

# WREN NEWS

Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

October 2014

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## **Not the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was held on 30th September, in Wadebridge Town Hall, attended by 53 members. As well as the usual formal proceedings – adoption of the annual accounts, reappointment of the auditor, election of directors – the main event of the evening was, of course, tea and cake.

Chair Stephen Frankel outlined WREN's achievements and what is to come. In a messy regulatory environment in which government departments send conflicting messages about renewables and community energy, WREN has nevertheless established itself with over 1,000 members (and still growing), the Energy Shop, and numerous awards. WREN has helped over 150 households and businesses improve energy efficiency and procured around 1MW of solar PV and a further 1MW of renewable heat.

WREN is now embarking on phase two, having its own generating capacity through the Wadebridge Energy Company. This not-for-profit co-operative will be owned by the community through a local share issue and initially will install solar PV on people's roofs, getting the feed in tariff while providing free electricity to the resident. The company will pay a return to shareholders and cover operating expenses, with any surplus revenue going to the WREN community fund to benefit community projects and organisations.

WREN is also collaborating with South West Water to build a 100kW solar PV array in part of a field next to the Nanstallon sewage treatment works, supplying all the generated electricity to the works.

Stephen's statement was followed by questions and discussion, and the meeting closed after a creditable hour and ten minutes, at

*Rick Johnson staffing the the sign-in desk at the AGM*



## **Wadebridge Energy Company**

As mentioned under the AGM heading, **we are looking for suitable roofs** in the Wadebridge area on which the Wadebridge Energy Company can install solar PV panels. The resident under the roof will pay nothing and receive free electricity from the panels. The company will receive the feed in tariff.

The Wadebridge Energy Company will soon be looking **to issue shares to local people**, so that the community will be the owners of the company. Shareholders will receive a return on their investment that is better than bank savings accounts, possibly up to 6%. The money they invest will be used to purchase and install the solar panels on roofs and at the South West Water Nanstallon sewage treatment works.

If you are interested in either (or both) of these, please

which point several members adjourned to the Molesworth Arms to continue discussions.

## Middle Treworder Solar Farm Fund Awards

£10,000 from the Middle Treworder solar farm has been awarded to eight community groups in the Wadebridge area.

23 organisations from Wadebridge, St Kew, St Mabyn and Egloshayle applied and the fund committee, made up of representatives from the town and parish councils, the landowner and WREN, had a hard task to select the winners.

The top three awards went to the Skateboard and BMX Park project (£5,000), Wadebridge Swimming Club to train more coaches (£2,400) and St Kew Highway Football Club for a ride-on mower to improve the quality of pitches (£1,000). Smaller awards went to Badger Forest School, The Muddy Puddle initiative at Wadebridge Primary Academy, U3A loud-speakers to aid the hard of hearing, Churches Together Holiday Club and Mothers' Milk Café.

The funding comes from a Section 106 agreement with the owners of the solar farm, infrastructure investment fund BBIP, and the land owners, Andrew, Shaun and Oliver Hawkey, to provide a community fund to benefit residents of the area around the installation. The fund is administered by WREN, but is separate from our own Community Fund. A further £20,000 is due in April 2015 with more to come in the years after that.

Chair of the fund committee and WREN director, Tony Faragher, said, "It is very pleasing to see that BBIP and the Hawkey family have so promptly honoured their Section 106 commitment to provide the money for this community fund. They provide a great example for other solar and wind developers."

## **It's Back!** LED Light Bulbs Offer

WREN, in association with Bridge Tools, has arranged a bulk purchase of LED light bulbs in various fitting types. This allows us to offer significantly reduced prices for these bulbs. Using 90% less energy than old incandescent bulbs, whilst giving immediate full brightness, they are fast becoming the favoured low energy bulb. They have an average lifetime of 30,000 hours, a 3 year guarantee and the cost will be paid back through reduced energy bills.

The bulbs are of high quality, manufactured by NGPS, and emit a warm white light. They give a safe low heat and contain no harmful chemicals. Displays can be seen in both the Energy Shop and Bridge Tools (at the bottom of Gonvena Hill).

The following table shows an example of prices. Other models are also available. Please contact us for further information or to order bulbs: email [albert.holmes@wren.uk.com](mailto:albert.holmes@wren.uk.com), phone 01208 812992, or pop into the Energy Shop with your requirements. Collection will be required from the Energy Shop.

contact us: email [dominic.comonte@wren.uk.com](mailto:dominic.comonte@wren.uk.com), telephone 01208 812992, or call in at the Energy Shop.

## Grant Application Voting - Result

Thanks to all members and other supporters who voted on-line to support us in our bid for £70,000 in grants to help launch the Wadebridge Energy Company. We are pleased to say that both our projects have gone through to the next stage where detailed specifications will be needed, which we are now working on.



## BikeLights

While we're on the subject of lights, don't forget **BikeLights**, Wadebridge's first illuminated bicycle procession, **Saturday 18th October at 6pm**, starting near Lidl. Click on the image for more:



## BikeLights

Description (non dimmable)	Retail price (£)	WREN price (£)
5W GU10, 50W halogen spot replacement	7.15	4.75
3.5W <del>Golfball</del> Small Bayonet fitting	6.30	4.20
3.5W <del>Golfball</del> Small Screw fitting	6.30	4.20
3.5W Candle Bulbs Small Screw fitting	6.70	4.45
7W GLS/A60 Standard Screw fitting	11.35	7.55
7W GLS/A60 Bulbs Standard Bayonet fitting	11.35	7.55



## Forward with Fibre 2014

23rd October 2014, Eden Project

Everyone's heard that superfast broadband can give businesses in Cornwall a crucial edge. But what's the reality... and how do you get started?

This free, business event will make everything clear. Learn from leading industry experts and hear genuine Cornish businesses describe their real-life experiences. Click on the Superfast logo for more info.

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