



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPLETON AND SPAUNTON COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUP

Notes of Meeting

Thursday 2nd February 2006
Village Hall, Appleton-le-Moors

Present – Sylvia Bernard, Jim Hall, Judie Holliday, John Marsden, Dave Rawlings, Vicki Shaw, Nelly Trevelyan

Apologies – George Winn-Darley

Matters arising from last meeting

Biomass Scenarios

Vicki has arranged for Dr. Paul Upham from the University of Manchester to lead a workshop about biomass. This workshop will use computer programmes and actual photographs of the area to produce simulations of landscapes and how they will look if the land were to be used for biomass production. The date for the Appleton workshop is Tuesday 28th March and due to another booking in the village hall, this will be held in the committee room at the National Park Office in Helmsley. The workshop will start at 7.30pm and should be finished no later than 9.30pm. Dr Upham will also be leading a workshop for the UECEG in Danby.

Initial feedback from Vitotec survey

John Brett (JB) from Vitotec visited three houses in the villages on Wednesday 1st February – John M, Dave R and Dave G. John Brett will be producing a written report and will hopefully be attending the Energy Event. John M will ask JB if he can produce some posters to use at the Energy Event.

At John Marsden's house, JB thought there was not a lot could be done at his house by way of renewables except there may be scope for solar hot water panels. However he gave some very interesting advice about energy efficiency. This advice included:

- Effective draft proofing is very important in older houses
- Blocking up unused chimneys (having an unblocked chimney in a room means that the air is changed 3 times per hour with loss of heat with each air change)
- Thermal boarding on front and rear walls (this would also “straighten” out the uneven walls)
- Install a stove instead of having an open fire (open fire 20% efficient, stove 80% efficient)

- Insulation of some floors with space underneath
- A change of boiler to an “Amptech inline electric heater” was also suggested

At Dave Rawlings house the advice was very similar (Dave has a total of 7 chimneys in his house!). John’s suggestions for Dave’s house were:

- Stove to replace open fire – because the fire is drawing air from the room it is probably making the room colder rather than warmer
- More insulation in the loft

Although Dave has a modern condensing boiler, JB suggested having more sophisticated controls fitted, which would allow there to be two temperatures, thereby stopping the house getting completely cold overnight and during the day when the heating was off. This is thought to be more efficient than heating the house from cold each time the heating is turned on. Solar would be an option in this property to pre-heat the water. There is enough land to make a heat pump feasible; however the layout and current systems in the property would make the system too complex to be viable (tanks all over place!)

Progress on wind turbine

Gary Jenkins from North Energy Associates has visited the area and identified 2 potential sites for a community wind turbine. Although Hill Top Farm may attract DEFRA grants there would be a problem as the site does not have close access to a 3 phase electricity connection. The other site identified was on Appleton Common (close to the cattle grid) and had the advantage of being only around 300 metres from a 3 phase electricity connection which currently runs to the quarry and is 300 metres from the nearest residence. Gary will produce a report for use at the Energy Event and Dave will produce a “mock up photo” of how the turbine would look.

Progress and plans for the open day

- John is to contact John Brett to ask him to attend the event
- Colin Mather and/or Peter Woods have agreed to attend the day event to share their own experience of heat pumps. It was suggested that posters could be produced
- Nigel Mortimer has agreed to give a presentation on the Friday evening including the results of the Energy Survey and a general overview including talking about climate change, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies
- Mark Hill the Development Control Business Manager has agreed to attend the event,
- Dave will look at the nuclear option and may contact Nigel Mortimer
- Nelly will contact York EEAC to confirm their availability for the event
- Dave will look into biofuels and biomass and produce a poster. He suggested that Victor Buchannon could be invited to the event
- John continues to research photovoltaics
- Judie handed over advance publicity posters for the event
- Judie showed the group two fliers for the event, to be distributed to households in the area at intervals before the event. These were examined and approved by the group, Judie will produce 100+ copies of each to bring to the next meeting
- Judie has spoken to Emma Farley the National Park Creative Writer who is in the process of producing a press release
- Vicki is to ask a representative from Botton to attend to share their experiences
- Vicki is to collage grant information
- Vicki is to investigate and interpret ROCs

News from the region

Vicki is going to Leeds this afternoon to talk about Community Renewable Energy Projects in Yorkshire with Yorkshire Forward.

Danby Group are going into the schools in the Danby area to do workshops with Sandy Carter from CREATE.

Energy Efficiency letters and questionnaires are being delivered by the group to every household in the area and will be collected by members of the group. York Energy Efficiency Advice Centre will send each household who returns their forms personal advice on how to be energy efficient. The group will also be able to target individuals who are interested in energy efficiency and renewables.

AOB

Nelly mentioned that Harrogate Council had purchased 40 swift micro turbines (1.5 kw) to install in homes in the region.

Next meeting

Friday 17th February 7.30pm in the Village Hall