

Questions and comments gathered from the Chat on 26th September 2020

Energy – Morning session

Cadent published a report on their current hydrogen blending pilot this week. See their website.
Robert Humphreys

Gina Conde-Taylor : Re investment, Shropshire Council's annual budget is set out and broken down on page 25 of this doc. <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/14656/medium-term-financial-strategy.pdf> Their 'Universal' category plus Housing plus Planning covers a lot of areas with competing priorities, and climate change initiatives sit within these ... How do you think we can influence to prioritise these initiatives and what services are we prepared to have lose out?

There's a map and data for Shropshire Council solar PV here:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-change-and-sustainability/solar-photovoltaics-pv/>

The current self generation scheme encourages Solar PV users to buy batteries which use even more resources. Would it be better to have a more generous Feed In Tarriff system so that we export our surplus power to the community instead.

Cabon CoOp webinars are a wonderful resource on Retrofit <https://carbon.coop/carbon-co-op-webinar-programme/>

Do we have a register of Pas2035 qualified people to do the retrofit work?

Trusted Installers - is there a list somewhere of local trusted installers?

Philip Dunne : On installers: there are 100,000 registered gas installers, only 1,000 heat pump installers across UK. There is urgent need to increase training for installers.... UK currently install 30,000 heat pumps per year, France 150,000. There is significant opportunity as policy initiative will phase out fossil fuel home heating over next 10-15 years. So current GHG scheme which lasts for only 6 months is just the beginning. Govt consulting on Heat & Buildings Strategy, I expect out Q1 2021, which will inform longer term policy measures to help establish means for the 19 million existing homes currently below EPC C, to be retrofitted

Gordon Coppock : For Hydrogen as a ' fuel ' to be burnt instead of methane in CH boilers we need to be very clear on the total carbon lifecycle analysis - just as was discussed in the transport section. Also if Hydrogen is created by excess of renewables energy then the overall efficiency needs to be considered. Be very suspicious of any gas company offering 'Green' Hydrogen.

Charlie Bell : Statement rather than question - people living in conservation areas are very limited in what they can do to increase the energy efficiency of homes, e.g. solar panels, double glazing etc are not permitted at the front of my home. Need to find a way of balancing the need for increasing efficiency with maintaining historic area character.

We've just joined the Listed Building Property Owners Club (£48/yr); their conservation advisor can help re energy efficiency measures that are likely to meet the more stringent requirements for listed buildings.

STEM learning especially your local STEM Ambassador Hub. This organisation exists to promote these issues in schools <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/about/academic-schools/school-of-education/services-for-schools/stem-ambassador-hub-west-midlands/>

In Lightfoot we've developed an Energy Diary for schools which has had an enthusiastic response from teachers - there's a keen teachers group for sustainability.

Do we need to be building communities rather than homes- planned communities with shared spaces. gardens, transport, etc. The shared space use would reduce individual heat of buildings.

There are passive house builders and architects (AECB) in Herefordshire. HGN will soon have a reference website on this, in the meantime can give info if needed.

Mike Hymas : Andy Perkins is proprietor Energy Zone, Cleobury Mortimer and one of the contractors Stretton Climate care works with

Robert Saunders : Wrekin Housing Group also working with AceOn (Telford) on solar PV / battery / Smart home systems + Passive Haus building in Telford

Gordon Coppock : For info re the passive house specialists, we are lucky enough to have one of their offices and people in Hereford : <https://www.architype.co.uk/>

You mentioned the pasivhaus home in Much Wenlock - which I understand were built or supported by a housing association. Is this the only example of passivhaus in the county - and how can/should we expect passivhaus buildings to be financed? Do you know the dates by which higher standards in house building will come into effect nationally, and will they be passivhaus standards?

Mike Hymas : Simon has pointed out we need more wind power. as drafted the Shropshire Local Plan will prevent the development of all wind power. This would only be possible if a Neighbourhood Plan or similar put it forward-possibly a 5 year process! If you want further details send to info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk

Apprenticeships for young to be involved would also be great!

Are there enough building assessors and skilled builders / installers available to reach 2030 targets?