



Dan Payne <danpayne69@gmail.com>

Fwd: BCE Update - great news!

1 message

Dan Payne <danpayne69@gmail.com>

25 February 2025 at 12:05

To: broughton-hants@gaggle.email

Hi,

Following the January update below, here's another quick update on the progress Broughton Community Energy (BCE) is making.

- Our confidence is growing that the **UK Government will top-up the Community Energy Fund (CEF)**, and we will receive the £40k grant we've been allocated in the Spring. This will be used to fund a full feasibility study of local electricity generation options.
- One of the most significant risks to the viability of any generation project is the ability to connect to the electricity grid. We are **continuing discussions with SSEN**, our Distribution Network Operator, to understand the risks and identify what actions we can take to reduce them. Broughton Parish Council has generously agreed to fund a connection feasibility study (to be refunded on receipt of the grant).
- We are **finalising the Statement of Work with the Prospus Group**, which we selected to guide us through the feasibility study (<https://prospus.co.uk/>). This will ensure they are clear about our expectations and their responsibilities.
- In addition to the generation project, we're progressing our ambition to **provide trusted energy advice** on household energy efficiency, heat pumps, available grants, and more. More information will be available soon. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who has already investigated any of these areas, whether they proceeded with them or not.
- We're investigating **incorporating BCE as a Community Benefit Society (CBS)**. Our village shop is a CBS. A CBS is specifically designed for organisations that benefit the community rather than prioritising profit for individual members. Each member has an equal vote, ensuring democratic governance and that all voices are heard. Profits generated must be reinvested or used to further its community objectives rather than distributed to members. CBS assets cannot be disposed of for the benefit of members; they must be retained for the community's benefit. A CBS is regulated by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which ensures transparency and accountability in its operations.
- We have the **beginnings of the website** that we'll expand as we make progress (<https://broughtoncommunityenergy.co.uk/>).

We're committed to this being a community-led initiative, so if you'd like to learn more and contribute your thoughts, a member of the Steering Group would be delighted to speak with you.

If you have feedback, questions, or other thoughts, please email:

broughton.ce@outlook.com

We also have a BCE WhatsApp Group. You can register your interest in the project and receive regular updates by joining it:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjfCzCFLF2HD3FZrpfF9zA>

Many thanks
Broughton Community Energy

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Dan Payne** <danpayne69@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 12 Jan 2025 at 16:18
Subject: BCE Update - great news!
To: <broughton-hants@gaggle.email>

Hi,

This is a quick update about Broughton Community Energy (BCE).

As many of you know, on 27th November, we hosted a Future Energy Landscapes workshop in our village hall, supported by Energise South Downs. The primary aim was to better understand our community's sentiment about the possibility of generating our own clean, secure, and affordable electricity.

The workshop was very well attended. The participants have already received the summary report that Energise South Downs produced for us. In keeping with our promise of transparency, we want to share the findings with you all. The full report is attached.

Summary of the key findings:

- There was almost universal support for BCE's vision and objectives
- Solar and wind power were the preferred options to investigate further
- Attendees were surprised at how little land is needed to meet our current and future energy demands
- There was a strong preference for any generation site to be located away from the centre of the village, towards the North East or South West
- We must continue to ensure that residents will benefit from the project

Of course, we haven't assumed that the attendees' views fully represent those in our community, so we will continue to consult widely as we proceed.

In addition, our application to the government's Community Energy Fund (CEF) has been successful, which is great news! **We've been awarded £40k to undertake a full feasibility study.** The funding should be available in the Spring. We've already selected a small specialist consultancy to guide us through this process.

We're committed to this being a community-led initiative, so if you'd like to learn more and contribute your thoughts, a member of the Steering Group would be delighted to speak with you.

If you have feedback, questions, or other thoughts, please email:

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Many thanks
Broughton Community Energy

 **Broughton FEL report Nov 2024.pdf**
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