

WBGE Conference

Saturday 22nd November 2014

Community Resource Centre (Community Furniture Project), Newbury

In Attendance: Barry Flisher, Becky James, Cllr Dominic Boeck, Evangeline Wood (Minutes), Frances Lofthouse, Gareth Beard, Gill Hall, Graeme Panting, Karl Anders, Ken Neal, Lesley Atkinson, Nic Lampkin, Peter McManners, Richard Foster (Chair), Richard Marshall, Robert Pattison, Sarah Jones, Susan Millington, Tim Clarke, Tony Drewer-Trump & Yvonne Redgrave.

Welcome

Richard Foster welcomed everyone to the Community Resource Centre. Our host, Kelvin Hughes, had sent his apologies that he couldn't make it.

The work of the West Berkshire Greener Sub Partnership – Cllr Dominic Boeck

Purpose:

The purpose of the Greener Sub-Partnership (GSP) is to deliver the aims of the West Berkshire Partnership. Earlier this year the groups Climate Change and Renewable Energy Strategies had been consulted on and adopted. There were various targets and aims within these which were being worked on.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) were established under the Local Government Association. The set up of the LSP is changing, in that it is being merged with the Health and Wellbeing Board. The GSP may change its title and over arching structure within this but it will keep its aims.

Cllr Boeck Chairs the GSP. West Berkshire Council (WBC) provides support to the Partnership by providing resources to implement plans, Officer time. WBC are not responsible for the actions planned by the GSP, everyone is, the idea is that the partners work together to deliver these.

The GSP created WBGE by inviting groups to come together. The GSP had worked on awareness raising, Greening Campaign support, Climate Change Strategy (CCS), Renewable Energy Strategy (RES), Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points and trialling and encouraging EV use within the Council.

Outside of the Partnership, Keith Richards from Thames Valley Energy (TVE) has the Restart Project with local small and medium enterprises (SMEs); Kelvin Hughes has many great projects going on at the Community Resource Centre.

The CCS, RES and Action Plans are available on the Council website:

<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29987>

Action Plans:

Some of the GSP actions were making good progress, others not so. Actions include:

- Sustainable procurement- little progress made but the aim was to encourage local businesses to consider sustainability.
- Local food mark- needed funding to take the project forward but work still being done in promoting local food.
- Monitor energy use- Cllr Boeck thought that there needed to be more of this going on; there was a lack of awareness around consumption.
- Increase renewable energy use- there seemed to be a lot of talking round this issue but what was needed more in the way of action.
- EV sites- Council still had funding for another 2 sites this financial year, suggestions for sites could be put forward if anyone had any.

Ken Neal asked what input there was on Planning Applications. Cllr Boeck said that some aspects are already requirements of Planning Regulations already; the group could comment on applications should they wish to.

Richard Marshall asked about asking developers to increase standards. Ken Neal said that all new houses were required to be built to Code 4 and zero carbon from 2016 although there was debate over zero carbon. Councils did not set Planning Regulations. Richard Marshall thought developers should be encouraged to go further than they were required, maybe a special standard like the local food mark could be introduced for those that did. Ken Neal explained that planning requirements if not in the development plan would often be appealed by developers.

Lesley Atkinson asked if there was any work going on around cycling initiatives. The GSP was doing some work in supporting cycling, and in Thatcham Cllr Boeck was keen to get a cycle highway from Thatcham Station.

Barry Flisher asked about the 'west' of West Berkshire, there was no transport to Newbury. He found it confusing how everything [Councils, Parish Councils etc] fitted together. Cllr Boeck said that WBC weren't able to tell Parish Councils what their remit should be.

Evangeline Wood said that when a Parish Plan was being updated she was usually consulted on the green elements of the plan and what help could be provided through GSP and WBGE. Although the planned actions had to come from the communities themselves otherwise there would be no one to take ownership of the actions. There was a dedicated Officer (Jo Naylor) who was more involved with the Parish Plan Refreshes.

Richard Foster thought the role of the WBGE was to encourage Parish Councils through local groups in the communities.

Nic Lampkin said that they [Organic Research Centre] were looking at installing a chargepoint at Elm Farm, Hampstead Marshall.

Richard Foster asked about the limited success of Greening Campaigns, what could be done to increase the success rate. Encouraging communities was key to success. Robert Pattison said Greening Campaigns often came from Parish Plans, communities needed to have the will in their own communities. There is various support available from WBC, GSP and WBGE but the main will needs to come from the community.

