



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPLETON AND SPAUNTON COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUP

Notes of Meeting

Tuesday 18th April 2006
Village Hall, Appleton-le-Moors

Present – Helen Beaumont, June Emerson, Judie Holliday, Dave Rawlings, Vicki Shaw, Nelly Trevelyan, George Winn-Darley, David ??

Apologies - Jim Hall

Feedback from Kielder Visit

Last Sunday, both energy groups visited Kielder Forest to look at their District Heating Scheme. Dave gave his impressions of the visit. The project was mostly grant funded. Funding bodies included DEFRA, Northern Rock Building Society, the Forestry Commission, the District Council and the Esme Fairburn Trust. A charity had been set up to raise funds to regenerate the area and a trading company was also set up. On the system there are 6 houses, a YHA hostel, a small school, a number of workshops and a Castle which is used as a visitor centre. A building had been erected to house the boiler and store the chips. The boiler is 3 megawatts. Waste wood is collected in the forest three times per year. This is chipped and stored in an open sided barn just outside the village and brought to the store room in the village. The village store room was replenished more often in winter than in summer. Hot water was piped to the various buildings. There was a problem with the pipe work not retaining heat. The charging structure was originally set up to be equivalent to the price of oil. However, the charges have not increased in line with the recent oil price increases. The project is still running at a loss, but with planned adjustments to the charging system, it is hoped that the scheme will break even very soon. The project is currently seeking funding to employ someone to manage the project. At the moment, Mike Ryan, who is employed by the Forestry Commission, undertakes this work on a voluntary basis.

Bio-energy Workshop

A bio-energy workshop was run by the University of Manchester in the National Park Offices in Helmsley. Group members who attended this workshop discussed the use of biomass within Appleton-le-Moors and Spaunton. It was noted supply of biomass may be a problem, but that Appleton may have access to coppiced woodland. This wood could be used in a woodchip boiler. Dave questioned whether it may be more viable to encourage individual households to change to bio-fuel rather than installing a large boiler for a district heating scheme. It was

thought that this would not be as likely to attract the same level of funding as a district heating scheme.

Proposals

District Heating

It was decided that the group would like to seek funding to commission a feasibility study for a woodchip/pellet District Heating Scheme. It was thought that the brief should not exclusively look at a district heating scheme, but could also look at whether it would be more economical to convert/install individual wood boilers. Vicki had a meeting with Yorkshire Forward last week and they appear to have funding available for feasibility studies and also for capital projects. The person to contact would be George Munson, the Climate Change Officer in the Sustainable Development Department on 0113 394-9746. Funding may also be available from the District Council. The National Park went to a number of consultants to tender for a feasibility study for Sutton Bank Visitor Centre. Vicki will get a list of who they approached.

Action

Dave to speak to Yorkshire Forward regarding funding and Nichola Smith from North Energy about a feasibility study

Community Wind

Nelly and George are to meet to look at the sites for turbine/s. It is crucial that a three phase connection is close to the turbine site, so it would need to be near to the quarry. Two 150kW turbines would provide enough electricity to offset the whole village's electricity use. It was acknowledged that it was important to have support from the community and support needs to be gauged. Nelly suggested a drama workshop to gauge local support. Vicki gave Nelly a document "Lessons Learned" from the Wales community wind project. On Thursday 4th May David Hassell from NYFVO – Social Enterprise will be attending the office at Saw Mill Lane in Helmsley to give advice about setting up a Social Enterprise group. Nelly said she would attend

Action

Vicki to print out consultation documents from the Wales project.

Nelly to investigate drama sessions to gauge local opinion and arrange a showing of the film "End of Suburbia"

Energy Efficiency

It was agreed to go ahead with Jim and Dave being trained as household surveyors.

Action

Nelly to chase up training with York EEAC.

LDF

Nelly needs views on the LDF as soon as possible as she is co-ordinating the group's response. Responses need to be returned by 21st April.

Funding

Vicki circulated copies of the "Low Carbon Buildings Programme" which contained information about grants. "Awards for All" (lottery funding) is available to improve activity in local groups. This group may qualify for grants from this source.

AOB

Vicki informed the group that she will be leaving the post of Community Renewable Energy Officer when her contract ends at the end of May.

Future Organisation

The group is looking to increase its membership with more people from the community. There were a number of suggestions for how to get more community involvement including a film show, forum theatre workshop, door to door, newsletters, open meeting (with theme) and a questionnaire about wind turbines.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18th April at 7.30pm in the **Reading Rooms**