

Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund: Reepham Community Report

May 2022



VATTENFALL

Vattenfall - Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund

Report of workshop at Stimpson's Piece, Reepham

May 2022

The meeting was held at Stimpson's Piece, Reepham and on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 11th May between 6pm and 8pm.

1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting

This was the second 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. The first workshop was held at the Necton Rural Community Centre earlier this year, and a third workshop was held in Happisburgh on 12 May. To view a summary report of the other 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 Reepham 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 Paul Mitchell, the Chair of Reepham Town Council. 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 [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 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, 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, 16 residents and stakeholders attended the event in person and six 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 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

- Create shared electric vehicle (EV) mobility hubs for both cars and vans, linking communities in the area.
- Mitigate impacts on Cawston High Street through a shared EV based at the community hall. This could provide transport for residents along Cawston High Street.
- Further encouragement of escorted drop offs at schools to take cars away from the area and therefore create a safer, greener school run drop off and pick up.
- Provision of electric bus services.
- Provision of a bus service connecting Oulton/Itteringham/Blickling to nearest towns.
- Constructing a bike track.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy generation

- Sustainable heating, such as air source heat pumps for every home.
- Build solar panels on local schools and industrial buildings.
- Develop a survey to know how best to improve energy resilience against increasing cost of living/energy price rises, with the aim of benefitting those in society who needs it most. Suggestion to support these people with energy efficiency upgrades and/or solar panels.
- Develop community energy projects using local farmland.

Education and green skills initiatives

- Cawston Church of England Primary Academy - strong eco warriors that are very proactive about climate change but have obstacles to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
- Education is a necessity to delivering green projects, such as installing heat pumps and servicing electric vehicles. Attendees suggested helping create a route for young people to gain the required training to supplement existing education, such as through an apprenticeship scheme.
- Create a hub of outdoor activities, experiences and education.
- Turn Stimpson's Piece into an education hub for the younger generation.

Climate smart rural living

- Explore the possibility of converting churches into climate smarter community hubs and adding green roofs to them.
- Rebuild Stimpson's Piece with green materials or upgrade it by installing solar panels, ground or air source heat pumps, and compostable toilets.
- Rebuild the scout hut and turn it into an environmental centre.

Additional ideas and discussion points

- The Reepham Challenge (www.reephamchallenge.org) showcases a range of low carbon projects and case studies for other communities along the cable route to take inspiration from.
- Stimpson's Piece could offer youth jobs to raise funds for development of the park.
- Local project called 'Our Café' in Reepham.
- Skatepark in Reepham.

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.
- Some attendees raised concerns about the impact of the project on communities and would like to understand how this impact translates to the funding the communities will receive. An attendee suggested distributing the fund according to the impact that local communities will experience.
- Some residents mentioned the importance of early engagement to build understanding of the fund, while others mentioned the need to build advocacy for climate smarter living.
- Concern that more 'powerful' candidates will be listened to over communities with less expertise and a smaller voice.
- Concerns that the fund is a bribe to avoid addressing the impacts of the project, including outstanding issues being dealt with through the planning process. The focus should be mitigating the impacts of the project first before launching a community benefit fund.
- Concern that the data from the initial survey conducted across Norfolk showed only a small minority of respondents were from communities living close to the cable route.





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 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 Reepham/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.



Through our 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 assess the merits of projects. We have found that stipulations can help communities get what they want while showing others 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.

