



Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe Community Energy Forum

Wednesday 25 February 2026 | Ellie Phillips



1



Introduction – Energy in Your Community

This workshop is part of a project helping local people to explore and develop community-owned renewable energy suited to their area.

The aim is to support community-owned renewable generation across Bath and North East Somerset.

The project is run by the Community Energy Network partners:



2




FUTURE WELLOW
 Working together for the love of Wellow
 GET INVOLVED

Peasedown Environment Group (PEG)
 Public group · 175 members

[About](#) [Discussion](#) [Featured](#) [People](#) [Events](#) [Media](#) [Files](#)

Welcome and thank you for joining us tonight!

3



About the project

This process is about having exploratory conversations, to see what locations may be viable and which communities may be supportive. This is **NOT** a consultation on a specific site being built.

This process is funded by a National Lottery Climate Action grant and running in six communities. It is being evaluated by the University of Bath.








4



University of Bath evaluation

University of Bath are providing an objective evaluation of this process, including a survey at the end of tonight.

Dr Nick Nash from the Department of Psychology specialises in evaluating interventions for behaviour change for sustainable goals.

If you see him, feel free to say hello!



5



Filming and Photography in Progress

This event is being recorded.



Filming is for documenting the project and its outcomes – whatever those outcomes may be!

Consent forms at the door on your way in.

Please make sure you have a blue sticker if you would not like to be recorded.

6

About Centre for Sustainable Energy

We're a charity based in Bristol with a dual mission to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

We are here to hold the conversation about energy in your area, and how you could benefit from community projects.



7

Our aims

- Hear your thoughts and opinions.
- Raise awareness of community energy and how it could benefit Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe area.
- Find out if people in the area would like to investigate a renewable energy project that is community-led and brings real local benefits.
- Help you learn more about local wind and solar potential locations.
- Support to access funding for further investigation.
- **We will only do this if you tell us you want it!**

8

Slide 7

KE1 Ellie to introduce herself and her background here

Kate Elliott-Rudder, 2026-02-24T11:35:18.269



What happens tonight

- Update on what we've been up to.
- Information on community energy and its benefits.
- Some technical information on wind/solar locations of interest.
- Questions and discussions about what you think, and what the next steps could be, if any locations are supported.
- Feedback on:
 - If you want us to continue & if so, where should focus our efforts
 - Suggestions for further engagement
 - What role the communities of Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe might want to play

9

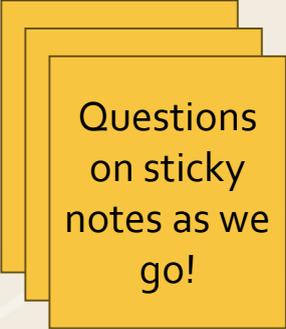


Agenda	Time
Introduction	18:30
Community Energy 101	18:45
Break	19:00
Questions so far?	19:10
Technical information about local areas	19:20
Table discussions	19:30
Feedback	20:00
Next steps	20:20

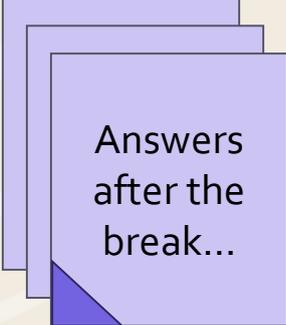
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“I have questions?”



Questions
on sticky
notes as we
go!



Answers
after the
break...

11



Why are we here today?



The way we produce and use energy needs to change. We need a lot **more energy from renewable sources** like wind and solar to meet the UK's targets, **safeguard future generations** from the worst impacts of climate change, and protect ourselves from changes in the international energy market.



Bath and North East Somerset has a target for increasing the energy generated across the local authority area. This project is an opportunity to guide **the role your villages could take, and how you would like to benefit.**

12



“Is this a consultation on a specific site? Does the council have a set agenda?”

No. The purpose of the National Lottery funding is to start an exploratory conversation. Nothing goes ahead from this process unless there is community support.

The workshop will be followed by an open survey. The results of the workshop and survey will dictate whether to go ahead with next steps, along with community discussions.

13

What's been done so far?



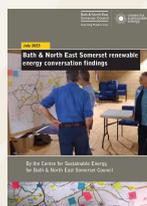
2022

2025

Now



Community workshop



Workshop report



Survey



Wellow Village Fair



Community Energy Drop-In Morning

14

What have people told us so far?



Community Energy Workshop, Oct 2022

- 9 people took part

Follow up survey, Nov 2022

- 71 people responded

Community Energy Drop-In Morning, Nov 2025

- 50 people attended

Survey refresh, Nov 2026

- 7 people responded



15

What have people told us?



Majority of responders in 2022 and 2025 supported some renewable energy development:

- **75% satisfied or very satisfied** with the idea of renewables built in the parishes.

Wind was slightly more supported than ground solar.

Proportions of agreement and disagreement were broadly similar across all suggested possible locations.

Key themes included:

- Negative impact on **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** around Wellow.
- **Support for community benefit** over corporate gain, although **cheaper bills** would be best.
- Support for other ideas like solar on rooftops and innovating with mine shaft heat.
- The need to consider **increasing energy efficiency** as well as renewables.

