Cooperative proposed scheme at Netham Weir and SDC scheme at Ebley Mill. JM to check position at Bonds Mill.	
8	Learning and capacity building	MP/JJ/F B	Potential for trips to Gwent CIC EV/PV Open Day on 20 April (MP), and to Coaley Mill hydro scheme (JJ). FB to circulate to group to ask for interest.	
9	Viable business models for	PB/FB	GCEC will be discussing potential identification of the parameters that could	

	community owned projects		help define viable business models for renewable projects. PB/FB to report back. RH and AW also expressed an interest in contributing.	
10	Neighbourhood planning	FB/HB	Need to identify where there are early prospects for positive plan development. FB to contact SDC officer with oversight of neighbourhood planning. HB offered to act as link to Stroud Town Council.	
11	New local 'climate action' groups	FB	The importance of sharing information and experience on local energy projects was highlighted. FB to make contact with any new local groups to encourage link in with the action group.	
11	Visual mapping	FB	Visual mapping of NP development, Parish 'climate emergency' declarations and interest in new local 'climate action' groups would be helpful. FB to consider further.	
12	Developments in AONBs	MP	Useful to review case studies of where developments have been permitted in AONBs. MP to provide case studies.	
13	E-Car Clubs	FB/JB/NK	Explore possibility of further discussion with SVCC. FB to initially e-mail NK/JB.	