



Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund: Dereham Community Report

July 2022



VATTENFALL

Vattenfall - Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund

Report of workshop at Toftwood Social Club

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The meeting was held at Toftwood Social Club, Shipdham Road, Dereham on Thursday 28th July between 6pm and 8pm.

1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting

This was the fifth workshop for local residents, forming part of a dialogue that is expected to continue over the coming year, aimed at shaping Vattenfall's Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund.

The first workshop was held at the Necton Rural Community Centre earlier this year, followed by events in Happisburgh, Reepham and Aylsham. To view a summary report from the first phase of dialogue and each of the other workshops, please visit the Community Benefit pages of the project website: <https://bit.ly/NorfolkZoneCBF>.

The purpose of the workshops was to share the broad parameters of the Community Benefit Fund, discuss locally appropriate climate smart community ideas that local residents might have, and review and build on the findings of the first phase of dialogue (the 'Give My View' survey).

2. Workshop detail

The workshop began with a warm welcome from Will Sealey, Vattenfall's Local Liaison Officer, who then gave a very brief project update on the Norfolk Zone projects before introducing Vattenfall's collaborative approach to establishing a Community Benefit Fund. Will also described the key findings of the phase one Community Benefit Fund Survey - Give My View, summarising specific results from respondents in Breckland.

A second presentation showcased the [Unlock our Future Fund](#) - which is attached to Vattenfall's Aberdeen Bay Offshore Wind Farm, the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) - and the community projects it supports in Scotland. While the differences between Vattenfall's Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm and Norfolk Zone were pointed out, this session highlighted similarities in approach to establishing the two funds.

Foundation Scotland, administrators of the Unlock our Future Fund, outlined key parts of the process involving communities and stakeholders in shaping and setting up the fund, such as appointing a local panel of decision-makers to determine which projects would be funded. They also shared some lessons learned during the four years the fund has been in operation and described case studies of community projects. Community members reflected on, and chatted about, what they had heard and then took part in a group reflection activity which was followed by a Q&A session - see section five.

The main workshop session involved small group discussions with residents, initially exploring the characteristics of the communities they live in, the activities they enjoy, what is important to them, and their priorities for the future. These groups then shared their ideas for climate smarter community living, discussed potential barriers to maximising the opportunities presented by funds of this type, and considered the kind of support that could help them develop great projects that would deliver lasting benefits for their communities. Participants noted their views, ideas and comments on worksheets and post-it notes. Please see the appendix for examples of the feedback received.

In total, 12 residents and stakeholders attended the event. The attendees comprised residents representatives of local community & Scout groups, as well as local councillors and parish councillors. The slides that we presented during the workshop can be found on our project webpage here: <https://bit.ly/NorfolkZoneCBF>.



3. Participants' initial climate smarter community ideas

The idea-sharing session was framed by the earlier presentations, and clarified further through the Q&A session - the fundamental criteria surrounding the fund at present are simply:

- To support locally appropriate, climate smart community initiatives. Eligible ideas could involve investing in community facilities e.g. community spaces or transport, and activities to ensure they are fit for the future (i.e. helping to reduce energy consumption through installing energy-saving measures/technology, promoting sustainable development, helping communities adapt to the effects/reduce further contributions to climate change, and helping the natural environment regenerate)
- To ensure a legacy and lasting impact, which clearly brings benefit to the local community

Group discussions initially responded to the following question:

What ideas do you have to help your community live a climate smarter life?

A summary of the key themes from this session is outlined below.

Rural connectivity and smart transport

- Support electrified community bus and community car services
- Create solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging points
- Build solar speed signs

Energy efficiency and renewable energy generation

- Support Parish Council-led carbon reduction initiatives
- Improve insulation in older/community buildings
- Install air source heat pumps and solar panels
- Help make the Scouts & Guides buildings more sustainable

Education and green skills initiatives

- An extension of/improvement of Circular Week
- Improve outdoor spaces
- Engage with local schools – strengthen links to encourage interest in careers in wind energy and renewables
- Back local carbon neutral initiatives
- Help educate school children on renewable energy
- Support the introduction of eco-hubs and ‘green experience’ projects
- Establish a place for the community to meet and grow food
- Assist in establishing a local Forest School

Climate smart rural living

- Install green roofs and rainwater collection systems
- Create community gardens
- Construct composting toilets
- Help progress plans for the development of community greenspace e.g. woodland
- Explore opportunities for wildflower meadows and re-wilding

Additional ideas and discussion points

- Engage with children, they are the future!
- Involve young people in the Community Benefit Fund dialogue and development of ideas
- Help improve the provision of local services and amenities for young and elderly people in rural areas
- Address obstacles presented by communities having a limited number of volunteers to help develop their ideas and deliver projects
- Provide opportunities for match-funding and other types of grants
- Giving Parish Councils a role in directing the fund
- Support local community-focused projects

4. Additional Feedback

- Some attendees provided positive comments about Vattenfall’s intent shown to involve the community
- Many residents mentioned the importance of addressing the energy efficiency challenges posed by older buildings
- Several attendees expressed concerns that their community will be limited by its small number of volunteers that have enough time to develop their ideas and deliver projects

5. Q&A session

Here is a summary of the key topics covered during the Q&A session and at other points during the workshop. We will capture these alongside questions raised by other communities during the ongoing dialogue in a regularly updated FAQ document hosted on the Norfolk Zone website: <https://bit.ly/NorfolkZoneCBF>.

