



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPLETON AND SPAUNTON COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUP

Notes of Meeting

Tuesday 16th May 2006
The Reading Rooms, Appleton-le-Moors

Present – Sylvia Bernard, Dave Grewer, Jim Hall, Judie Holliday, John Marsden, Duncan McDonald, Judy McDonald, David Powley, Dave Rawlings, Vicki Shaw, Nelly Trevelyan

Apologies - Helen Beaumont, George Winn-Darley

Community consultation/involvement opportunities

The group recognised that the proposals put forward as possible community projects need to have the support of the wider community and the community needs to be more involved in the decision making process. It was acknowledged that it is often difficult to ascertain the true feelings of the public, especially in a close knit community such as Appleton/Spaunton, and some people may not wish to publicly air their uncertainty about a project because of peer pressure.

Nelly thought that a good way to gauge the villagers' support/indifference/opposition to any proposals would be through some sort of drama workshops. She introduced David Powley from Playback Theatre Company to the group. Nelly had asked David to explain what he could offer in the way of drama workshops. David told the group they would need to have a clear idea of the different proposals and what outcome they were looking for. He suggested "Playback workshops" could be used. This involved a group of actors listening to stories from the audience, and then acting them out and acting through the possible outcomes. David has had lots of experience with this type of workshop. The group thought this may only work with a "captive" audience, so it was suggested it could be part of a village event, for example, the village barbeque. The group need to have more information about the proposals before it would be ready for this type of workshop. David offered to lead a workshop of this type for free, but he is out of the country until January 2007. As the group thought they would be in a better position to take any proposals forward to the community at that time, it was decided to approach David again regarding a workshop on his return.

Judy Mc suggested a newsletter would be another way to keep the community interested and involved. The group decided to look into this option.

During the discussions about the drama workshops Judy Mc expressed the opinion that many people would like to “save the planet.” However the main incentive most people have for changing things is cost, and unless something saves people money, it is unlikely to be successful.

Community Wind

Nelly has had a meeting with George to look at the possible sites for a turbine/s close to the quarry and the location of the 3 phase connection. She felt this meeting had been positive. She has also had an acknowledgement of her letter to the MOD and awaits a full response. There now needs to be a full feasibility study on this project. The group will have to find sources of funding for this (see District Heating notes below)

Energy Efficiency

Jim and Dave have volunteered to train as surveyors. Nelly told the group that CAFÉ would be willing to come to the village and carry out training, but would like to train a group. This would be a good opportunity to work with members of the Danby group who are also interested in taking forward energy efficiency measures in the community and also members of other groups who may be interested. Judie will give Jim a copy of the “interest” spreadsheet from the Energy event and Nelly is to pass him the CAFÉ information and contact details. Jim will then contact CAFÉ and other interested groups to arrange a training session.

District Heating Scheme

After the last meeting, Dave contacted George Munson who told him that if the Appleton proposals were included in the Community Renewable Energy Project’s Business Plan, which is being submitted by the National Park to Yorkshire Forward, funding for feasibility studies may be available. If Dave produces a paper outlining the proposals, Yorkshire Forward will be able to supply details of companies to approach to tender for the feasibility studies. Dave told the group he would put forward a proposal for a District Heating Scheme of about the same size as the Kielder project (approximately 10-12 households using a 300kw boiler).

Thanks

On behalf of the group, Dave thanked Vicki for her hard work and support and wished her well in her future career. He hoped she would keep in contact with the group.

Next meeting: Monday 12th June at 7.30pm in the **Reading Rooms**