



## **ACTION GROUP ON COMMUNITY ENERGY**

### **Note of Decisions and Actions, Meeting 7, 29 April 2019**

**Present:** Fred Barker, Jon Barrance, Peter Boait, Richard Erskine, Iain Garner, Richard Hellen, Norman Kay, Jill MacKeith, Brian Nimbles, Matt Partridge, Clare Sheridan, Paul Sheridan, Pat Sykes, and Andy Williams

#### **1 Update on Local Government Developments**

FB, PB and AW are attending the GFirst/Gloucestershire CC [‘Climate Change Summit’](#) on 21 May and will report back.

A report on Stroud DC’s SCN2030 strategy and next steps is expected to go to its Environment Committee meeting on 6 June. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the group.

Stroud Town Council has commissioned a ‘carbon audit’ of its services and will report shortly. It has also established a £5000 [Carbon Reduction Fund](#) to provide local grants. The closing date is 27 May.

#### **2 Progress reports from Local Groups**

MP from NCAT reported on progress with the rooftop PV install at Minchinhampton School. Pre-accreditation has been secured and a preferred contractor identified, but SALIX funding has been declined. MP to discuss with GCEC the possibility of ownership and a community share offer.

NK from Carbon Neutral Horsley reported on projects under discussion, including a local e-bike loan scheme and home energy efficiency survey.

FB reported that Carbon Neutral Randwick were organising an open meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>, with Simon Pickering, Chair of SDC’s Environment Committee, talking about SCN2030 work.

CS and PS reported that a new Stonehouse group is being established and they will be attending the first meeting.

#### **3 Setting up and supporting new Local ‘Climate Action’ Groups**

FB reported back on the TS workshop on 28 April on setting up local climate action groups. The w/s was well attended, with nearly 30 participants interested in setting up local groups. It generated a range of ideas for future TS activities to encourage and support new groups, including acting as an information hub for case studies and resources.

TS will be considering next steps, including the possibility of re-running the workshop in other areas of Stroud District in liaison with local stakeholders (eg Severn Vale and the Berkeley cluster). The group thought that this was a good idea.

PS highlighted the importance of a pro-active press strategy to build on recent national coverage. FB to raise with EW (TS Coordinator).

#### **4 Status of Neighbourhood Planning**

The note on the status of neighbourhood planning in the district was reviewed. It was noted that the Centre for Sustainable Energy is running a support programme and offers free planning advice and assistance to draft a 'low carbon' neighbourhood plan ([neighbourhoodplanning@cse.org.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@cse.org.uk)).

RE will establish the position in Nailsworth and NK reported on the 'aspirational policy' on renewable energy written into the draft Horsley Neighbourhood Plan (available on request).

A future strategy for encouraging 'SCN2030 positive' neighbourhood planning may be to focus on: (i) areas or clusters where an anticipated SDC review indicates most potential for at-scale renewable energy development; and (ii) areas where local 'climate action' groups are established.

The role of local carbon foot-printing was discussed. RH referred to a research proposal that The Schumacher Institute was developing and will report back.

#### **5 Interactive Mapping**

JM reported that a small group was developing proposals for an interactive tool that could map and share information about low carbon initiatives across the district. This has potential to fulfil an important role in enabling local people to find initiatives to support or join, and to enable local climate action groups to share and exchange information. Further progress to be reported to the next meeting.

#### **6 Parameters for Viable Community Energy Business Models**

PB reported on GCEC's work to identify viable community energy business models for (a) RHI supported heat projects and (b) domestic rooftop PV/battery at scale plus flexibility services. A conversation with Ecotricity about the latter is anticipated. The importance of improving the energy efficiency of buildings involved in such projects was highlighted. PB to report further as progress is made.

#### **7 Stroud Valleys Car Club (SVCC)**

BN and CS from SVCC reported on the car club's aspirations to transition to EVs. In the context of SCN2030, transition to EV's could provide a significant opportunity to grow the car club. The importance of appropriately siting local charging points was highlighted. RE referred to the possibility of a Nailsworth link and NCAT's interest. FB encouraged BN and CS to keep the action group informed, so that it could support SVCC's transition to EVs as appropriate.

#### **8 Group Visits**

JB reported back on his visit to the Gwent Energy CIC PV/EV open day in Monmouth. It was noted that the CIC are offering a consultancy service to community groups wishing to develop PV plus EV charging point installs, but that a workable post-FIT model for community-owned installs is still to be developed.

NK reported back on the visit to Coaley Mill Hydro Scheme. RH pointed out that such schemes could have added environmental restoration benefits. FB noted that the papers for the [Ebley Mill hydro scheme](#) are accessible via the planning pages on the SDC website, and that the scheme is now permitted.

## **9 Developments in AONBs**

The paper on Cotswolds AONB policy on renewable energy was briefly reviewed. As demonstrated by the links to case studies in the paper, it was noted that, although challenging, development in the AONB was possible.

## **10 'Energy Local' Scheme**

FB reported that there was now very little potential for an 'Energy Local' scheme involving Tricorn House and the Dudbridge hydro scheme as Co-op Energy are no longer participating in such schemes due to costs.

## **11 Next Meeting**

FB to circulate a doodle poll to find a date for the next meeting in June.

**COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION GROUP – LIVE ACTION TRACKER****Updated 1/05/19**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Done</b>
1	Update on local government developments	FB	To report back on the GFirst/GCC climate summit, SDC SCN2030 Environment Committee report, and STC carbon audit.	
2	Minchinhampton school PV scheme	MP/PB/I G	To discuss possibility of GCEC ownership and community share issue	
3	New local 'climate action' groups	FB	To report on next steps to be taken by TS in light of outcome of 28 April workshop.	
4	Neighbourhood planning	RE FB	To establish position in Nailsworth. To review scope for future interventions as SCN2030 work and formation of new local groups unfolds.	
5	Interactive mapping project	JM	To report further progress to the group	
6	Local carbon footprinting	RH	To report back on a TSI project proposal	
7	Viable business models for community energy projects	PB	To report further progress on viability of business models for (a) RHI supported heat projects and (b) domestic rooftop PV/battery at scale plus flexibility services, and associated potential 'offers'.	
8	Stroud Valley Car Club – transition to EVs	BN/CS	To keep the action group informed, so that it can support SVCC's transition to EVs as appropriate	