16

What people said in 2022:



17

What people told us about wind locations

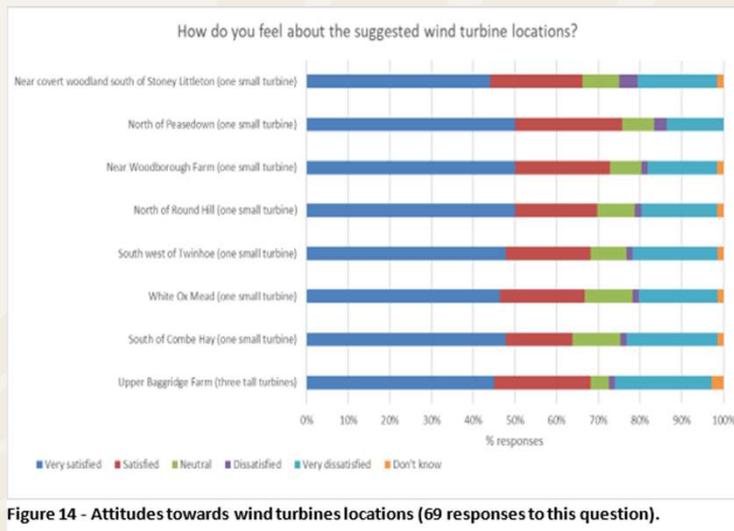


Figure 14 - Attitudes towards wind turbines locations (69 responses to this question).

BANES Renewable Energy Conversations Report, 2023

18

What people told us about solar locations

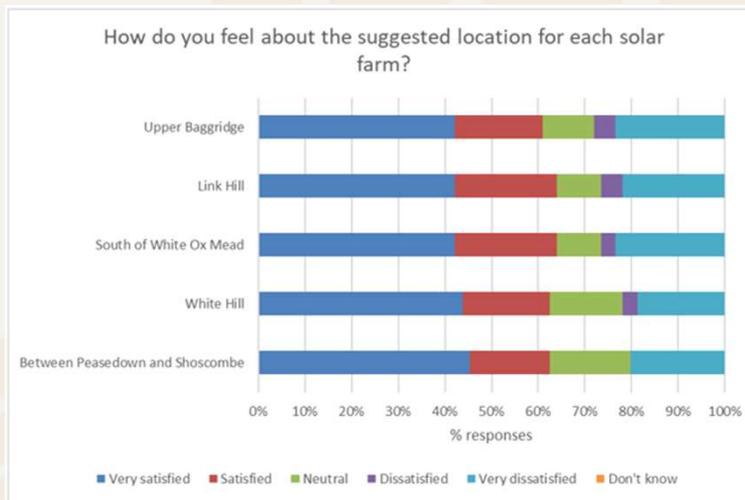


Figure 18 – Attitudes to solar farm locations (64 responses to this question).

BANES Renewable Energy Conversations Report, 2023

What people told us



The time is now.
We have to do this, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

I have lived in Peasedown for 20 years and I'm very enthusiastic about the prospect of **the village generating its own power** in a sustainable manner.

How will this help with **individuals' energy costs?**

Not acceptable to have any development in this ecologically sensitive area including an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

There is nothing to be gained **unless the benefit goes to residents** ... This is our environment. We won't see it destroyed to generate power for the grid and to the benefit of a few landowners.



