

**Transition Towns Monthly Energy Group Minutes - DRAFT**  
**Sunday, 8 January 2012 1 7.30pm**

8 Sydenham Avenue L17 3AX

**1 Attendance** – Graham Arnold (GA), Lawrence Brown(LB), Geoff Cunningham(GC), Dinah Dossor(DD), John Garrett(JG), Dave Hookes (DH), Jerry Spencer (JS), Ed Tidy (ET),

**2. Apologies** – Elizabeth Turp (ET), David White (DW)

**3. Welcome and Introductions** to Lawrence Brown, Dave Hookes and Jerry Spencer. Dave brought along the 2000 report for a proposed biomass CHP installation in Lee Manor site in Netherley, he'd been commissioned to write by the City Council, which had assessed the alternative approaches of biomass gasification and conventional steam turbines. Although the cost of heat generation was estimated to very low, at around 0.5p/kwh at 2000 prices, the project had not unfortunately gone ahead.

**4. Minutes of last meeting** – Because the previous meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December had mostly been a social event, no minutes had been produced. However, subjects raised on 4<sup>th</sup> December were reviewed:

**Matters arising – items 5-8**

**5. Council Select Committee – Environment and Climate Change.**

- Application by the Energy Group for representation:
  - GC had been put forward by John Coyne, the committee chair, but the committee had not accepted his application.
  - However, with committee meetings being open to members of the public, Geoff volunteered to go to the next meeting anyway.
  - He would also speak to Geoff Woodcock, the one lay member of the committee (also a green – from the Merseyside Environmental Trust).
- JS recommend the Energy Group bombard the Select Committee with questions, and was particularly interested in what the council had done with the Arup onshore wind report, which looked at potential sites in the Dingle area (Dingle cliffs), as this had great scope for a community renewable energy project. He urged that the Arup report be put into the public domain. JS would provide GC with the information and GC would contact officers reporting to the committee. LB advised that Ann Coy is the committee contact for agenda items.

Christine Darbyshire, the senior policy officer at the City Council, had contacted to find a Dingle community group to take on the wind project, but this had run aground after opposition from one particular councillor.

**6. Schools 10:10 project** (to cut carbon emissions in schools by 10%), raised by DD at December meeting. JS urged the Energy Group to renew its efforts with local schools as in general, they took a long term 20+ year view on investments, and were ideal candidates to set up community share schemes, obtaining tax relief under EIS (Enterprise Incentive Scheme).

**7. Dolls House** JG and DD had met Mike Broom of the Dolls House shop before Christmas to choose the colours used in the carcass. Mike had made a good recovery from his operation but was busy up to the run up to Christmas. DD and ET would liaise with Mike from now on and take this forward. JS suggested that ASDA and other supermarkets be approached to help fund the construction.

**8. Ullet Road Eco Offices** – Progress had been made in finding a thermally efficient window design that would satisfy the city council Conservation office, and a further visit by Lorraine Ward, the conservation officer, to agree this and other items would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> January. JG would let the committee know the outcome.

**New items**

**9. Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF)** JS advised that the LEAF scheme run by the Energy Savings Trust would provide up to £50,000 for energy needs assessments for selected energy saving schemes, with applications involving more than one energy saving or renewable energy measure given priority.

Applications for funding needed to be in by 20<sup>th</sup> January, with assessment work complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

JS had liaised with Ed Gommon over his Granby/Princes Park Housing Coop proposals and Mark Shooter from Good Neighbourhood Community Energy (GNCE), and were working on proposals for the following:

- Princes Court
- Toxteth TV
- Alt Street

In addition, JS suggested that details of the Wavertree Playground Renewable Energy project (see later) be sent to him, as a possible other bid.

### **10. Big Lottery Communities Living Sustainably Programme**

This offers up to £1m over 5 years to community organisations and their partners. Up to 30 grants of £10,000 were available nationally for community groups to work up their bids, with only 2 likely to be in the North West.

The focus of the fund is adaptations and mitigation strategies for economically deprived areas. JS and Ed Gommon were talking about a proposal for the L8 area covering the area south of Princes Park extending into Lodge Lane.

