

Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund: Happisburgh Community Report

May 2022



VATTENFALL

Vattenfall - Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund

Report of workshop at Wenn Evans Centre, Happisburgh

May 2022

The meeting was held at the Wenn Evans Centre, Happisburgh and on Microsoft Teams on Thursday 12th May between 6pm and 8pm.

1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting

This was the third workshop for local residents, part of a dialogue expected to continue over the coming year, aimed at shaping Vattenfall's Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund. This followed the second workshop in Reepham held the previous day. The first workshop was held at the Necton Rural Community Centre earlier this year. To view a summary report of the first and second workshops, please visit our project webpages here: <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk>.

The purpose of the workshop was for Vattenfall to share the broad parameters of the Community Benefit Fund, to begin to share and discuss any locally appropriate climate smart community ideas that residents in Happisburgh and surrounding parishes might have, and to review and build on the findings of the first phase of dialogue.

2. Workshop detail

The workshop started with a warm welcome from David Mole, the Chair of Happisburgh Parish Council, and Lucy Shires, the North Norfolk District Councillor representing local parishes. Catrin Ellis Jones, Head of Stakeholder and Community Engagement at Vattenfall, 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 the [Vattenfall's Unlock our Future Fund](#) - which is attached to Vattenfall's Aberdeen Bay Offshore Wind Farm, the European Offshore Wind Development 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 and chatted together about 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, 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. For those who joined the session online, this involved recording ideas and comments on an interactive whiteboard. Please see the appendices for examples of the feedback received.

In total 20 residents and stakeholders attended the event in person and five attended online. 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: www.vattenfall.co.uk/vattenfallinnorfolk.



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 of climate change, and helping the natural environment to 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

- Local electric vehicle charging points.
- Electric bus service in Happisburgh, including for Happisburgh Primary School and the Lighthouse Federation.
- Electric vehicles for emergency services and set-up a home call out service for the elderly, also using electric vehicles.
- Eco-car share in small villages.
- Sustainable car park with composting toilets and solar powered lights. A scheme recently launched by DEFRA is an example of using funds effectively and working with other organisations, which could be applied to create a sustainable car park.
- Solar panels on the roofs of community buildings to help subsidise energy costs.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy generation

- Sustainable heating, such as air source heat pumps, including at the Wenn Evans Centre.
- Solar panels on building roofs.
- Walcott Village Hall needs a new roof, and there is an opportunity to install solar panels.
- Solar powered defibrillators in rural areas, as well as coastal areas and parks.
- Work with Bacton Gas to fund Canal Trust projects. There is potential to generate power at terminals and footbridges could be solar powered.
- Solar powered canal trip boats, like the one used by the Canal Trust.
- Improve building insulation.
- Focus on supporting energy efficiency measures and greener production.

Green education

- Educate school children on eco-energy.
- Install a bat box with a camera at Witton Church and use as an opportunity to educate children about wildlife.

Connecting to nature

- Rewild old caravan site.
- Extend allotments and plant a community orchard.
- North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust and The Old Canal Co. are examples of projects where brilliant work has been delivered by volunteers. The canal is coming alive with wildlife, people can go wild swimming and there is an electric powered boat tour.
- Protecting valuable spaces for wildlife, maybe in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust, working towards creating 'corridors' and habitat enhancement.

Climate smart rural living

- Rainwater capture systems for allotments.
- Improved broadband in rural areas.
- Upgrades to the Village Hall in East Ruston.
- Upgrading Witton and Ridlington Village Hall to become more energy efficient.
- Community spaces for young people, for example an eco-gym.

Additional ideas and discussion points

- Outdoor gym facilities.
- Set-up an advice group for Greener Living, including on topics such as home insulation, zero carbon, and sustainability.
- Involve local individuals and community groups in the fund allocation process.
- Save Happisburgh Action Group suggests building a marina offshore to bring in tourists.
- Improve facilities at Walcott and Happisburgh to allow disabled and less mobile people to access the beach in the summer, and also help provide more areas to recycle, benches and picnic tables.
- Provision for the young and elderly in rural areas.

4. Additional feedback

- Would like to know more about how the community benefit fund decision body is selected and where the funding for this body comes from.
- Involve as many people as possible and prevent political influence over the fund.
- There was a strong desire to focus on the sea defences, including the impacts of coastal erosion on the cliffs.
- Some commented that the fund is not large enough.
- Some positive comments about intent shown to involve the community.





