

A photograph of a greenhouse with solar panels on the roof and various plants inside. The greenhouse is made of metal and glass, and is filled with various plants, including potted plants on shelves and plants in raised beds. The solar panels are mounted on the roof of the building above the greenhouse. The text is overlaid on the image.

Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund: Aylsham Community Report

July 2022



VATTENFALL

Vattenfall - Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund

Report of workshop at Aylsham Town Hall

July 2022

The meeting was held at Aylsham Town Hall on Thursday 21st July between 6pm and 8pm.

1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting

This was the fourth 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 on 21 January. To view a summary report of the other workshops, please visit our project webpages here: <https://bit.ly/NorfolkZoneCBF>.

The purpose of these workshops is:

- to present the broad parameters of the Community Benefit Fund;
- to share and discuss locally appropriate climate smart community ideas that local residents might have; and
- to review and build on the findings of the first phase of dialogue (the Community Benefit Fund survey).

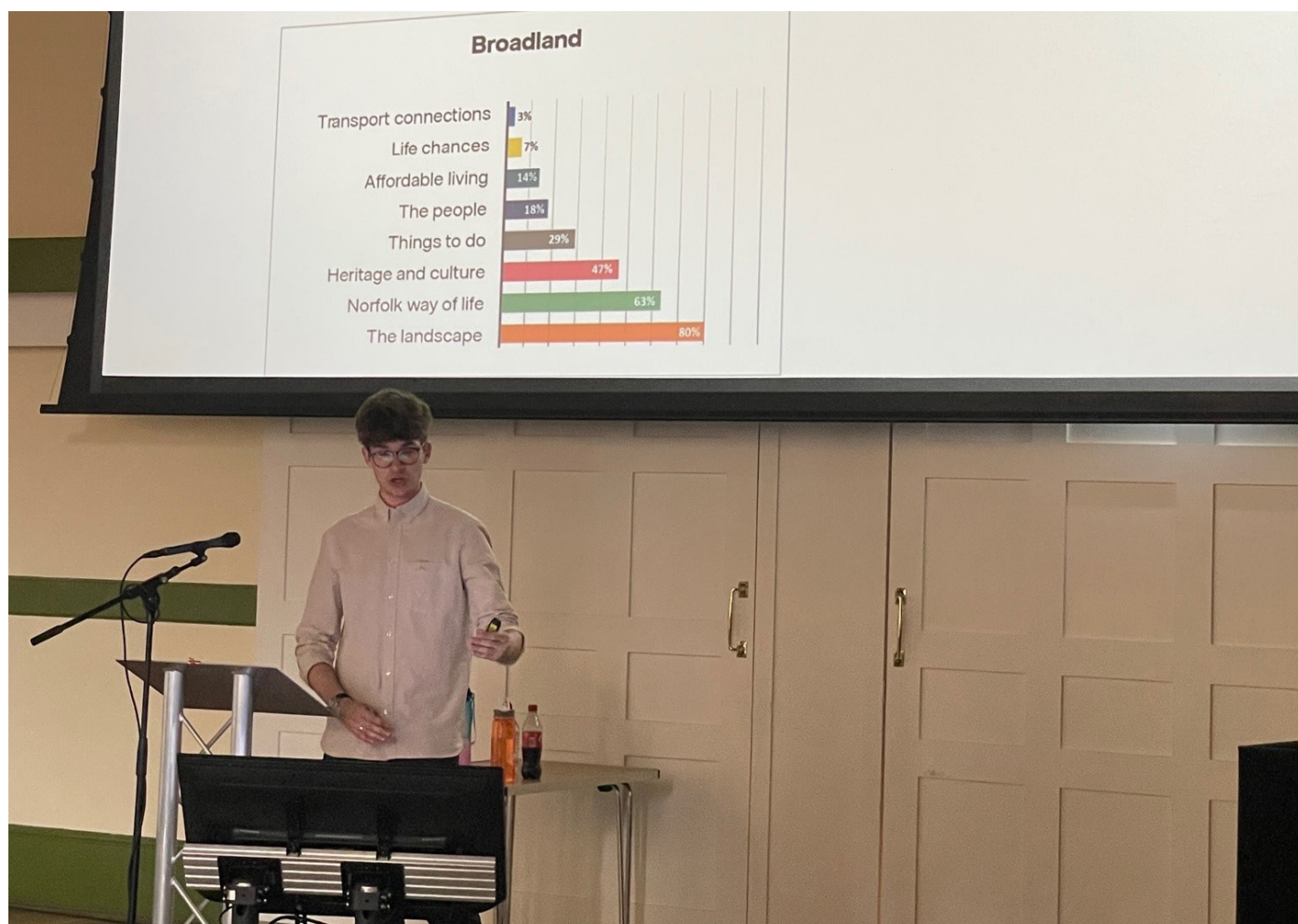
2. Workshop detail

The workshop started with a warm welcome from Denise Hone, Senior Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager at Vattenfall, who then gave a very brief project update in relation to the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas offshore wind projects before introducing Vattenfall's collaborative approach to establishing a Community Benefit Fund, and describing the key findings of the phase one Community Benefit Fund Survey - Give My View.

A second presentation showcased [Vattenfall's 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 four.

The main workshop session involved small group discussions with residents, exploring their ideas for climate smarter community living and the kind of support that could help them develop great projects, delivering 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, 16 residents and stakeholders attended the event. The attendees comprised residents and representatives of local community 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. 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 of 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

- Provide community vehicles, including solar-charged electric vehicles (EVs) e.g. for local Meals on Wheels schemes.
- Assist community transport initiatives.
- Help schools purchase EVs.
- Create EV charging points at schools, halls, and churches..

Energy efficiency and renewable energy generation