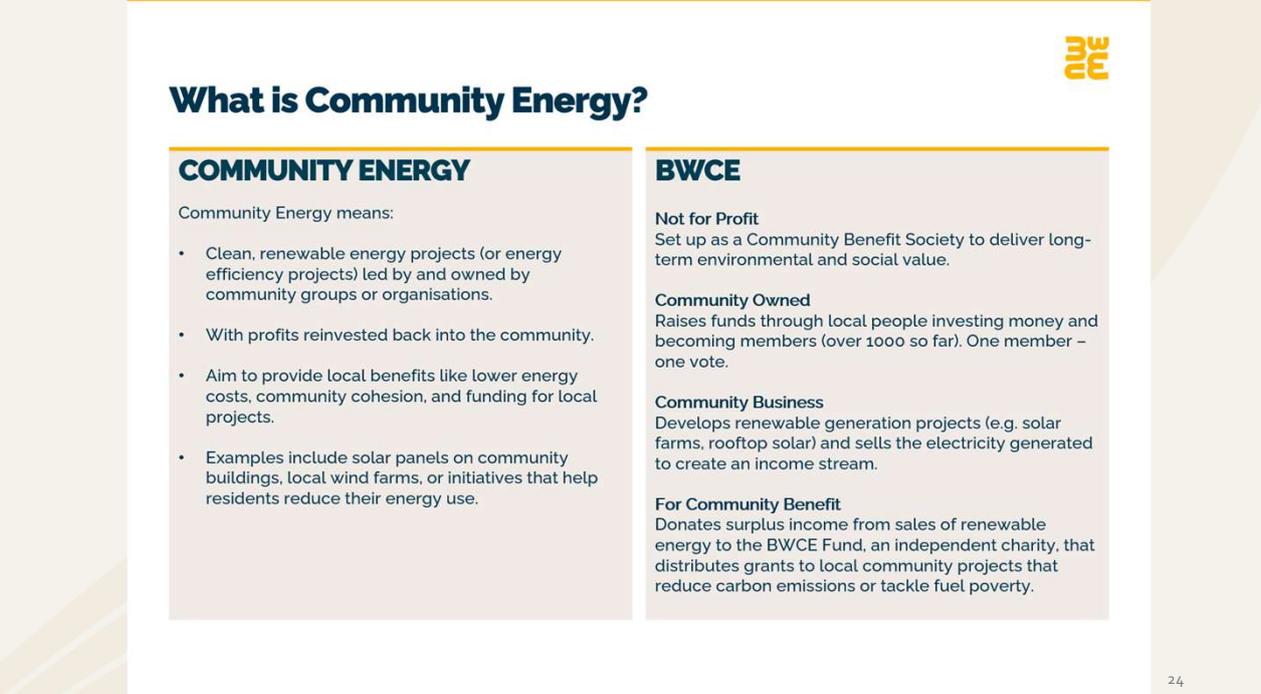
Bath & West Community Energy

COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS ACROSS THE UK

There are over 600 community energy organisations in the UK. Bath and West Community Energy is one of the largest and most established.

23

23



What is Community Energy?

COMMUNITY ENERGY

Community Energy means:

- Clean, renewable energy projects (or energy efficiency projects) led by and owned by community groups or organisations.
- With profits reinvested back into the community.
- Aim to provide local benefits like lower energy costs, community cohesion, and funding for local projects.
- Examples include solar panels on community buildings, local wind farms, or initiatives that help residents reduce their energy use.

BWCE

Not for Profit
Set up as a Community Benefit Society to deliver long-term environmental and social value.

Community Owned
Raises funds through local people investing money and becoming members (over 1000 so far). One member – one vote.

Community Business
Develops renewable generation projects (e.g. solar farms, rooftop solar) and sells the electricity generated to create an income stream.

For Community Benefit
Donates surplus income from sales of renewable energy to the BWCE Fund, an independent charity, that distributes grants to local community projects that reduce carbon emissions or tackle fuel poverty.

24

24

What are the community benefits?



- Enables local people to take more **control over clean energy generation and contribute to climate action**
- Uses surplus income from energy generation to enable the organisation to **provide other services** e.g. support for home energy efficiency.
- Uses surplus income from energy generation to **fund community projects** e.g. to reduce carbon emissions or tackle fuel poverty.
- **Reduces energy bills** e.g. through reductions in energy supply costs from rooftop solar, exploring cheaper local supply from renewable generating projects to local households.
- Incorporates **enhanced biodiversity and community amenity improvements** into the development of renewable generating projects.
- Fosters **community resilience** by building energy security and tackling the effects of climate change.



Read more about the projects our Community Energy Fund has previously funded here:
www.bwce.coop/community-benefit/previoully-funded

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Our story so far...



- Since 2010 **raised £25m** (£15m community share and bonds)
- **Installed 14.6MW** of renewables, matching the annual demand from 5200 average homes.
- Installed **5 ground mount & 37 rooftop solar systems** (mainly on schools)
- **Exploring local supply** from generating projects to local households
- Launched a **home energy assessment & co-ordination** programme



26

Our story so far...



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- Installed **14.6MW** of renewables, matching the annual demand from 5200 average homes.
- Installed **5 ground mount & 37 rooftop solar systems** (mainly on schools)
- Exploring **local supply** from generating projects to local households
- Launched a **home energy assessment & co-ordination** programme
- **Donated £470k** to community action on carbon reduction & fuel poverty. Funded 111 local projects



27

BWCE's impact locally...



Peasedown St John Primary School And Nursery

- Solar school: Peasedown's School and Nursery has benefitted from our [free solar panels](#)
- Energy Generation £38 kW
- Installation Date £December 2011