5. 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 a document, as many questions resulted in sharing insights that are of interest to others who will help to shape the Community Benefit Fund.

Q: Who decides how the Community Benefit Fund will be allocated?

A: Vattenfall will appoint an administrative body and recruit a local panel that will decide which projects will be allocated funding.

Q: What are the criteria by which they will judge proposals?

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.

Q: How much of the money is going to be allocated to Happisburgh/surrounding areas?

A: This is yet to be decided. We will be holding similar workshops with other communities along the cable corridor to understand their needs and interests. 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: Is the administrative body funded by the £15 million?

A: Yes, an element of the fund will need to support its administration. Normally this is capped, and kept to a minimum, so that as much of the fund as possible supports beneficiary communities.

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 the 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, and we know more about community interests and needs and we 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: Was the amount of money given to the Community Benefit Fund decided by Vattenfall or the Government? Is the fund part of a Section 106 obligation?

A: The Government/Planning Inspectorate has no involvement in deciding the amount of money included in the Community Benefit Fund because it is neither a consent condition nor part of the Development Consent Order application process. Vattenfall recently announced the fund would be worth £15 million, which is the largest funding commitment to a focused geographic area by an offshore wind company to date.

Q: Why can the fund only be used for climate smarter community living?

A: This theme aligns with Vattenfall's purpose, connecting people with the source of the funding- the Norfolk Zone projects, and we hope it will help you build forward-facing, legacy projects for your communities.

In the results from the first phase of community benefit fund dialogue, a unifying theme among those who participated in the survey was the recognition that the whole of society needs to make adjustments to prevent climate change from accelerating dangerously. Deploying offshore wind is an efficient, large-scale action that can enable the electrification of many of the services we take for granted today but we also know we all need to act on a community and on individual levels too. As good neighbours in Norfolk, Vattenfall want to support communities to play their part, and also to reconnect perhaps to what they love about Norfolk already. In some instances, it may be that communities need to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and this fund may also provide that kind of support.



Throughout experience setting up successful funds elsewhere, we have found that most proposals can be adapted to be climate smarter. Requiring projects to do things a bit differently can help communities drive towards Net Zero, address climate change and build social capital by working together to do things a little differently.

Q: Can you provide some small grants to investigate the viability of ideas?

A: Yes, that is a possibility.

Q: Why does the Community Benefit Fund need stipulations?

A: We need to shape criteria that people develop their applications, and that can be used to help the local decision-making panel access the merits of projects. We have found that stipulations can help communities get what they want while showing other that they can be climate smarter too. Our fund in Aberdeen has inspired other funds to focus on being climate smarter, and we have seen the ideas from that fund being rolled out into more generic funds.

Q: Who can apply for the fund?

A: We will continue to look at this criteria during our ongoing consultation. 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: Can we partner with other funds/communities to deliver bigger initiatives?

A: Yes. We actively encourage that you work together to develop your ideas.

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

A: The administrative body and local panel will develop a register of all applications received, of which all will be treated equally following the full review process. Over time we will consider whether certain communities need support to access the funding, and we would work with the administrative body to see how best to support applications from those groups or communities in certain geographic areas.

Q: Will local authorities be able to apply for funding?

A: No, the purpose of the fund is to support projects that are not/otherwise would not be funded by local authorities. We are seeking to ensure “additionality”. Our fund does present an opportunity for local authorities to contribute towards, or match the funding allocated to, specific projects, or in certain circumstances to work with communities to develop projects in partnership.

Q: Will the fund be distributed according to impact on communities? Will some communities have a ringfenced fund?

A: We are looking at this possibility. In our experience, it is not always beneficial in the long term, but we are open to it, including potentially for an initial period.

Q: How do we apply for the fund?

A: A few months before the fund opens for the first allocation round, 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 and the panel through the process.

Q: When will the fund be available?

A: The fund will be open in Spring/Summer 2024.

6. 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 this year.



