

URCHFONT PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Notes of the meeting of the CFC Working Group held on 26th June 2008 at 4 Peppercombe Close, Urchfont.

Present - Peter Newell, Chairman
Richard Bromley
David Byford
Alan Cannon

1. Welcome and apologies - Jim Batt, Pete Nobes, Mary Treneer
2. Notes of the meeting held on 15th May 2008 - Agreed
3. Matters arising - Richard explained that he had not been able to progress outstanding matters due to various pressures on his time.
 - (a) School Waste Committee - Still outstanding
 - (b) World Changers Network Launch - Peter and Alan reported on the launch of the Network with an excellent presentation by Helen Browning, an organic farmer. She had made the point that organic farms were 30% more efficient in terms of CO² emissions but at present they often did not have the critical mass of local supportive infrastructure and consumers to sustain them. She referred to the serious disadvantages of bio-fuels in terms of their dependence on oil based fertilisers and lengthy transportation of crops to processing factories. She had explained to Alan that willow was excellent for bio-mass fuel as it could be grown and harvested on a rotational basis.
 - (c) Transition Towns Initiative - Jim had attended the presentation in Salisbury on 15th May but Peter had still not had a reply to his letter.
 - (d) Recycling Week - Alan had given coverage to this in Redhorn News
 - (e) Plastic Bags - It was noted that supermarkets were making considerable progress in reducing the use of plastic bags. The Community Shop charges for bags, a practice which it was thought all shops should adopt, or better still follow the Irish experience and scrap plastic bags altogether.
 - (f) NESTA Challenge - Jacky Thomas had undertaken to try and inform local groups of grant funding sources in future.
 - (g) Sustain the Plain - Community First were awaiting a decision on a further application to LEADER+ to continue this programme.
 - (h) Parish Council Carbon Footprint - Richard advised that the Parish Council should decide on the scope of activities to be covered which could then be monitored with a view to reducing fuel use. Initially this might include core activities but might be extended to sub-contractors if this was practical. Peter undertook to do some work on this. Peter

4. Energy Efficiency Campaign -

- (a) Prize Presentation/Photo Opportunity - Peter reported that this had gone very well with the support of Paula Winchcombe, the Environmental 'Champion' for Kennet District Council, and Caroline Dunford, their PR Officer as photographer, and Lewis Cowen from the Gazette & Herald plus all the prize winners. (There was subsequent coverage in the Gazette & Herald)
- (b) Extension to Pilot - funding/budget - Peter tabled an amended reduced budget totalling £15,000 and a list of organisations approached for support. Pete Nobes had offered some further financial support for some £500-600. The amended budget was accepted as the basis for grant applications. It was noted that the Big Lottery Community Sustainable Energy Programme required applicants to use one of their approved consultants of which Atkins Global were not one in spite of their international standing and experience. Richard undertook to enquire about RegenSW and the three sources suggested by Community Action for Energy (Energy Saving Trust). Richard

It was agreed to give priority to the Cooperative Bank, North Wessex Downs AONB and Sustain the Plain recognising that applications had to be tailored to the funders criteria and interests. Peter

Pete Nobes had offered more low energy light bulbs in connection with which Alan offered to provide storage.

- (c) Energy Saving Products - distribution - Peter reported that there had been little change since the last meeting with two more draught proofing rolls distributed.
- (d) Energy Day - The revised date of 14th February 2009 was noted. Richard undertook to draft a programme of small lead in events at the Shop linked where possible to local groups. This would be discussed by the Energy Day Working Party on 9th July. Richard/Energy Day W/P
- (e) Street Lighting Review - Peter reported that consultations with four more areas/roads had been completed and the next step would be to consult the Police and Fire Service. Peter

5. Community Wind Turbine - Peter reported that he was awaiting a proposal from Good Energy for a joint project. Richard had spoken to someone from Renewable Energy Systems who had experience of large wind farms. He had asked for a quotation for a feasibility study. Peter/Richard

6. Publicity - Alan reported upon some disappointing setbacks with the Gazette & Herald and the two Parish magazines. For July he planned to have coverage for the Food Digester, free energy saving products and another tip of the month and would ask News & Views to include the article submitted earlier and a brief report on the Energy Efficiency Report. Alan

Peter undertook to speak to Ian Maidment about the inclusion of climate friendly material on the Website. Peter

7. Date of next meeting - 10.00am Tuesday 2nd September 2008 at 4 Peppercombe Close, Urchfont

8. Any other business - Cooption - A suggestion was made for an additional member of the Working Group.