The Hive Community Centre

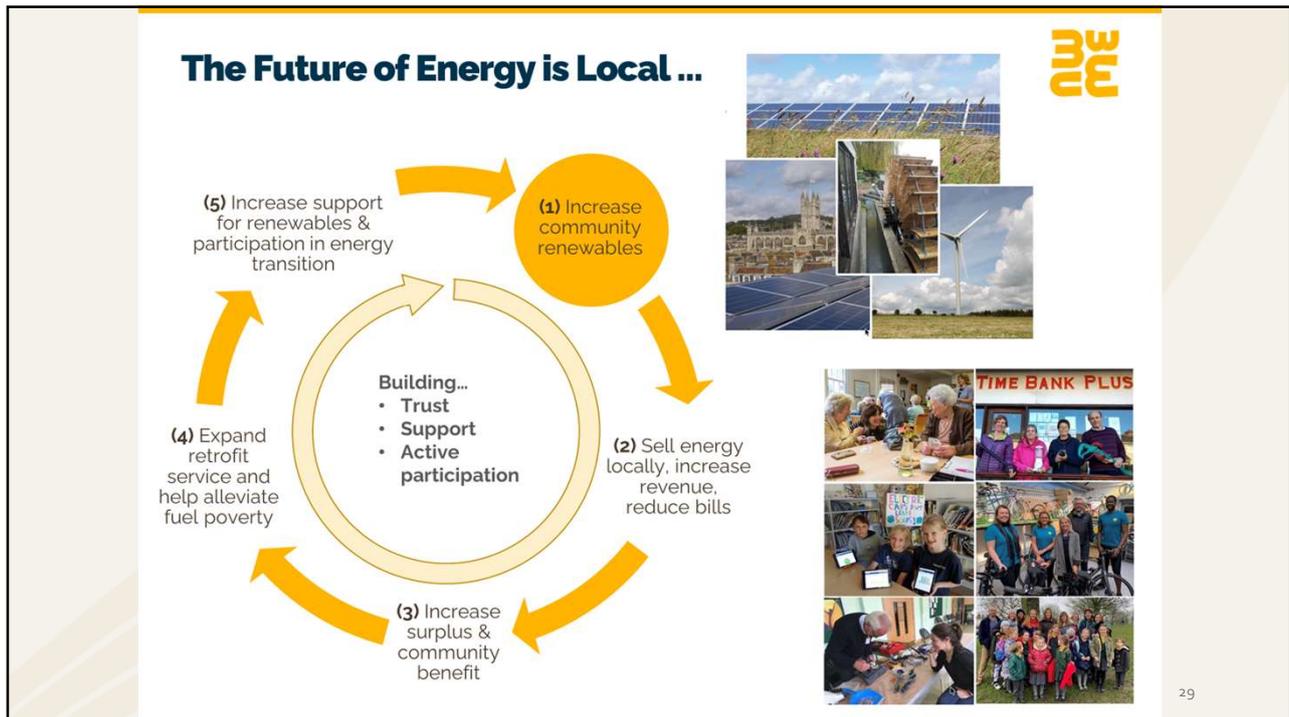
- Community venue that provides a Youth Hub, Community Food Pantry and Community Fridge to assist those in food poverty.
- £5,000 grant from BWCE
- To install cavity wall insulation at the Hive



11/10/25

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28



29

Examples of projects

Fairy Hill Solar Farm (BWCE)

- 2MW Fairy Hill Solar Farm (Compton Dando in BANES)
- Solar panels on approx. 4.5 acres
- Expected to generate enough electricity to match equivalent demand from 800 average UK homes.
- 7 acres of new permissive access with community amenities to be developed (e.g. community orchard)
- Improvements to ecology and wildlife habitats / potential for sheep grazing
- Annual Community Benefit Fund to reinvest locally
- Development of a local supply offer via an Energy Local Club
- Share offer raised target of £440k

30

30

Examples of projects



Through this process, several governance structures could be considered for the project. One option is for the local community to establish its own community energy organisation. An example of this approach:

Chelwood Community Energy (not BWCE)

- Chelwood Solar Farm is a 5MW project that became operational in 2015
- Built on 22 acres of farmland near Chelwood in BANES (pop approx. 150).
- Construction and grid connection cost £5.5m (£2.4m community shares, £3.1m bank loan)
- A Community Benefit Society, managed by a Board of Directors with around 360 shareholders
- Supported by Bright Renewables, asset management company
- Generates enough energy to power approx. 1160 average UK homes
- Chelwood Community Fund, a charitable trust, established to distribute surplus income for the benefit of the local community

The Future of Energy is Local!

31

The Future of Energy is Local



Community energy offers:

- A not-for-profit, democratic and locally accountable community business model
- ...
- ...offering a practical response to the climate crisis that prioritises collective action, local control and local benefit.

By putting communities front and centre, renewable energy can be the powerhouse that drives a more just transition to net zero

Kate Sweet - kate.sweet@bwce.coop
 Skye Frewin - skye.frewin@bwce.coop
 BWCE Website - www.bwce.coop