Q: Will some communities have a ringfenced fund? If so, who will decide how the money is allocated and ringfenced?

A: This is yet to be decided. In our experience, it is not always beneficial in the long term, but we are open to it, including potentially for an initial period. The £15 million fund associated with the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas projects will be one of the largest funds provided by offshore wind projects in the UK to date, so there will be plenty of opportunities for communities to benefit. The key now is for communities to start thinking about what they want and need to improve community life and achieve climate smarter community living.

Q: Who can apply for the fund? Is it possible for homeowners and local businesses to apply?

A: Normally, applications must be made by a community group and/or registered charity, but we will continue to monitor this element of the criteria throughout the dialogue process. A collaborative approach to applications and a broader way of thinking can mean inclusion of a wide variety of individuals, organisations and groups within one community. For example, other Vattenfall community benefit funds have supported applications from community initiatives that requested funding to explore energy efficiency improvements for different types of buildings in their village.



Q: Will the fund support applications to help purchase land if that land for projects?

A: Yes, that could be possible provided that the accompanying project proposal is also supportable. The applicant would be expected to demonstrate that other elements of the project are legally robust and that necessary permits and permissions are in place or are achievable e.g. change of use or planning permission.

Q: How will the administrative body and local panel be chosen?

A: We will look at organisations that exist locally and already administer similar schemes, and appoint a suitable administrative body. Using an experienced body helps to keep overheads down and improve efficiencies. A good administrative body can also help communities look for match funding and optimise funding in other ways too. We welcome community views on this topic, but Vattenfall will appoint and manage the contract with the administrative body. When the community consultation is more advanced, we know more about community interests and needs and have drawn up the fund criteria, we will advertise for local people to apply to join the award panel. These will be voluntary roles for fixed periods, to ensure the panel is refreshed periodically. In the past, we have invited respected local stakeholders to help us interview and select the first panel.

Q: What are the criteria by which proposals will be judged? Who will decide what these criteria are?

A: We are starting this dialogue now to shape these criteria, and they will be clearly formulated throughout the development of the fund. However, the primary criteria noted above, and in all material to date, form the basic outline of eligibility – namely the projects must support the delivery of lasting, climate smarter benefits to local communities in Norfolk.

When the community consultation is more advanced, and we know more about community interests and needs, we will decide what the criteria will be.

Q: Will Vattenfall and the CBF administrative body help us secure match funding with other bodies?

A: The administrative body will be able to help you look for match funding opportunities.

Q: How will you ensure applications from smaller communities will be given equal weighting to those from larger communities/more prominent members of society with access to more resources?

A: The administrative body and local panel will develop a register of all applications received, all of which will be treated equally following the full review process. We will monitor the applications and over time we will consider whether certain communities need additional support to access the funding. We would then work with the administrative body to see how best to support applications from those groups or communities in certain geographic areas, or who may have great, very deliverable ideas, but may not have the resources to write excellent applications without additional help.

Q: What will the application process look like?

A: A few months before the fund opens for the first allocation round in 2024, we will advertise the process for applications to be made. There will be a transparent process in place, with criteria published, and the local administrative body will support applicants through the process.

6. Next steps

Vattenfall is continuing dialogue to ensure that the fund remains based on - and responsive to - community interests, needs, and aspirations. We will be holding similar meetings with other communities along the cable corridor to explore their ideas. There will be other opportunities to get involved and influence how the fund will be spent. Following these workshops, we will use the feedback received to decide on the key themes for the fund. We will then run more thematic workshops to explore these ideas in more detail.

Please continue to take part in the conversation. We need to hear from you to make sure we understand your priorities, how you can benefit from the fund, and your local climate initiatives. Community involvement will help ensure the fund provides a lasting legacy of locally appropriate initiatives and support.

If you are not yet signed up to receive our e-shots and newsletters, then please register here: [Subscribe to Norfolk Zone E-News](#).

If you have any questions or would like to share further ideas at this stage, please contact: norfolk@vattenfall.com.

We look forward to continuing the conversation with you.

7. Thanks

Many thanks to all those who participated in the workshop. Vattenfall is grateful to all involved in organising and publicising the meeting and encouraging broad participation.

Thanks to Foundation Scotland for their presentation and participation.



Appendix - example of feedback provided on post-it notes

Community garden
 Air source heat pump
 Solar charging for E.V vehicles
 Composting Toilet.
 Insulation.
 Solar sign signs for
 community safety.
 Air source for church.

Community Bus
 Community Cars
 Extension and improve
 circular walk
 Insulation and solar panels
 on Community building

Children
 are the
 future !!

- Directed by parish Council
- Place for the community to meet & grow
- Local community
- Yes solar, Air source, Compostable. - Carbon Neutral
- Local space for community for outside space, link in with local schools.