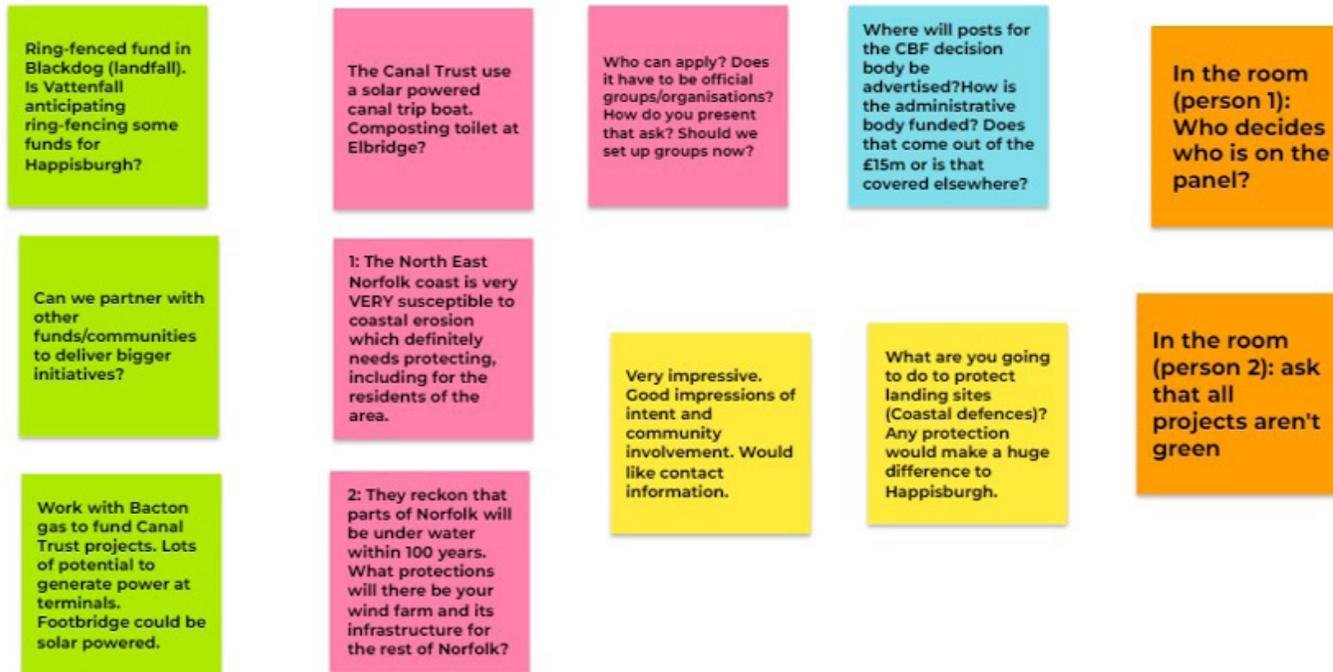
7. Thanks

Many thanks to all those who participated in person and online. 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 Jamboards from online attendees

Discussion and feedback:

- What were your first impressions of what you've just heard?
- What do you think of the way Vattenfall establish the community benefit fund?
- Do you have questions for Catrin or Rachel that could help your thinking for the next exercise: exploring your own ideas for climate smarter community action?



Ring-fenced fund in Blackdog (landfall). Is Vattenfall anticipating ring-fencing some funds for Happisburgh?

The Canal Trust use a solar powered canal trip boat. Composting toilet at Elbridge?

Who can apply? Does it have to be official groups/organisations? How do you present that ask? Should we set up groups now?

Where will posts for the CBF decision body be advertised? How is the administrative body funded? Does that come out of the £15m or is that covered elsewhere?

In the room (person 1): Who decides who is on the panel?

Can we partner with other funds/communities to deliver bigger initiatives?

1: The North East Norfolk coast is very VERY susceptible to coastal erosion which definitely needs protecting, including for the residents of the area.

Very impressive. Good impressions of intent and community involvement. Would like contact information.

What are you going to do to protect landing sites (Coastal defences)? Any protection would make a huge difference to Happisburgh.

In the room (person 2): ask that all projects aren't green

Work with Bacton gas to fund Canal Trust projects. Lots of potential to generate power at terminals. Footbridge could be solar powered.

2: They reckon that parts of Norfolk will be under water within 100 years. What protections will there be your wind farm and its infrastructure for the rest of Norfolk?

Appendix - example of feedback provided on worksheets and post-it notes