- Support community energy schemes e.g. Swaffham Prior Heat Network.
- Roll out solar in schools.
- Upgrade to solar street lighting.
- Transform Haveringland Parish Church into an eco-church, complete with composting toilet and galley kitchen.
- Upgrade village halls (e.g. improve their insulation).

Education and green skills initiatives

- Launch a “shades of green” educational campaign, using these shades to describe different sustainable measures and activities.
- Encourage engagement with schools and pre-schools.
- Help schools create allotments and nature areas.
- Create green, outdoor gyms.
- Build sports facilities for younger people.
- Work with local authorities to promote biodiversity.
- Connecting to nature – promote mental and physical well-being by establishing new, green outdoor spaces..
- Fund the Aylsham Roman Project, a local community-led archaeology project.

Climate smart rural living

- Support and develop new and existing nature reserves e.g. alongside the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
- Establish green spaces by building ‘with’ nature.
- Create community green spaces.
- Install irrigation systems for bowling greens.
- Provide electric, automated lawn mowers charged with renewable energy to replace fossil fuel mowers.
- Build a borehole system to provide water for irrigation systems.

Additional ideas and discussion points

- Fund expert advice and planning submission.
- Purchase and accessibility of defibrillators.
- Use the Norfolk Green Care Network to promote the Community Benefit Fund to existing projects and help develop new ones.
- Make it easier for elderly people to access social events.

4. Q&A session

Here is a flavour 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 course of the ongoing dialogue in a FAQ document, as many questions resulted in sharing insights that are of interest to others who will help shape the Community Benefit Fund.

Q: How big will the grants be?

A: This is yet to be decided. Our fund in Aberdeen currently awards small grants of up to £2,000 and large grants of up to £30,000 for projects spanning three years. If a cap is to be applied to the Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund, it would be based on lessons learned from that fund.

Q: Who can apply for the fund?

A: We will continue to look at the criteria during our ongoing dialogue. For now, our consultation is focussing on communities closest to our infrastructure, and the Districts through which our onshore infrastructure passes, to gather their input and inspire them to consider their applications for funding. Normally, on our other funds, applications must be made by a community group and/or registered charity.