Wylfa Newydd - A new Horizon! - Gareth Beard

Gareth Beard asked what we wanted from our electricity supply. Dominic Boeck said security of supply, Peter McManners said local supply, Richard Foster said off fossil fuels, Ken Neal said local supplies using heat recovery, and Dominic Boeck said low price.

Wind is the cheapest form of low carbon energy; nuclear is the second cheapest form. Horizon's vision is to deliver secure affordable, low carbon energy for present and future generations.

Horizon were established in 2008, a joint venture between RWE and EON, which uses an advance boiling reactor. The plan is to provide 5.4 Giga Watts of new capacity across two sites. The first unit at Wylfa won't be operating until the first half of the 2020s. It will create a number of jobs in an area where jobs are disappearing.

They are currently consulting (see <http://www.horizonnuclearpower.com>). Gareth Beard encouraged anyone who was interested to get involved, it wasn't just a local issue, and the power would be used nationally. The first consultation would run until 19th December 2015.

Gareth Beard showed us a picture of the site layout and talked about the different stages of licensing and permissions that were required. They were hoping that the energy produced would be significantly cheaper than that produced at Hinkley due to the type of system used at Wylfa.

Ken Neal asked about rising sea levels, a number of factors equated to a possible 7m sea level rise, will such rises be taken into account in terms of sea defences? Gareth Beard said that Wylfa will be 13m above sea

level. Oldbury was almost at sea level. They design for a one in 1000 event and climate change issues were taken into account with these designs. They hadn't yet done much in the way of development work for Oldbury yet.

One of the major issues was waste; there was nowhere to dispose of waste (other than low-level waste) in the UK. The Government are meant to build a facility but whether this will actually happen is another matter. There was a lot of ecology on site, Horizon was intending to work to preserve and enhance this in the process.

Electric vehicles – making them work – Karl Anders, National EV Manager, Nissan

Karl Anders introduced himself, he had recently moved to Nissan after previously working at the Energy Saving Trust for 7 years, prior to that he worked in the car industry. He had done a lot of presentations to industry bodies and local authorities over the last few years, encouraging lower emission vehicles and changing driving styles.

Recently he had been involved with a lot of work around 'Plugged in Fleets' looking at where electric vehicles will work in that business area. Often replacements would be a mix of EV, Hybrid and combustion vehicles.

What is a plug in vehicle?

- Pure Electric Vehicle (EV)
- Plug in Hybrid (PHEV)
- Extended Range Electric Vehicle (E-REV). E-REVs have an engine that generates energy but doesn't drive the vehicle.

Karl Anders went through different low carbon vehicles. Range had not been found to be much of an issue.

Yvonne Redgrave asked about the supercharger at Reading. Karl Anders briefly explained about the different battery charging methods. Evangeline Wood said that these points were especially for Tesla vehicles. Teslas have much bigger batteries than other EVs (up to 85kWh) so take longer to charge but also have a much longer range. They can be charged up to 80% on the supercharger in 40 minutes (or 75 minutes for a full charge). On a normal motorway rapid charger, a full charge could take up to 4 hours for the Tesla.

Karl Anders talked about how the alternative fuel market was growing and how it had grown significantly in the last 6 years. A quarter of all EVs sold worldwide have been sold in the last year. Nissan had approx 62% of the market, with the main competitors, the BMW i3 and Mitsubishi Outlander.

Susan Millington asked if LPGs were now a thing of the past. Karl Anders said they were popular in Australia. In Europe there had been a lot of funding to start with but only one manufacturer was really benefiting, so funding was withdrawn and the vehicle's were no longer so viable.

EV CO₂ tailpipe emissions are 0g CO₂/km.

In real terms using the UK's current energy mix for electricity, EV emissions are approx 77g CO₂/km.

EVs are a great benefit in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), helping to get emissions away from town centres etc. The NHS are also keen because it helps with respiratory problems.

Nissan build both the LEAF and the batteries in Sunderland. They also make all the batteries for the European Nissan vehicles at Sunderland.

Where do vehicles work?

- There needs to be a clear business case and vehicles need to be selected only where they will work.
- In 2013 there were 100 reviews (public and private companies).
- 57% of reviews found at least one vehicle with a business case.

