**Wiltshire Climate Alliance**

**Energy Group meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday February 16th 2021**

**Present; 16 participants**

1. James Gladding had kindly organised a presentation by Alex Howison and Sian Hughes from SSE about network capacity issues and what is being done with flexibility and support for new projects within the grid constraints. The presentation was recorded and will be available on the WCA website as will contact details for Alex and Sian. SSE are in the process of updating their website with maps and schematics and have a Youtube channel with webinars and presentations. They also run surgeries to advise people setting up new projects.
2. Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency Anniversary: WCA report and

communications plan and Local Plan consultation energy aspects were discussed briefly along with the Danny Kruger Climate summit on Friday 19th February. WCA are sending in comments for the local plan and consultations. WCA members are strongly encouraged to respond to the consultation.

1. Onshore Wind. The BWCE website has links to the Centre for Sustainable Energy’s research on concerns about wind power <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/planning/renewables/common_concerns_about_wind_power.pdf>

It seems that those who oppose wind turbines are a very small but vocal minority.

It was suggested that Wiltshire Council could fund a map like this one; <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/Evidence-Base/Sustainability/landscape_sensitivity_analysis_for_wind_energy.pdf>

The link between higher turbines and more efficiency was discussed and was noted that commercial turbines need to be above 130 meters.

1. EV Car Club update. Tisbury car club is still on hold during lockdown. It was noted that Co- Wheels, who run clubs in north Wiltshire are no longer a social enterprise as they have been bought out by Europcar. They also ask a lot of money upfront to set up a car club. The key to success according to Co-Wheels is population density and availability of public transport as a backup, so people feel comfortable getting rid of their first (or at least second) car. Co-wheels suggest a successful club needs minimum of 30 or more active users and a breakeven utilisation of 23%. Bradford on Avon is currently running a survey in conjunction with BWCE to assess local demand. Apparently the Swindon car club is experiencing low usage.
2. It was noted that there are RCEF grants available for feasibility studies in rural areas <https://www.swenergyhub.org.uk/energy-fund/>

South west Energy Hub are administering the grants and are encouraging groups to apply for grants to look at grid flexibility and renewable energy technologies.

1. It was noted that Regen have webinars and podcasts and also host EWIRE (entrepreneurial women in renewable energy) <https://www.regen.co.uk/area/women-in-renewables/>
2. Ideas for future discussion included retrofitting, referral systems to advise people on potential renewable technologies, diversity and inclusiveness in renewable energy.
3. **Next meeting to be Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7pm**