32

32

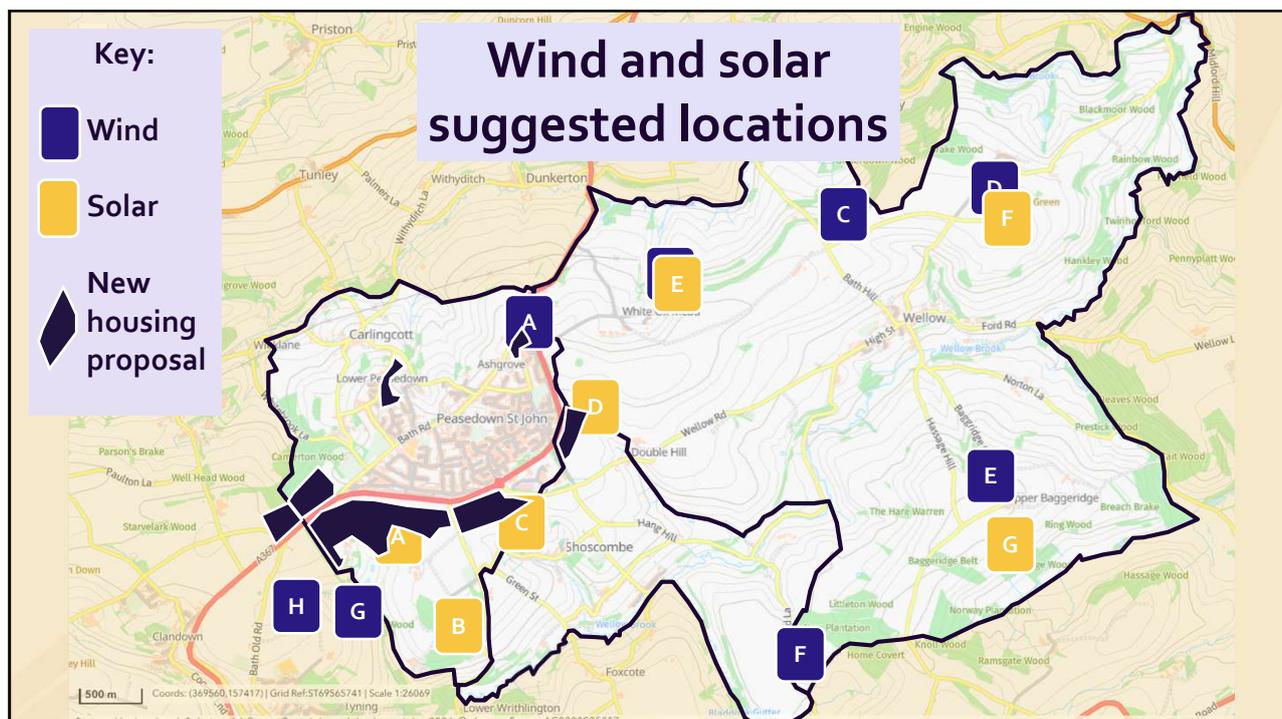


Local updates for 2026

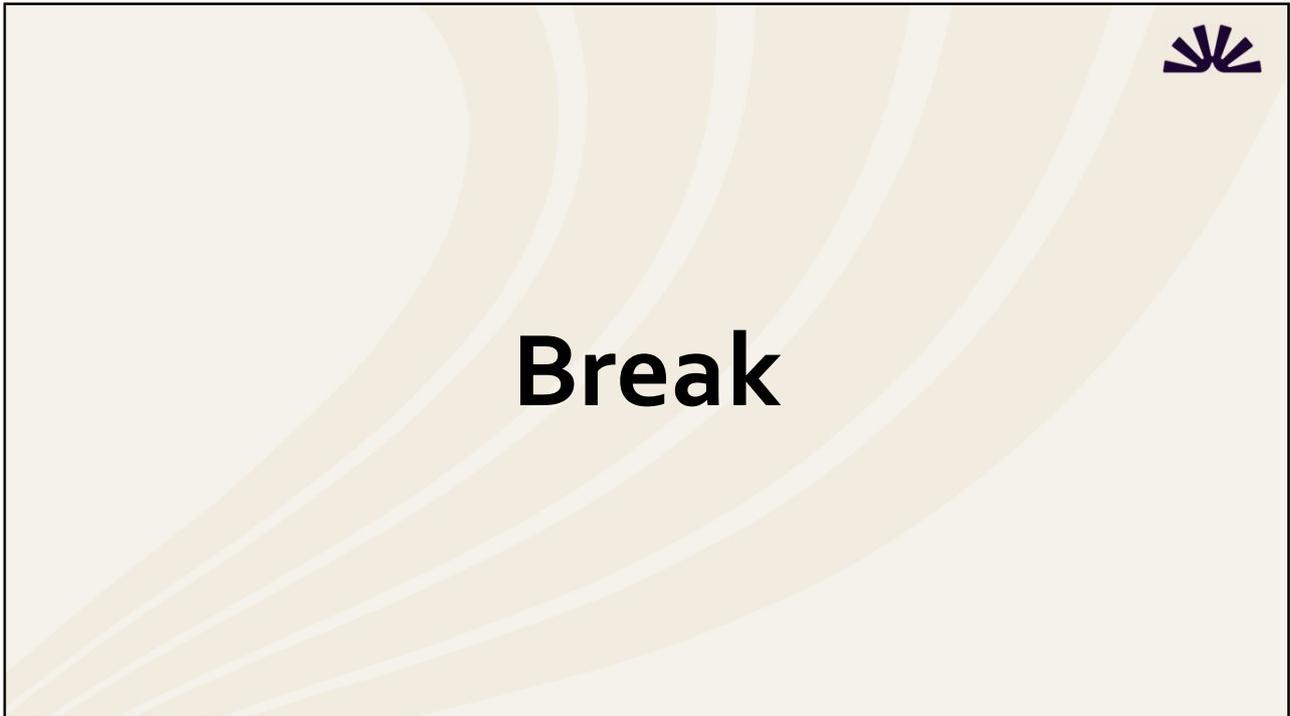
New housing: Some of the locations pinpointed by residents are now earmarked for housing in the new Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan under consultation.

Other locations: 2 locations for wind are actually in Radstock parish, which is now having its own process in 2026-27. And 2 additional locations for possible solar were added at the Open Day in November.