- Identify vehicle opportunity, then
- Look at the whole life cycle, then
- Access charging options, then
- Make final decision.

Cost analysis:

- Purchase or lease cost
- Fuel cost
- Service Maintenance Repair (SMR)
- Vehicle Excise Duty (VED)
- Tax
- Insurance

EVs come out much lower in cost in life cycle analysis than petrol/diesel, so you are much more effectively insulated against fuel increases.

Challenges for EVs:

- Mileage profile- high daily mileage (70+ miles, recharging not available), low annual mileage
- Vehicle specifications
- Payload limits
- Charging limitations- duty cycle too intensive, not enough downtime

Electric vehicles- owners' perspective – Richard Foster, Peter McManners, and Gareth Beard

Richard Foster talked about the various vehicles available.

Is an EV suitable?

- Ideally needs off road parking
- A location for charging
- There is uncertainty around battery life
- Ideal for short journeys of less than 100 miles
- Higher initial cost (not as high as you think using grants)

Gareth Beard said that on the second hand market you were now able to pick up EVs and E-REV fairly cheaply. Karl Anders said that batteries are not degrading anywhere near as quickly as expected. Industry is looking at the market for batteries after useful vehicle use.

Range and Performance

- Range is often not as predicted, like any car, you don't get the mpg the manufacturers claim.

Different charging methods

- 13 amp- Home charging- 8-12 Hours
- 16 amp, 32 amp- Fast charger- 6-8 Hours (16amp)- 3-4 Hours (32amp)
- 50 amp- Rapid charger- 30 Minutes

Karl Anders added that Ecotricity were planning on keeping the motorway charge points free of charge to use.

Green Homes Together – Becky James

Green Homes Together (GHT) is a Community Interest Company. They are delivering energy efficiency measures to domestic properties in a number of local authorities (West Berkshire being one of them).

Through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), GHT are able to offer up to 100% funding for loft and cavity wall insulation. Depending on the actual energy saving, the householder may have to make a

contribution. In most cases, the full cost will be covered. The cavity wall insulation will come with a 25 year guarantee. GHT will come and do a free survey to identify whether the work can be done for free or not.

It was asked if there is any data on the number of properties insulated in a particular area. Becky James said that the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have data on the number of properties insulated and Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) reports were available for most local authorities, which would give a more detailed picture, possibly down to ward.

GHT can be contacted on 0300 1113330 or www.greenhomestogether.org.uk

Becky James talked through the different types of ECO Funding available and briefly explained that the Green Deal was a loan for energy efficiency payments against a property.

Boilers and renewable energy stacked up well for Green Deal loans but many other measures didn't. GHT Assessors have also been vetted by GHT, as the assessor qualifications only involve a short course.

GHT prioritise working with local installers, including supporting them to gain PAS 2030 Certification, a requirement for Green Deal works.

GHT are offering:

- Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- Looking at packages, e.g. boiler replacement (Worcester, Bosch and Valliant boilers) for £2950 Inc VAT, using local suppliers, will launch in December.
- Green Deal Assessments

We discussed how the offers could be promoted. Parish magazines were thought to be the best way. Becky James will send copy to Evangeline Wood to distribute to members.

Sarah Jones thought that the Green Deal would take off when in 2018, landlord properties would have to be rated an E or above.

Energy update – Sarah Jones

Sarah Jones wanted to pass on ideas that could be passed on within the communities, simple things you could do to help with savings without incurring extra costs. She felt that many gas condensing boilers weren't condensing and therefore were inefficient. She wanted to concentrate on optimising heating of our properties, reducing heat need, costs and comfort.

Sarah Jones explained that most boilers in the UK run at the same flow temperature regardless of outside temperature. She suggested turning down the flow temperature until its 'cold' outside to keep condensing boilers condensing. She suggests having the minimum flow temperature you need to help keep your home comfortable (when it's not cold outside), rather than turning your thermostat down.

The colder it is outside, the quicker a building will lose heat. Running at a lower temperature for longer keeps the thermal mass warmer so Sarah suggest in most pre 70s buildings, keep the heating on and the boiler runs more efficiently. Lower temperature also reduces convection and hot air gathering at ceiling level and makes the room much more comfortable. There are boilers just coming to the market that have software to measure outside temperature. Some issue with boilers is that suppliers oversize them, different households have different needs and these are often not taken into account when sizing a boiler.