

Energy Group Minutes of Meeting September 14th 2014 7.30 pm Ullet Road Offices

1. Attendance: John Garrett, Elizabeth Turp, Dinah Dossor
2. Apologies: Graham Arnold, Ed Gommon
3. Minutes of last meeting: approved
4. Regeneration Select Committee; JG Geoff Cunningham has been nominated as an expert non voting member of the committee; however the committee has decided on a pool of experts of which Geoff is one. The Avenues Neighbourhood Network proposal to relax the current sash window rules was discussed and rejected. The planning officer's paper proposed that the rules stay as they are, but Conservation Areas be reduced in size to take out areas of smaller terraced housing which now had non-compliant windows. He also proposed that, within Toxteth Park and Avenues, Gresford, Hawarden and Rossett should be taken out of the Conservation area. JG had pointed out that this would only marginally reduce the proportion of windows which are already casement. Furthermore, the residents have been fully canvassed and wish all streets to be treated equally. Tom Crone put forward an amendment that further discussion be held, that the policies of other local authorities be investigated and that further canvassing be carried out of residents' views and the vote on this was not carried. Tom's amendment was rejected by the committee and the officer's proposal endorsed, and will become council policy. The matter will be taken to the next TANN meeting on 21st September.
5. Mayoral Commission on Environmental Sustainability: no further progress.
6. North West Community Energy Networking Company: JG Network Event and Launch held on Wednesday 10th September, the Quaker Meeting House. EG would give a fuller report on the event and its outcomes at the next Energy Group meeting. However, it had been a well-attended and successful event. FOE gave a presentation on German practice which has been so successful that large energy companies are being bypassed. Presentations were also given by, among others, Energysare, who have helped set up many dozens of community energy cooperatives, Leapfrog, a London based organization which supports and carries out legal work for community energy generation, Jerry Spencer on the Princes Court installation. Christine Derbyshire and Billy Maxwell attended from the local authority, representatives from the Alt Valley community enterprise scheme (2 wind turbines), and John Coyne attended from the Green Party. L8 Living Sustainably were also present.
7. Dolls House: DD, ET. The Dolls House was taken to the Wirral Earth Fest in West Kirby. DD will contact local schools with a view to offering use of the Dolls House in environmental studies.
8. Transition Café: DD. The Autumn Programme, Envisioning the Future, has been circulated and will be attached to this month's minutes. The next meeting on September 10th at the Quaker Meeting House School Lane will be on Community renewable energy the in north-west, the development of a local community interest company which aims to put solar installations on public buildings. Speaker Ed Gommon
9. Linking up: discussion commenced on the advantages of linking up with other related organizations such as FOE, or the Chamber of Commerce Energy Group. Transition Café viewed as one opportunity to work across local organisations with the same agenda.
10. News Items:
 - a) On September the 21st, the day world leaders meet, people across the globe will take to the streets. It will be the biggest climate march in history - aimed at convincing politicians to do what's needed. Details of the London march can be found on 38 degrees website.
 - b) 19.4% of all electricity generated during the first quarter of this year was from renewable according to DECC. Offshore wind went up by 53% and onshore by 62%. The Solar share of renewable capacity is 17%.

11. Next Meeting: October 12th 7.30 at Ullet Road Eco Offices.