

Eco Vision Group – Meeting 21st January 2020

Attendees: Alison Moulden, Carolyn Nicholls, Rebecca Brown, Trish Tye, Rob Burch

Carbon neutral 2030

Alison updated the meeting on the General Synod's decision for the Church of England to be carbon neutral by 2030. Ultimately, this isn't just about our energy usage, but also things like cut flowers for church and the food that we serve.

TerraCycle

Our proposal to be a TerraCycle collection point has been agreed by PCC last night. The PCC will want an update in May on how it is going. The collection bins are to be positioned under the community board towards the back of the foyer.

Action Trish: to make some informational leaflets; update the website.

Action Alison: to make posters.

Action Alison: to bring some clear recycling bags for the bins.

Bug hotel

The PCC also agreed the building of a bug hotel, with its position to be decided in conjunction with the Premises Vision Group.

Church and hall energy use

Rob has been looking at the church and hall energy use (not vicarage), back to beginning of 2018. Gas, as expected, is high in Q1 each year with late summer using virtually nothing. Q4 the electricity use starts building up again.

In the winter, the church electricity use is pretty high. We have night storage heaters in use. There is also a heater in the loo, which we're not sure has any controls (other than on/off).

Action Trish: ask Dave Mowat how we can control the loo heater.

If we had smart meters on the electricity meters, we would have more information and could isolate high usage appliances.

Action Trish: to see if we can get electricity smart meter for the church and hall.

Trish reported that St Nics have spoken with a broker who can get them 100% green gas and electricity, for cheaper than their current tariffs.

Action Trish: to get details of the brokers.

In the hall, the electricity is again pretty high in the winter. We have electric heaters in the loos and the foyer. We think these are on timers. Energy use is 3-4 x as much in the winter than the summer. There is a big problem with the external hall front doors which have a big gap and don't close well. Premises are looking into replacing them.

Premises are also in the process of getting internet controls on the hall heating.

Solar Panels

Alison has been speaking with Simon Doran. There are installations where you also have a lithium battery to store the energy on-site in lithium battery storage units. There is a question on how environmentally sound batteries are. This needs further research.

[Wey Valley Solar](#) work with schools for solar power. The initial installation is free and the energy is sold back to the grid. Over time, this pays off the installation.

Carolyn mentioned that there are some issues with having solar panels in Onslow Village as it is a conservation area. We think there are issues with having them on the front of the building. Need to investigate.

Action Trish: talk with Juliette Evans re. what grants are available for projects like solar panel installation.

Action: Alison and Simon to continue discussions.

Ground source heat pumps

This is another option that we need to look at. These tend to take longer to pay back and can have an impact on the radiators that are used. Having the field makes this a potentially viable option. We could consider including the residents who surround the field.

Air source also an option, but likely to be more expensive.

Insulation in the Church

Whatever we do in terms of heating, we also need to improve the insulation in the church. Alison mentioned that the Church Times had an article re. using plexiglass for window insulation. Carolyn suggested that the roof is more of a challenge than the top windows. The top windows are on the Premises agenda.

Joint group to look at energy

It was decided that we should have a joint Eco/Premises group to look at heating and insulation solutions as a whole.

Suggested group membership: Alison, Rob, Simon and Robin. Perhaps also Graham Brown.

Vicarage pond

Trish has spoken with Beverly about having a pond in the Vicarage garden. Andy is happy to work on this, with others.

Action Alison: to ask Andy for some costings and size (in negotiation with Beverly)

Community Day in September

Premises are keen to encourage the sorting out of the bottom of the field. On the Churchwardens forum, Carolyn found the idea of a Community Day. We would involve the community in doing the bottom of the field. This would be combined with an apple crushing event and a BBQ.

Carolyn's thoughts for the area so far are:

- Rather than scrub and brambles, we have native hedging
- Include an orchard with (small) fruit bearing trees, also trees such as hazels, sweet chestnuts etc
- Flowering wild meadow in the grassy area.
- Possibly bees – with the help of a beekeeper.
- Move grass heap and manage grass cuttings better.
- Compost more sensibly with chopped brown stuff.
- Bug house

Not wilding as such, but land management that is attractive and useful. Better to have the bug house down in this area.

The day in September will be for clearing the area. We will then have another day in November to do the planting.

Hedgehogs – Alison has checked the fences around the fields and there are gaps in the majority.

We should communicate with the neighbours and perhaps consult with them on our plans.

Alison is trying to plan a talk by her brother for XR. We should consider holding the talk at church either on this weekend, or at another suitable time.

Rebecca reported that OVRA are looking at planting trees for the centenary. It may be that we can coordinate our tree buying with them.

Actions:

- Consult with Premises
- Do some more research – include Andy Wells, Carolyn and Rebecca
- Produce a plan

[Next meeting](#)

17th March, 7.30 p.m. at Alison's.