Q: What if an initiative does not get approved for funding?

A: We understand that developing climate smart community initiatives can take a lot of time and money. If your initiative does not get approval, the fund's administrative body will explain why and can help you further develop your ideas, in line with the fund's criteria. They may also guide you to other funding bodies if they think your project would be better suited to their criteria and/or values. If this is a major concern for your community, we can look into providing some grants to investigate the viability of ideas.

Q: Is this not just compensation for local communities?

A: No, the Community Benefit Fund aligns with Vattenfall's goal – to enable fossil free living within one generation, and we hope it will help you build forward-facing, legacy projects for your communities. It is neither a consent condition nor part of the Development Consent Order application process.



Q: What are the next stages? And when will they begin?

A: We will define the fund’s criteria and consider appropriate administration for it in 2023. We will then establish the governance of the fund, including the recruitment of a local decision-making panel in early 2024. The fund will be open from Spring/Summer 2024.

Q: Can multiple Parish Councils apply for funding together to deliver bigger initiatives? For example, an electric bus to service their parishes.

A: We actively encourage community groups to collaborate on climate smart projects. We welcome larger, or more ambitious initiatives, because of the potentially greater positive impact that they can have, they will be subject to a higher level of scrutiny than small requests for funding, particularly in terms of showing the investment is based on local demand and that there is a plan supporting the operation or maintenance of the project over the long term.

The purpose of this fund is to support projects that are not/otherwise would not be funded or delivered by existing sources of funding, or would not be delivered in a climate smarter way, without the extra support from the CBF i.e. the applicants will be asked about how the project demonstrates how it is additional to mainstream statutory provision and budgets. Some initiatives or projects seeking funding may also align with the vision, and objectives of other sources of funding, including charities, or even Local Authority development plans, and again, especially for more ambitious projects, it would be expected that applicants had considered “match funding” opportunities. That way, the fund can leverage even greater value for beneficiary communities..



5. Next steps

Vattenfall is continuing dialogue to ensure that the fund remains based on, and responsive to, community interests, needs, and aspirations. There will be other opportunities to get involved and influence how the fund will be spent. We will be holding similar meetings along the cable corridor to talk with residents and explore their ideas for how they would like to benefit from the fund.

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.

