

Minutes of the energy subgroup meeting held on 29 March 2013 at the Angel, Llandeilo:

Present: Paul Thomas, Neil Lewis, David Thorpe, Candace Browne. Apologies: Jo Horsley, Edward Thomas, Anson Allan, Tim Pullen

We agreed our general aims and modus operandi as follows:

Structure:

Transition Town Llandeilo contracts myself, David, under the auspices of Renew Wales, to act as a mentor for the project.

Individual members of the energy subgroup may operate also as representatives of Rural Development Plan, Menter Bro Dinefwr, Menter Cwm Gwendraeth, Environment Wales, Llandeilo Town Council, The Peoples Assembly of Llandeilo, and Carmarthenshire County Council, (from whom section 106 funding might be obtainable at some point in the future).

Our aim is to reach out to as many groups in the area as possible to avoid duplicating activities and to maximise support. Further members representing other groups or businesses are most welcome to join this steering group.

Aims:

The aims of the project are:

- to promote energy efficiency to get people to reduce their energy use;
- to get them to consider replacing their existing light bulbs with LEDs;
- to get to look at quick wins for energy efficiency such as draught proofing;
- to advise them on sources of finance, whether grants or cheap loans;
- to point them to contractors in the area who might carry out more advanced measures;
- to advise them on installing renewable energy, whether renewable heat or electricity.

Approach:

It is thought that the best initial approach to members of the community should be an offer to help them reduce their energy bills, since this is a matter of general paramount concern.

It is also thought that we should target significant businesses and individuals in the community, who are held in wide regard, who might stand as an example to others

Candace Browne offered her house in town on Diana Road as an exemplar for some measures that others could implement themselves. We would organise an open day for interested members of the public to come along.

We would approach one of the major energy companies such as Centrica or EDF to ask them if they would like to prioritise Llandeilo for the Energy Company Obligation home energy efficiency improvement measures they legally have to carry out, to make Llandeilo an exemplar town for Wales.

We would also seek a farm exemplar to appeal to the farming community. One farm was on the eco-homes network last year.

We would also approach Age Concern with an offer to present to them.

Paul Thomas from Menter Cwm Gwendraeth noted that there was also funding available for surveys on energy, food, transport and waste.