

Transition Town Monthly Energy Group Meeting 5.2.12 7.30pm

8 Sydenham Avenue, L17 3AX

1. Attendance; Graham Arnold, Geoff Cunningham, Dinah Dossor, John Garrett, Jerry Spencer, Ed Tidy, Elizabeth Turp
2. Apologies; David White
3. Matters Arising:
 - a) Geoff reported on the last meeting of the city council Select Committee for Environment and Climate Change which he attended as an observer. The meeting was mainly concerned with bins and waste disposal, and generally had little focus with no clear coherent presentation and resolution. There appeared to be no energy plan for Liverpool. The issue of land currently not in use was raised. There was an agreed need for an up to date map and a list of public and private land available. Under the Localism Act due to come into force from April 2012, residents have a right to access this data held by PAMS (the Property and Asset Management Service headed by Nick Flannagan) and register interests. **ACTION** Geoff to follow this up.
There was also some discussion on local housing currently used as refuges for people with social needs.

Jerry pointed out that Liverpool will need an Environmental Action Plan to access the European Green Capital Fund. This has the potential for giving community groups the opportunity to help shape such policy since the Local Authority appears to have nothing coherent to present and lags far behind Manchester. NB. The Committee Clerk is Anne Coy.

- b) Jerry and Geoff had received a response to their query concerning the Dingle Cliffs Proposal for an onshore windfarm from Christine Darbyshire for the Council. Geoff had already circulated the short report prepared by Arup.
- c) Ullet Rd Eco Offices; Conservation and building control approvals now granted and window solution currently being tested.
- d) Big Lottery Communities Living Sustainably Programme: Several bids have been submitted from Merseyside, mainly focussed on food and fuel security, including the promotion of local growing. The Toxteth Bid Team of which Jerry is part consists of 15 people from 12 different groups (among others DMAC, DCLC, Granby Toxteth Development Trust, Urb Ed, Liverpool Food Alliance, Healthy Cities, Wilson Technologies, John Coyne, Billy Maxwell (city council neighbourhood team) and Ed Gommon) will continue to meet with a view to submitting a further bid for Awards for All Lottery to prepare a Transition Plan (consultation, planning). The area includes Princes Park, Lodge Lane East, Riverside Ward – a population of around 20,000 within the Granby Triangle. The outcome of the Living Sustainably Programme bid will be known at the end of February.
- e) Wavertree Playground (The Mystery) Renewable Energy project: JG currently has no time to lead on this, but intends to pick it up again once the Eco Office project is more advanced. Other volunteers very welcome in the meantime!
- f) The Avenues Neighbourhood Network (TANN) Conservation Rules Committee: see <http://www.tann.org.uk> The group has held two meetings to date and has sent a letter to the Council concerning planning refusals on replacement windows. They plan to discuss

this with the council and hopefully negotiate a compromise. They are also consulting with all local residents who live within conservation areas via a questionnaire to elicit their views on local planning, energy saving and conservation issues.

4. Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF): Jerry reported on the success of his bid, though he hadn't received written confirmation yet. The scheme was intended to encourage people to take up the Green Deal when it is introduced in the Autumn, LEAF has provided £40K to be spent by end of March to do energy assessments (energy generation plus efficiency). Community buildings are sought in which landlord might install but hasn't the money to do it, or hasn't the time to do energy study and submit applications for funding. The success of the LEAF project depends on how much the community engages in assessment activities, rather than the final outcome in terms of ultimate energy saving. The local plan is for 600 people to be engaged, of who 120 would get some energy advice e.g. EPCs done on their houses plus 8 – 10 studies on community buildings, to include churches and schools. Buildings which have already had an energy efficiency study done will be included, with these being refreshed as required. **ACTION FOR ALL:** Contact Jerry by e-mail with suitable contacts – housing associations, co-ops, owners of community buildings. A roster is also needed of people who are qualified to do energy efficiency assessments. Jerry can be contacted on jspencer4@toucansurf.com
5. Green Deal - Geoff had heard that Green Deal funding could come in at a costly 6 – 8% which would badly reduce its effectiveness.
6. Dolls House- a meeting has been arranged with Dinah, Elizabeth and Dolls Hospital proprietor Mike on Tuesday 7th February to progress work.
7. Solar PV Feed In Tariff: The supreme court found in favour of Friends of the Earth and the Solar PV trade associations, but the government will appeal, so it is uncertain what rate recently installed systems will be at. Another change to be introduced from March is that each house needs an EPC rating of D or less to qualify for full FIT rates. This was considered unacceptably high and will disqualify many otherwise suitable older houses. Dinah's has risen from G to borderline D/E but only through a large number of energy saving improvements, for example. The new ruling will not be applied retrospectively as far as anyone knows.
8. Transition Café- meeting Feb 8th on Green Deal 6.30 for food 7.15 for Dave White's talk. At the Quaker Meeting House School Lane.
9. News items: The National Trust is promoting Low Carbon Village schemes see nationaltrust.org.uk/LCV
10. Graham's PV analysis (now comprising 15 generators in the TANN and surrounding areas): He's noted big variations in winter generation between south facing and W/E facing installations. **ACTION:** Jerry to e-mail details of two websites which calculate solar energy taking into account altitude, location, wattage and orientation. Graham has now started to work out tons of CO₂ saved by his solar energy systems against his carbon expenditure.
11. Update from David White, who wrote to Dinah with his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting: "As you may recall, I'm currently contracting as a project manager with Plus Dane Housing Association on some retrofit/renewable energy projects, covering solid wall insulation, PV and solar thermal amongst other things. The initial contract is coming to an end on 17 February, but has been extended for another three

months, albeit with a four week break so I'll be re-starting with Plus Dane from mid-March on a part-time basis.

This break gives me an opportunity to focus on something else that I have a particular interest in, namely the setting up of a Green Deal social enterprise to enable local companies and tradespeople to access Green Deal work. Any "profits" would be re-invested back into the local community, for example as seed money for other energy efficiency or sustainable community projects.

I've already spoken to Wirral Borough Council, who are interested in having further discussions and will be speaking to Sefton BC in a couple of weeks' time. I'm also meeting with Peter Owen, CEO of Energy Projects Plus in Wallasey, who run the local CERT-funded cavity and loft insulation programme here on the Wirral amongst other things, as it's something they're also interested in and we're going to have an initial discussion to see how we could work together on this".

12. Next meeting Sunday 4th March