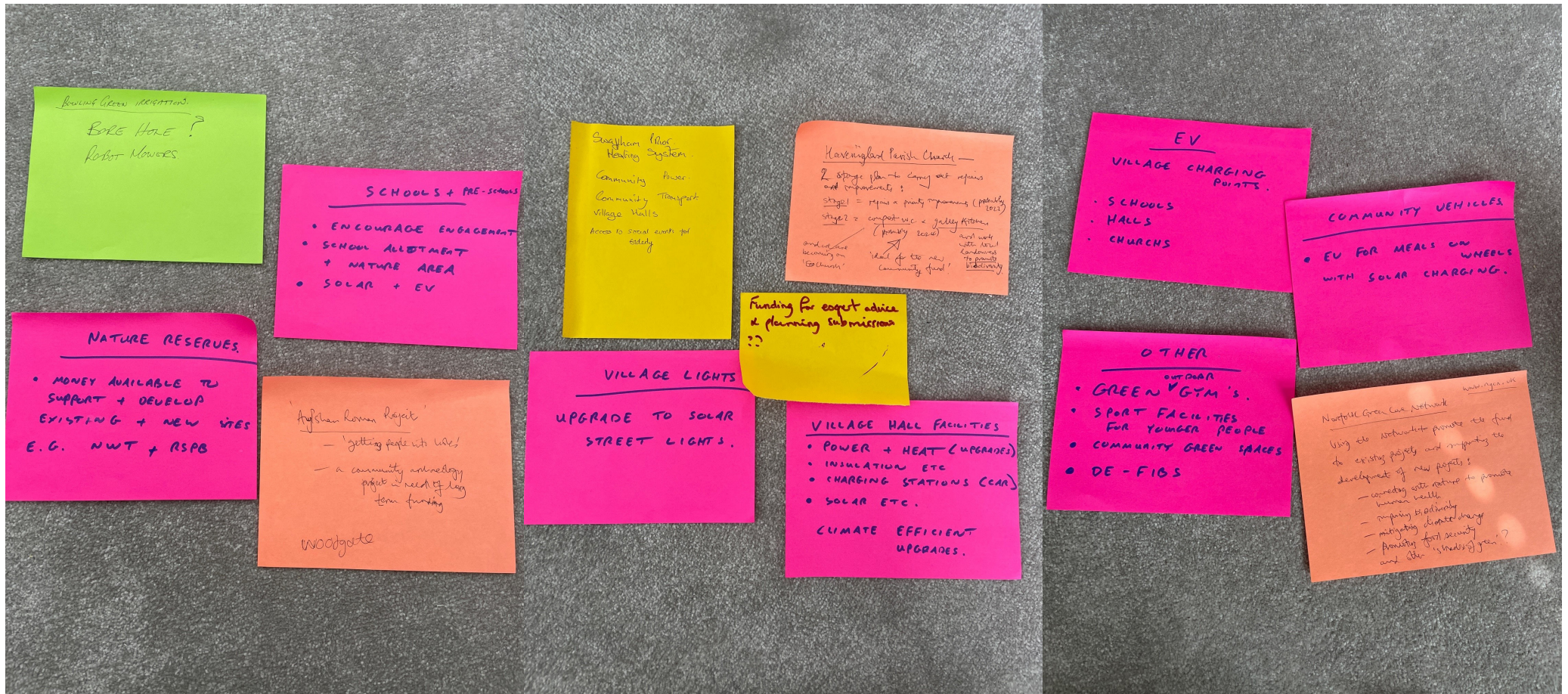


6. Thanks

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 in the Q&A session that followed.

Appendix - example of feedback provided on post-it notes



Rolling Green IDEAS/NOTES
 BORE HOLE?
 Robot Mowers

SCHOOLS + PRE-SCHOOLS

- ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENT
- SCHOOL ALLOTMENT + NATURE AREA
- SOLAR + EV

Sussexham Heat System
 Community Power
 Community Transport
 Village Halls
 Access to social events for elderly

Haveingland Parish Church
 2 stage plan to carry out repairs and improvements:
 stage 1 = repair a priority programme (probably 2023)
 stage 2 = compact WC x galley kitchen (priority 2024)
 and... not well with local landowners to possibly 'become' a 'co-church' ideal for the new community fund! electricity

EV
VILLAGE CHARGING POINTS

- SCHOOLS
- HALLS
- CHURCHS

COMMUNITY VEHICLES

- EV FOR MEALS ON WHEELS WITH SOLAR CHARGING.

NATURE RESERVES

- MONEY AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT + DEVELOP EXISTING + NEW SITES
- E.G. NWT + RSPB

Ayfsham Roman Project
 - 'getting people into sites'
 - a community archaeology project in need of long term funding
 woodgate

VILLAGE LIGHTS
UPGRADE TO SOLAR STREET LIGHTS.

Funding for expert advice & planning submissions ??

VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

- POWER + HEAT (UPGRADES)
- INSULATION ETC
- CHARGING STATIONS (CAR)
- SOLAR ETC.

CLIMATE EFFICIENT UPGRADES.

OTHER

- GREEN GYM'S ^{OUTDOOR}
- SPORT FACILITIES FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE
- COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES
- DE-FIBS

Norfolk Green Care Network www.ngcn.org.uk
 Using the Network to promote the fund to existing projects and supporting the development of new projects!
 - connecting with nature to promote human health
 - improving biodiversity
 - mitigating climate change
 - providing food security
 and other 'shining green'?