

Report on Zero Carbon Communities Grant Information Evening - 4th September 2019

Grants of £1000 to £15000 are available to parish councils and volunteer groups to enable them to deliver projects that address the issue of carbon emissions. The SCDC has made a pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050 and this grant is part of it.

Projects need to satisfy all of the following:

- community engagement
- a shift towards zero carbon emissions

Examples of shift towards carbon emissions could include:

- reduced energy use
- generation of renewable energy
- promotion of sustainable travel
- reduce use of resources
- increase recycling
- reduce waste

Funding can be used for capital items or project costs including staff time.

Examples of projects include:

- energy improvements for community building (solar cells, insulation etc) + some sort of community engagement activity to celebrate it like a relevant film evening
- information leaflet on how to keep home warm in winter
- community energy project such as wind turbine or solar farm (top up/extra funding available)
- new cycle racks + some sort of community cycling event
- electric vehicle charging point (top up/extra funding available)
- repair cafes, swishing (clothes swapping) etc

The event was well-attended by volunteer groups and some parish councils. A lot of the groups have already been engaging in similar projects using different funding sources, some from the SCDC including the community chest grants.

They are looking for ambitious projects that engage the community. There is a maximum of £91000 available and given that HPC do not currently have any specific goals, I think the 31st October deadline will be too soon. However, I strongly recommend that the HPC start taking steps towards building a project for next year and/or approaching some smaller scale projects using the community chest grants (projects funded up to £1000). This could include thinking about sustainability of new community centre and applying next year. This could be a great opportunity to engage the wider community with the issue and the village by creating a working group.

In summary, my recommendations are:

- advertise on website, Facebook + Hardwick Happenings for ideas (+ members for a working group)
- set up a carbon emissions working group
- implement a smaller scale project this year using a community chest grant (<£1000)
- put together a proposal for next year
- think about how to couple this with other projects such as community centre, improvements to play areas or skate parks etc.

For more information see SCDC website:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-development/grants/zero-carbon-communities-grant/>

Regards,

Cllr Dr EM Croft