



Esk Valley Community Energy Group

Minutes of Meeting
 Thursday 12th November 2009
 The Moors Centre, Danby

Present	Action
Geoff Banner, Pat Cambage, Tom Chadwick, Mike Ford, Mike Gilbert, Richard Gunton, Judie Holliday, Nick Hopwood, Peter Jones, Andrew Maisey, Dave Maloney, Colin Mather, , Ernst Nef, Emma Padmore, John Randles, Steve Smith, Debbie Trebilco, Geoff Walker, Paul Wood, Peter Woods	
Apologies	
Chris Milns	
Minutes of the last meeting	
Agreed as a true record.	
Welcome	
Colin welcomed all to the meeting and after everyone introduced themselves he declared delight at seeing community from further down the Esk Valley being represented at the meeting.	
National Park Small Grants Scheme	
Richard Gunton explained that the National Park had funding from Yorkshire Forward to support Renewable Energy projects in the Esk Valley, however because of the delays in the implementation of the hydro project at Ruswarp the funding can't be used for this project before the time limit expires, at the end of this financial year (March 2010). After discussions with Yorkshire Forward, who are keen to see this project go ahead, it now appears that this funding can be "leapfrogged" into 2011/12. Therefore the planned small grant scheme for the Esk Valley cannot be implemented. Members of the group worried that if the RDA were to be discontinued by the next government the funding would be lost forever.	
Department of Energy and Climate Change – Low Carbon Communities Challenge	
Richard Gunton outlined the DECC – LCCC, by showing a power point presentation as detailed below. Applications are being sought from Communities for £500,000 towards community project to reduce carbon emissions.	
Low Carbon Communities Challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECC research programme • Test best ways of achieving transition to low carbon living • 20 communities over 10 years • Around £500,000 per community (NB state aids) Eligible communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are a local authority/council, local strategic partnership or legally constituted third sector organisation. • You are a community already taking action or facing change. • You have the skills and resource to build on this action and develop integrated proposals – at community and household level • You have demonstrable grassroots support and participation 	

- You are committed to research, evaluation and learning

What they are looking for:

- Ability to deliver
- Integrated approach
- Build on and bring together learning, skills and resources
- Recognise communities as places
- Foster community leadership, involvement and partnerships
- Willingness to learn and capacity to quantify impacts
- Be replicable, equitable and sustainable

Timetable (Phase 2)

- Expression of interest : 28 October 2009
- Full application : 30 December
- Awards announced : 25 January 2010
- Workshops : February 2010
- Delivery : April 2010 – March 2011

Proposal

- Esk Energy / National Park Authority joint bid for a broad programme of efficiency, renewables, research and innovation
- EE implement their energy action plan (review?) Over period including April 2011 to include YF funds
- NPA act as banker and supporter
- Small groups to review action plan and develop bid?

The group unanimously agreed to apply for this grant, with the support of the National Park Authority.



Members vote to apply for LCCC funding.

In order to satisfy the State Aids regulation Richard proposes that the NP applies for the fund and holds it to allocate to Esk Energy. The money for the Ruswarp Hydro Turbine would be allocated as an interest free loan to be paid back from the income generated. Richard assured the group that this arrangement is entirely legitimate. This money would be put back into the community in the form of grants for households to improve insulation and install renewables, this would be administered by the NP until the loan was repaid then the allocation of grants would be the responsibility of the IPS. The aims of the NP allocation panel would be the same as those of the IPS (EE), and it is expected that EE would have a representative on the allocation panel. Richard thought it would be very helpful to have a working group similar to the Hydro

Group to assist the NP with the application process. Pat Cambidge and Steve Smith volunteered for this, Debbie and Andrew agreed to continue their development of the business plan.	
Wind Meeting	
Everyone is reminded that the Wind meeting is next week. Please encourage as many people as you can to attend.	All
Progress and feedback reports	
Hydro Planning permission has been granted, however the approval has not yet been issued. The acoustic report indicated that there were no noise concerns for the EHO.	
Abbeyfield Frustratingly the borehole drilling has been stopped. The water from the boreholes was judged by the EA to be contaminated and as it was flowing into the river they ordered the work to be stopped. Also some problems with the entrance bridge panels have been blamed on the drilling even though opinion is divided on what is to blame for these problems. Peter Woods will keep the meeting informed of progress.	PW
British Gas Green Streets – Funding bid	
Andrew and Pat together with Peter J attended the British Gas Green Streets evaluation panel at a hotel near Newcastle. Pat and Andrew did the presentation in the form of an Archers script. They were up against two other group, one from just outside Newcastle and another in the Northumberland NP. Sadly on this occasion the application was not successful, however the application may get funding as a “wild card” entry. Colin thanked Andrew and Pat for their efforts, with this application.	
10:10 Event Whitby	
Debbie, Mike, Tom, Peter and Steve attend this event and “manned” an Esk Energy stall. The event was to encourage people to sign up to reduce their carbon emissions by 2010. The event was well attended, and the stall had a number of enquiries.	
Financial Report	
Geoff reported that there had been no financial activity since he last made a report.	
AOB	
Consultation request Peter Woods has had an approach from a private consultant (Tony Yates who was the SBC Environment Officer, responsible for the heat pumps project) asking if Esk Energy would like act as sub-consultants on “How to manage getting funding” . Peter will get more details. He felt this was a good example of how the group@s reputation is spreading.	
Meeting Dates Recently the Thursday meeting dates have proved difficult for a number of the group especially for new members from further up the valley. Colin proposed moving the meetings to the first Wednesday in the month. All agreed to change the dates including the next meeting in December.	
The Wave Demonstration Steve Smith told the group about the Stop Climate Chaos demonstration due to take place in London on 5 th December and he gave details of transport arrangements from the area. For info www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave	
Details of next meeting	
The next meeting to be the Wind Evening Thursday 19th November in Danby Village Hall at 7.30pm. The next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd December 2009 in Danby Village Hall at 7.30pm	All CM/JH