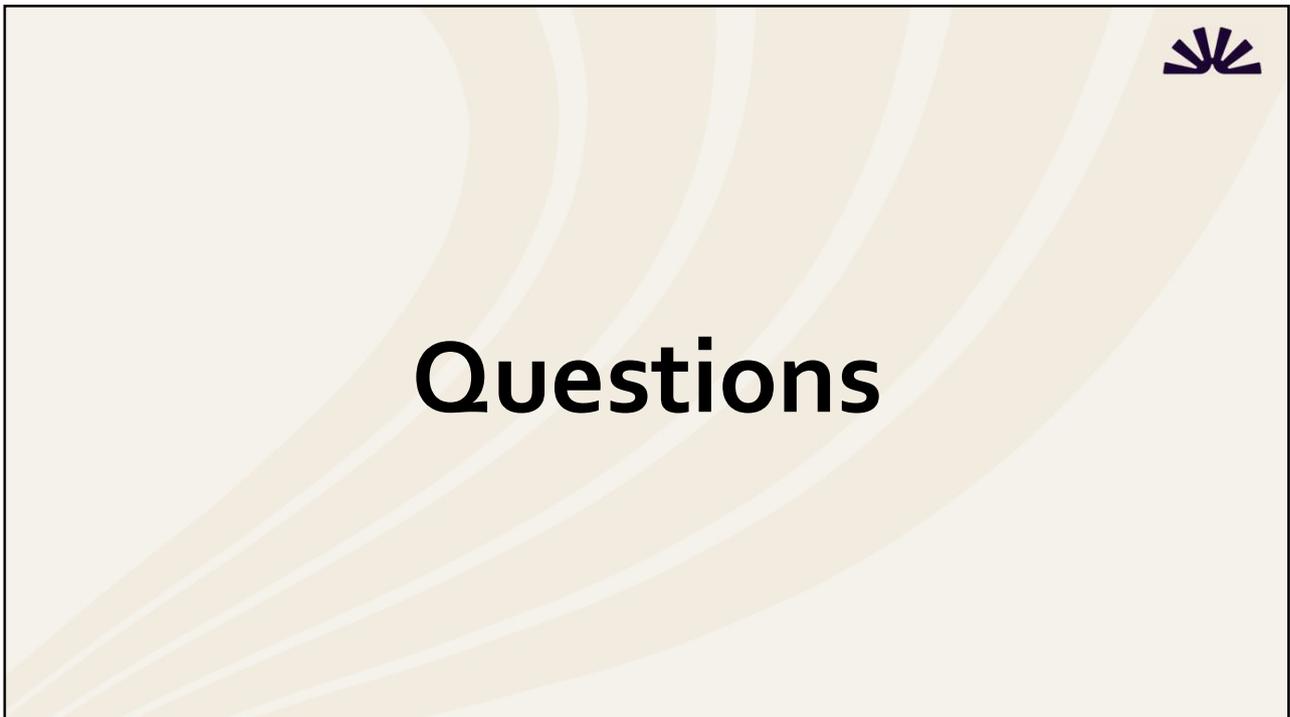
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34



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36



Let's get technical

John Malone

Renewable energy engineer

and project manager

Empowered Projects

Corsham

37



Wind suggestions

	Peasedown & Wellow		Land Use		Technical			Historic			Designations					Postcode Area	
	Site	Technology	Agricultural Land Classification	RADAR	Slope (Degrees)	Wind Speed (m/s @ 100m)	Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Landfill	National Landscapes	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Greenbelt	Conservation Areas	Priority Habitats	Ancient Woodland	Residential / Non-residential	Local Plan Housing
A	North of Peasedown	Turbine	3	120m	Max 3.7	7.9						Inside				110m	Overlaps
B	White Ox Mead	Turbine	3	160m		7.6						Inside		10m - Good quality semi improved grassland		250m	
C	South of Combe Hay	Turbine	3 & 4	120m		8				Inside		Inside		30m - Deciduous woodland	30m		
D	Twinhoe Turbine	Turbine	3	120m		8.2				Inside		Inside			198m	250m	
E	Baggridge Hill	Turbine	3	100m	Max 11	8.1						Inside		Lowland calcareous grassland		200m	
F	Near Covert Woodland	Turbine	3	160m		7.4						Inside					
G	Near Woodborough Farm	Turbine	3	120m	Max 8.3	7.6										400m	
H	North of Round Hill	Turbine	3	100m		7.8										300m	

