

transition news

July 2010

Generating support for community renewables

Action on local renewable energy projects in south Warwickshire took a step forward at a conference on community ownership, held in Warwick on Saturday 26 June.

The conference was sponsored by Sustainable Action Stratford, Transition Stratford, the Renewable Energy Club Warwickshire, Transition Leamington and Action 21. Participants heard from expert speakers and took part in mapping workshops to explore the potential for renewable energy in Stratford and Warwick districts.

Bernard Perkins, from the Leamington-based consultancy Encraft, began the conference with a review of renewable energy technologies and their strengths and weaknesses. He was followed by Jacky Lawrence from Warwickshire County Council, who summarised the findings of recent research into the potential for renewable energy in Warwickshire. This concluded that there may be substantial scope for renewable en-

ergy projects in the south of the county, especially in Stratford district.

Jon Hallé of Energy4All, a non-profit organisation that promotes co-operative ownership of renewable energy projects, reviewed the commercial criteria for successful investment in renewable energy, explaining how the new Feed-In-Tariffs are likely to impact on financial viability.

The conference then heard from Sean Wheeldon of Wessex Community Assets about options for setting up an organisation to invest in renewable energy on behalf of local communities.

The conference concluded with participants deciding to begin work on setting up such an organisation. For more information about these plans, or about the conference itself, contact Barbara Cooper from Transition Stratford on 01789 298503 or through admin@transitionstratford.com.

Dates for your diary

Mon 23 August @ 7.30: Transition Stratford Steering Group meeting (please ring 01789 298503 for details)

Sat 4/Sun 5 Sept: Small Is... Festival 2010, Schumacher Centre for Technology & Development, Bourton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire (see back page for more info)

Sun 12 Sept: Transition Stratford stall at Clopton Community Forum Fun Day, Hodgsons Green, Justins Avenue CV37 0DA

Mon 20 Sept @ 7.30: Transition Stratford Annual General Meeting (venue tbc, please note change of date)

Coming soon.....

Other planned Transition Stratford events for the Autumn include:

Fruit forage and preserving session — a communal teach-in on edible wild foods and making jams and chutneys

Harvest Home celebration at Lifeways—a change for all gardeners and growers to get together to enjoy the harvest

Film Fridays— new season: let us know what you would like to see (or see again)

Energy Champions in action



The first Energy Champions are out and about following training in Stratford on Saturday 12 June.

Energy Champions receive training to enable them to help friends and neighbours to save money as energy costs continue to rise. Backed up by Warwickshire's energy

efficiency advice service, Act on Energy, Energy Champions help people to take realistic and affordable steps to make their home more energy efficient.

The Energy Champions scheme has been set up by Transition Stratford and Transition Shipston, working with Act on Energy and Stratford District Council. Following the first training session — and as the first Energy Champions try out their new skills — the training package is being re-fined, and more training is planned in the autumn. For more details, contact transition Stratford on 01789 298503 or e-mail admin@transitionstratford.com.

Electric bus a first for Stratford

Stratford will see a pioneering trial of an electric bus on a commercial bus route later this month, when Johnsons Coaches replace one of the diesel-engined vehicles on the 222 Park-and-Ride to Trinity Mead service with an all-electric equivalent.



Transition Stratford has been involved in some of the planning discussions for the trial, which will test how the bus performs under normal operating conditions, as well as gathering the views of passengers and the public about electric buses.

Transition Stratford supporters can see – and ride on - the bus, and talk to those involved in the trial at the Bishopston Park and Ride on Friday 23 July between 9.00 and 11.00.

Small Is...coming soon!

There will be a great opportunity to see Transition thinking in practice at the Small Is...Festival on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September.

Organised by the development charity Practical Action and Engineers Without Borders UK, the festival will take place at the Schumacher Centre for Technology & Development near Rugby. It will feature a huge range of displays and practical workshops including micro-hydro, composting loos, art activities, charcoal burning, wind turbines, organic gardening and seed saving, climate change adaptation training, solar

Growing opportunity

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council is asking for views on how it can increase local opportunities for food growing.

The Town Council is the allotments authority for the town, but does not itself run allotment sites or own land suitable for food-growing. Transition Stratford has been working with the Town Council to help prepare a new policy on allotments, which has now been approved for public consultation.

Under the policy, developers seeking planning permission will be encouraged to provide adequate gardens or growing space in new housing developments, or otherwise to make land available for allotments. The policy will also open the way for the Town Council to acquire land on lease for use as allotments. Members of the public have already identified pieces of unused land around the town that could potentially be used for growing and Transition Stratford is helping the Town Council to survey them.

The Town Council is also proposing to improve public awareness of local growing opportunities, including how to apply for an allotment and the availability of alternatives such as Transition Stratford's Garden Share scheme.

Copies of the draft policy are available from Stratford-on-Avon Town Council on 01789 269332. The deadline for comments is early September.



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