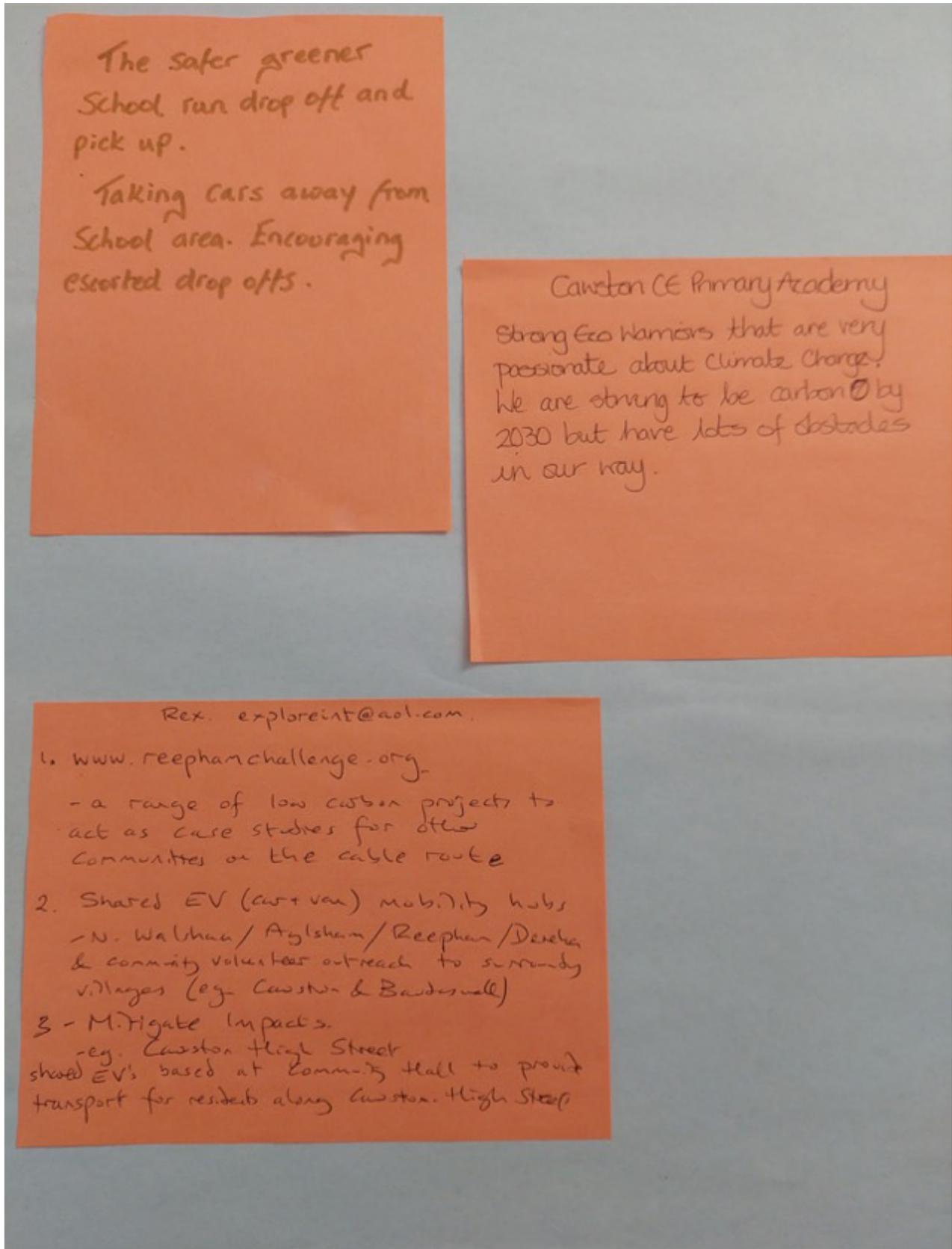
Appendix - example of feedback provided on Jamboards from online attendees

Themes and ideas:

- What ideas have you got that you think could help your community live a climate smarter life?
 (why do you think it could make a real difference in your community? who would benefit most?
 will your idea deliver lasting benefit or be sustainable? are your ideas about climate mitigation or adaptation, or both?)



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



The safer greener
School run drop off and
pick up.

Taking cars away from
School area. Encouraging
escorted drop offs.

Cawston CE Primary Academy
Strong Eco Warriors that are very
passionate about Climate Change.
We are striving to be carbon 0 by
2030 but have lots of obstacles
in our way.

Rex. exploreint@aol.com.

1. www.reephunchallenge.org

- a range of low carbon projects to
act as case studies for other
communities on the cable route

2. Shared EV (car+van) mobility hubs

- N. Walsham / Aylsham / Reepham / Dereham
& community volunteer outreach to surround
villages (eg. Cawston & Bawdeswell)

3 - M.igate impacts.

-eg. Cawston High Street
shared EV's based at Community Hall to provide
transport for residents along Cawston High Street