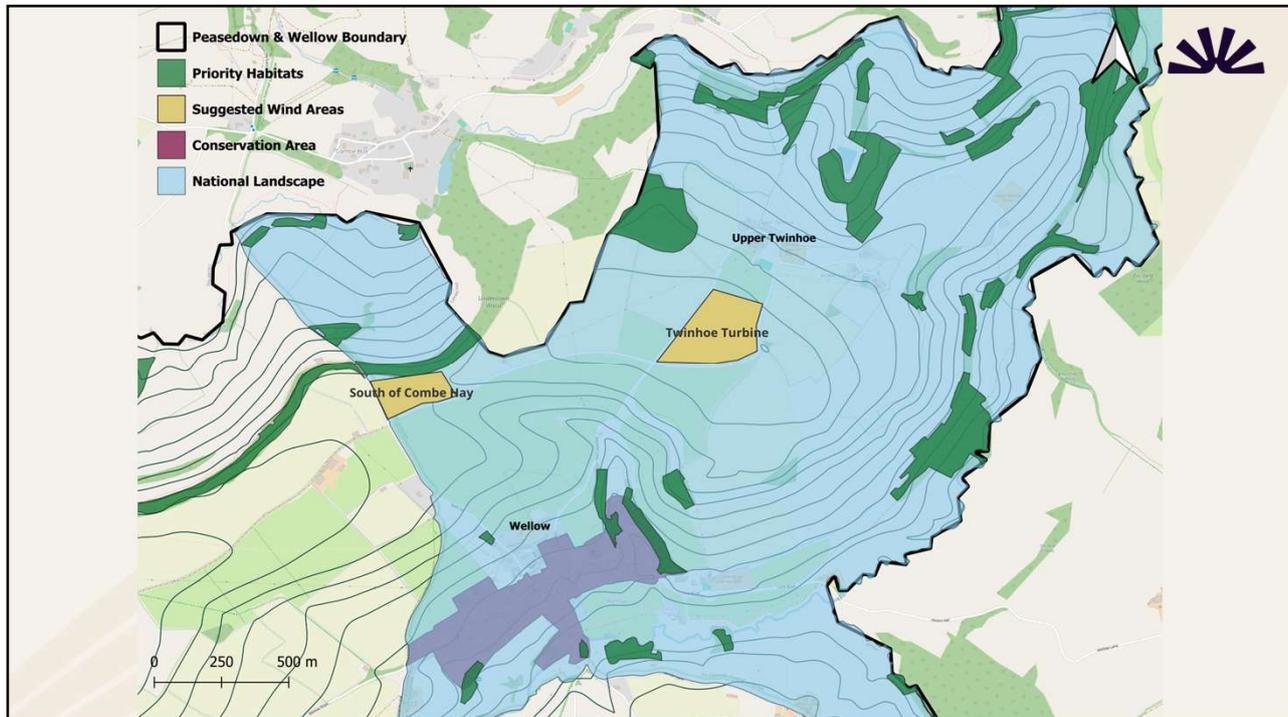
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Solar suggestions



Peasedown & Wellow		Land Use	Technical			Historic			Designations					Postcode Area		
Site	Technology	Agricultural Land Classification	RADAR	Slope (Degrees)	Wind Speed (m/s @ 100m)	Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Landfill	National Landscapes	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Greenbelts	Conservation Areas	Priority Habitats	Ancient Woodland	Residential / Non-residential	Local Plan Housing
A	Between Peasedown & W	Solar	38.4	N/A	N/A			10m							100m	Overlaps
B	Disused Coal Mine	Solar	3	N/A	N/A										40m	
C	White Hill	Solar	3	N/A	N/A						Inside				150m	Overlaps
D	South of White Ox Mead	Solar	3	N/A	N/A						Inside				200m	Overlaps
E	White Ox Mead	Solar	3	N/A	N/A						Inside		10m - Good quality semi improved grassland			
F	Twinhoe Solar	Solar	3	N/A	N/A	80m			Inside		Inside		20m - Deciduous woodland			
G	Upper Baggridge	Solar	38.4	N/A	Max 14.7	N/A	50m					Inside	30m - Lowland calcareous grassland, Trad orchard & Deciduous woodland		100m	

39



40



Group discussions – 20 min

1. Pros and cons of the suggested locations for wind and solar.
2. Should Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe take part in a community energy project, and how?

Facilitators are here to help and take anonymous notes & share key points. Facilitators will share key points with the whole room.

At the end you'll be invited to tell us where we should focus our efforts, via the big map and voting on tables.

41



Next steps

1. Would you like us to continue looking at options for a community-led energy project in the Peasedown, Wellow and Shoscombe area?
2. Which locations should we prioritise, if any?
3. Suggestions for who else we should be talking to, and how to contact them?

42



Voting



Suggestions for further engagement

Would you like us to continue looking at options for a community-led energy project in Peasedown, Well and Shoscombe?