JS asked for a letter of support for the GNCE proposal from Transition Towns. Ed Gommon had already asked Transition Towns for support the bid (as a bid partner), and this was formally agreed by the Energy Group. DD would facilitate with the TT Core Group (*check this*).

A further meeting of the L8 group progressing the bid would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> January, with expressions of interest due in by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### **11. Final Round of the Communities Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP)**

JS advised that grants of 50% funding (up to £50,000) were available for projects including solar thermal, biomass (wood) and biomass CHP. Deadline for applications is 29<sup>th</sup> February.

### **12. Lister Drive Allotment Community Wind Turbine**

JS reported on the wind turbine he'd facilitated for the Lister Drive Allotment Society.

- Proven 6kw turbine, 15m high
- It has been operating since May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- 2,000 kwh generated so far, but the turbine was out of action for much of that time for recalibration
- 8-10kwh expected for a full year, against an originally estimated 11-15kwh
- Cost around £32-33,000, with ground works
- 100% grant funded, with £15,000 from Climate Change Foundation, £15,000 from CSEP, £1,600 from the City Council and £1,500 from the Co-op.
- FIT is 28p/kwh generated, with 3p/kwh for the 50% of electricity (assumed by Scottish Power) exported to the grid. JS was planning to query this percentage as there was very little site use of the electricity.
- The FIT could be used for a number of other environmental purposes – bee keeping, guttering for rainwater harvesting and a wild life habitat, as well as society member horticulture training
- Scottish Power very slow in registering the installation
- Planning permission retrospectively granted

### **13. Other Potential Renewable Energy and Energy Saving Installation Sites**

- The Eldonians were currently negotiating for a retrofit project using funding from CESP (Community Energy Saving Programme – for social housing) and CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) in the Eldonian and Athol villages (JS)
  - JS noted that CESP funded projects needed to be completed by October 2012, with the fund terminating in January 2013 after being replaced by the Green Deal ECO later in 2012.
- Cullen Street (off Smithdown Road) (JS)
- Top Floor of Brownlow Hill car park (JS)
- Welsh Church on Princes Drive (JS)
- University – via George Stevenson Society (DH). He suggested contacting Pete North over this (*who would?*).

- Wavertree Playground (The Mystery) (JG)
  - Energy use by sports centres on the site comprise 7.7% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the City Council estate – plenty of scope for a community owned scheme to supply renewable energy to the site.
  - The Aquatics Centre required a huge energy requirement for such a modern building. 09/10 usage down considerably on 08/09 but thought to be due to restricted opening hours.
  - Spreadsheet workbook of sent by JG to group members only of energy use - only showed first spreadsheet to some members – JG to investigate why
  - Source data obtained by Friends of the Earth member Rebecca Lawson and passed to JG by LB. Need to get latest annual figures for 10/11.
  - JG would supply JS with an outline of the potential project for possible funding applications
- JS suggested using an iconic building, somewhere that people could rally around.

#### **14. Organisational Structure for Renewable Energy schemes**

- JS also suggested thinking about setting up an Industrial and Provident Society issuing shares to members, to finance the setting up of a renewable Energy Supply Company (ESCO)

#### **15. TANN Conservation Rules Committee (re. question of how Conservation Areas like the Avenues are treated with the introduction of the Green Deal). See <http://www.tann.org.uk/>**

- The first meeting of this new committee would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> January in 19, Lancaster Avenue
- DD was unable to attend. JG and GA would be there, GA (who lived just outside the TANN area) to provide assistance given his long experience in Conservation Area planning.

#### **16. GA's Report on local Renewable Energy generation.**

He noted:

- East facing panels were poor in the winter, but much better in the summer. DD's installation was also affected by tree cover, as was JG's.
- GA now had a full year's data. His system turned out to be 95% capacity which he expects to reduce down to 80% over 20 years.
- He exported 73% of his output, as opposed to the 50% assumed by his electricity supply company
- His solar thermal system had been a huge success, and contributed to a reduction in gas heating from 30,000kwh to 23,000kwh
- Overall, he'd reduced his consumption of gas and electricity by 25%
- He is now monitoring 10 local installations
- He was contemplating using an electric car as an energy store, to increase his own utilisation of solar electricity

#### **17. Next meeting – 7.30pm on Sun 5<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 8, Sydenham Avenue**