



Transition Buxton Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 10th January 2017, 7:30pm at The School Room, Poole's Cavern

Present: Jean Ball, Veronica Hawthorn, Iain Hawthorn, Gil Boardman, Keith Wood, Anne Wood, Anne Clark, Ben Evens, Charles Jolly, Derek Bodey, Helen Brown, Peter Burgess-Allen, Peter Crook, Charles Huff

This month's well-attended meeting focused on 'Energy'.

Things We have Been Up To Recently - Project Updates:

1. **Waterswallows Solar Array Project** – DB gave a status report: TB gained financial support for the initial feasibility assessment for a floating array of solar panels on a disused quarry pool from WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme). A 4MW+ array is possible (equating approximately to the town of Buxton's consumption) and is likely to be directly supplied to the nearby Tunstead quarry, either by a new cable, or via the grid through the nearby substation. Installation cost is projected at £5-6Million which would be raised from institutional investors and local individuals and businesses - Investment in solar seems to be perceived currently as a good bet. Currently the main risk to the project is due to uncertainty over the ownership of the site. The former owner died and his will is presently being disputed. We await the outcome of a court case, expected to be resolved early 2017.
2. **Volunteer Training for Home Energy Check Project** – DB summarised the work of a project in Stockport run by Electricity North West (ENW) which successfully reduced domestic peak and overall electricity demand by 20% and 10% respectively. PBA & DB are to meet with ENW representatives to explore the materials they used in the hope we can adapt and use them in Buxton, as part of the Energy Check training project.

We have secured some funding from the Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP) to run a 1 day course on **Saturday March 11th** for volunteers to undertake property energy efficiency assessments. It will be provided by Marches Energy Agency (MEA). The objective is to form a team of volunteers able to visit properties (mostly domestic) to guide occupants in decisions about reducing their energy consumption. PBA made an appeal for expressions of interest in participating in the Volunteer training project. ***There are still 5 places available - please contact PBA (p.burgess-allen@virgin.net) if YOU are interested).*** The course will cover

- Insulation
- Draught-proofing
- Heating systems
- Appliances and consumer electronics
- Renewables.
- Behavioural change
- Local and national grant and other financial incentive schemes, including ECO.
- How to keep your knowledge of energy efficiency and renewables up-to-date
- How best to offer advice
- Health and safety considerations when carrying out 121 HECS
- How to put together and advertise a 121 HEC Project your community.

Plus, we plan to do a practical session, assessing energy losses from a real home / property. *(update - further funding is being applied for to cover ongoing support from MEA for a year after the initial training to build volunteer confidence and ensure the training achieves full potential.)* BE asked whether it would be possible to assess the impact of the work through measurements of energy consumption in the town. DB agreed we could ask ENW when we meet them on 17th Jan. PBA said we would build in assessment of household consumption before and after any home improvements as a result of Volunteer energy surveys/assistance.

CJ stated additional insurance costs to cover volunteers was an affordable £25 +VAT. It is worth noting that the insurance does not cover volunteers entering lofts which can be viewed only.

JB expressed some concern that there is a risk of loss of momentum if the project is not well planned and could falter if there isn't enough activist energy to make it happen. It is important that those expressing an interest in having their property surveyed get prompt, friendly and efficient response and service so that the Transition Buxton name is associated with positive action and experience. As well as the 5 who expressed interest in the training, 2 others at the meeting have offered to support the project including CH who will make it possible for people to request a survey via the Transition Buxton website.

To provide some graphic images as part of the publicity for this course and service PBA, CH & IH will be taking a thermal imaging camera (on loan from MEA) out onto the streets to capture infra-red heat loss images of houses and public buildings.

PC thought there could be more interlinking of organisations' websites to promote activities.

Post meeting update: Buxton Civic Association (BCA) have kindly agreed to allow the training to take place at the Pooles Cavern Centre (room tbc) on 11th March. It is hoped that the trainees will provide BCA with an Energy Assessment Report of their building(s) following the training and that they will purchase lunch from the Café during the day.

What Else Could We Be Doing - Ideas, Proposals & Opportunities:

1. Fundraising Ideas: We have been offered the opportunity to use Café at Pooles Cavern for a fundraising event – ideas so far include home-made wine tasting, folk or classical acoustic music, a quiz, and food. Ideas / offers for the musicians to Jean@tbld.co.uk please.

A separate music event with dancing is a popular idea - we're seeking bands prepared to do a benefit gig for us – this could be rock/pop/funk/sca/reggae or ceilidh. Burbage Institute has been suggested as a venue where noise and dancing can be enjoyed with minimal room hire cost. Please pass any band leads to Jean@tbld.co.uk

2. Volunteering Opportunities: JB made the point that the members meetings were a good place to come with ideas for future projects. Also, there are lots of opportunities within TB to 'do more'. If your New Year's resolution is to get more involved in something, your time would be well invested in actions to reduce carbon! If you have some time to offer, either as a one off or regularly we have volunteer jobs you can take on including: Organise excursions, Film Showings, Sort out our photo library, get involved with schools, whatever your talents your contribution will make a difference.

National Transition & Topical News & Discussion:

JB mentioned that the Community Climate Action Network e-newsletter which covers Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire is worth signing up for, to get notice of local events and activities: email 'please subscribe me' to ccan@mea.org.uk

HB mentioned a Welsh initiative where zero-Carbon low cost home(s) had been built in Wales <https://www.channel4.com/news/uks-first-low-cost-positive-energy-house-built-in-wales>

We hope the recently announced 'Garden Villages' will adopt zero-carbon philosophy, but not sounding optimistic - some to be built on green field sites.

DB mentioned the increased interest in 'flat-pack homes' in the UK, and that new factories were opening here.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 17 January & 17th of the month every month, 8pm – 10pm, Green Drinks at The Sun Inn

Tuesday 14th February _the next Members Monthly meeting, Pooles Cavern School Room

Saturday 11th March Home Energy Check Volunteer Training, 9-5pm. (booking required: p.burgess-allen@virgin.net)

Ben Evens has agreed to take the notes at the next meeting – someone different each time to share the workload.

As the next meeting on 14th February falls on Valentines Day JB suggested valentine-themed discussion and nibbles. What are you passionate about? Anyone fancy bringing some home-baked hearty goodies?

PBA 14/1/17