



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPLETON AND SPAUNTON COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUP

Notes of Meeting

Monday 25th September 2006
The Reading Rooms, Appleton-le-Moors

Present – Helen Beaumont, June Emerson, Dave Grewer, Judie Holliday, Dave Rawlings, Nelly Trevelyan,

Apologies - Richard Gunton, Jim Hall, Peter Jones, Petra Slangen

AOB

Energy Efficiency Grants

Nelly told the group that the UECEG group had been in touch with her and sent her an information sheet that they have produced which shows the various grants available from the Utility companies for **Able To Pay** households. These grants are subject to frequent change and the UECEG have undertaken to update this information on a monthly basis. They are happy to share this information with Appleton and Spaunton Group.

Energy Efficiency

Jim is still pursuing this training. He has found that CAfE do not have a suitable training programme. NEA has a 3 day course, which is aimed at getting a qualification and contains many aspects that are not relevant to this situation, also they provide a one day course which has most emphasis on identifying fuel poverty, this is also thought to be not relevant. Jim is negotiating to try to get a tailor made course for the group. York EEAC has also been in touch with Jim and they are trying to come up with a course which will be suitable. When Jim returns from his holiday he will continue to follow this up. Dave G requested that this course is run before the middle of November as he will not be available after that time due to pressure of work. It is anticipated that the NPA will fund this training as discussed with Richard Gunton at previous meeting.

June told the group about a device called Electrisave which displays how much electricity is being used by a household. The Kirkbymoorside Environment group has applied for funding to buy a small number of these to loan to people. This gadget is thought to make people VERY aware of how much energy they are using and its cost, and thereby encouraging them to use less. If funding could be found it would be a good idea for the group to buy one to loan to households in the village. These devices cost around £80.

District Heating Scheme

Nelly, Dave R, Peter and Judie have had a meeting with Nigel Mortimer and Vicki Shaw from North Energy. Nigel gave them advice on formulating a brief for a pre-feasibility study of a biomass district heating scheme. He also gave them a rough indication of how much this type of study would cost. If this study proves that a district heating scheme is feasible in Appleton-le-Moors a full study will have to be undertaken to include a business plan and consultation to find out how many households would be interested in joining a scheme. An application has been put to the National Park SDF for £5000 to cover the costs of this. The application will go before the panel on Thursday 28th September.

Dave pointed out that any community enterprise such as the community wind turbine or a community district heating scheme, although set up as a not for profit company, may produce a surplus of funds which would be used for the benefit of the community, with a NFP company managing the business and a board of trustees to manage the excess funds. which could be spent on community projects, for example employing someone to maintain the playing field. Dave G queried how many of the community would have to be involved to get grant aid, it was thought that it would need to be the majority of the community.

Dave Rawlings reported that Jonathan Allison asked that his views be put to the meeting. His e-mail to Dave is shown below

Dear David

I fully support the movement to establish systems that support renewable energy. The Agricultural Industry has one of the worst records. With the Appleton Initiative I am concerned at attempts to establish community projects where the density of development is low and strung out in a linear fashion. Blame the 12th century Town Planners for that. Community methods seem to work best where the development is tight and dense. Because of the layout of the village, its socio economic and demographic profile (lots of elderly middle class people) it seems to me unlikely that one can expect long term communal cooperation, unless you feel able to establish a benevolent dictatorship. It could also very well be that people who enter into any binding agreement would find it affected their property values.

The conclusion I drew from these thoughts was that the heating unit ought to be the individual house, or the energy unit, if you like. As you know I believe that wood boilers both inside and outside the house are very efficient and use renewable energy, provided the thermal insulation of the house is good. Ours is not good on any of your measures and if it were we could cut down a great deal on our use of fuels; to bring our house into thermal insulation respectability would be very disruptive and involve major capital expenditure. However, turning back to the village, what one might do is investigate what are now the most efficient wood stoves and boilers and try to encourage a common approach that would enable individual properties to come together for bulk buying and organization. Each of us has a different amount of cubic metres to heat. In short less of a communal heating system, more of a system of cooperation into which people could enter either in whole or part.

If the group is investigating alternatives I would like to see as a control alternative, the sort of approach I have outlined above because I feel it is more practical, if less idealistic.

yrs Jonathan

Community Wind Project

It was felt that this project should now start to move forward. Dave R will contact David Hassel from the NYFVO to get advice on how to structure a social enterprise and formulate a business plan. The planners should be approached, but most importantly the community should be consulted. It was suggested that another newsletter should be produced which is more forthright and sets out in some detail what the group are suggesting and inviting residents to a meeting to air their support or concerns.

Feedback from Newsletter

No comments about the newsletter had been received by any group members, except the group were complemented on the layout.

End of Suburbia film show

The film show was attended by 25 people, disappointingly only 3 residents from Appleton-le-Moors and Spaunton. Those who came found the film interesting and informative.

Article 4 (2) Directive

The group discussed the Article 4 (2) directive which the National Park has invoked on the community, which prevents any incremental alterations to the village. This has been served on the village with the consultation following. Nelly is to draft a letter to the park to seek reassurance that this directive will not hinder any energy efficiency measures or renewable energy projects in the community.

Windy Networks

Peter, Nelly, Judie and Petra will be attending the windy network meeting in Leeds on Wednesday this week. This time the network is examining the economics of small scale wind projects.

Next meeting

Monday 23rd October 2006 in the Reading Rooms at 7.30pm

Please note date different to that agreed at the meeting