Yes	No

43



Last bits: Survey



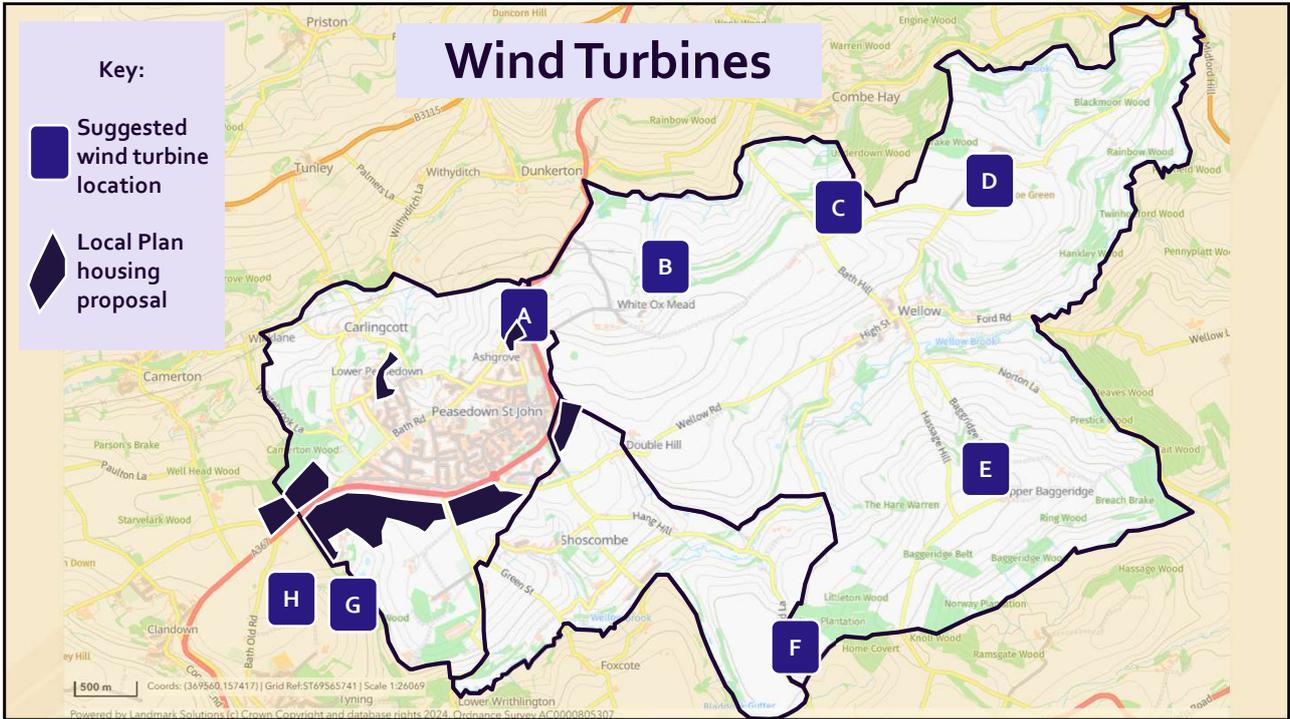
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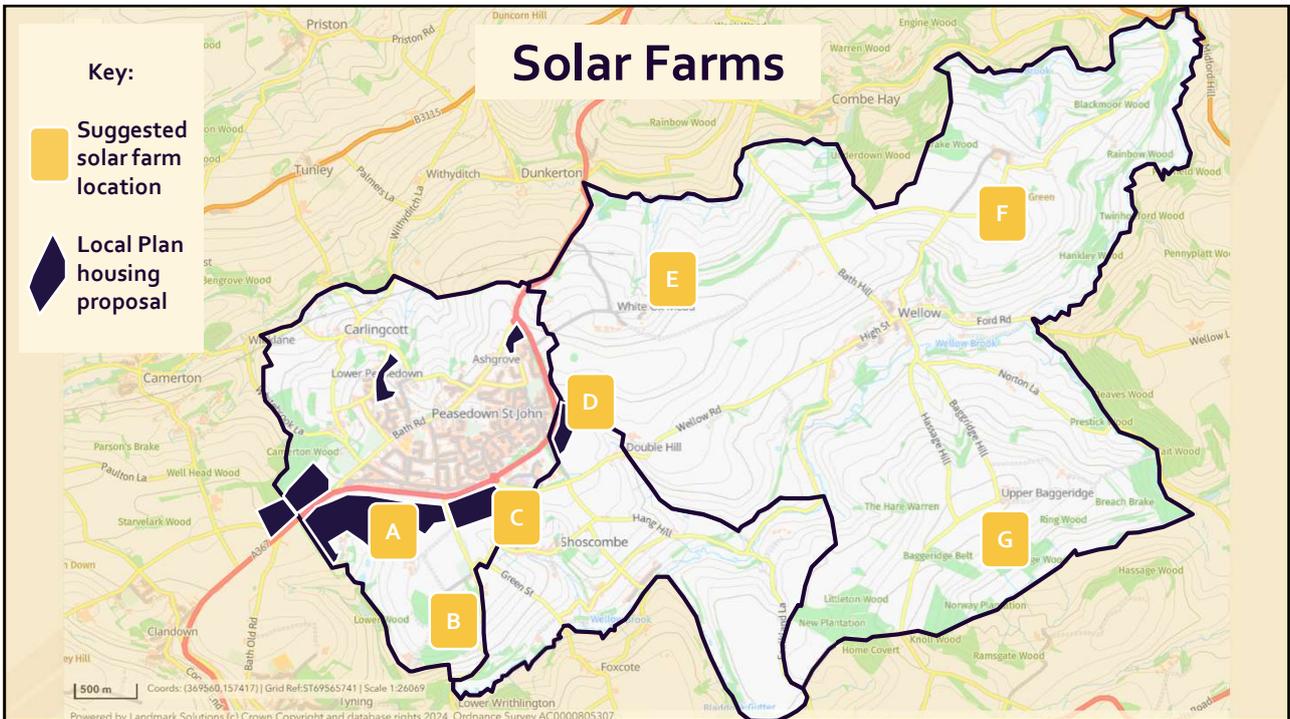
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46



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48