

## **Subject: Broughton Community Energy Update, September 2024**

Hi everybody,

It's been a few months since we last updated you about the Broughton Community Energy initiative. We've been making good progress.

### **Achievements to date**

We have:

- Established the Steering Group that is now meeting monthly
- Agreed on the BCE Vision and Objectives
- Secured the support of Broughton Parish Council and Test Valley Borough Council
- Engaged local action groups who are now supporting us, including Community Energy South, Dragonfly Power, and Energise South Downs

In addition, as a potential 'quick win', the Village Hall Committee has applied to Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), our local electricity distributor, for a grant to convert the village hall and shop's heating system to an air-source heat pump. If the application is successful, the heat pump will replace the current oil-fired heating and start reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **BCE Vision**

The Steering Group has agreed on the following Vision Statement:

"Our village is fuelled and powered entirely by sustainable, secure, zero-carbon energy, ensuring affordability and fairness for all."

### **BCE Objectives**

The Steering Group has agreed on the following objectives:

#### *Environmental*

- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our village
- Enable the cost-effective replacement of fossil fuel heating
- Support the transition to electric vehicles
- Contribute to broader regional and national goals for sustainable energy

#### *Economic*

- Reduce our energy costs
- Reduce energy poverty in our community
- Increase our energy security and resilience

## *Community*

- Provide a blueprint that inspires other communities to act
- Elevate community cohesion

## **Next steps**

- Distribute an Energy Questionnaire to all village residents to confirm our current energy usage and inform our decarbonisation strategy
- Run a Future Energy Landscapes Workshop in the village hall, facilitated by Energise South Downs, to understand community sentiment and get valuable input
- Apply to the government's Community Energy Fund for stage 1 funding to engage an expert consultancy to validate the feasibility and cost of achieving our objectives

The Energy Questionnaire will be sent to everyone within the next few weeks, and we'd appreciate it if you could complete it.

You'll also be receiving an invitation to the Future Energy Landscapes Workshop in November. It would be fantastic if we had maximum attendance.

We're committed to this being a community-led initiative, so if you'd like to understand more and contribute your thoughts, a member of the Steering Group would be delighted to talk to you individually or perhaps to some of the many active community groups we have in our village.

If you have feedback on the Vision or Objectives, want to set up a meeting, or have any other thoughts, please email:

[broughton.ce@outlook.com](mailto:broughton.ce@outlook.com).

We also have a BCE WhatsApp Group, and you can register your interest by joining it:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjfCzCFLF2HD3FZrpfF9zA>

Many thanks

Broughton Community Energy