
Briefing Note

Menheniot Green: Community Energy

1.0 Background

1.1 What is Community Energy? Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through a partnership with commercial or public sector partners. *Source Community Energy England*

Is there public support for such a project? In the Menheniot Neighbourhood Development Plan (page 62) we have a mandate and framework to form a Community Energy project,

7.114 Whilst the majority of local people are not in favour of large commercial schemes, they do support domestic-scale renewable energy; and more than 79% of the community wants renewable energy development through a community energy project. This could contribute locally by way of the community owning or holding shares in renewable energy or by providing cheaper energy bills.

There are opportunities to explore within the parish for renewable energy that will provide direct benefits to the community both environmentally but financially.

The parish council has the structure to take forward such a project through its General Power of Competence and Menheniot Green

Menheniot Green is seeking support for such a project to be included in its future work plan

2.0 Phase 1 Project outline

2.1 Initially we will need to identify within the parish the renewable source. In light of the neighbourhood plan this is most likely to geothermal generating electricity to feed into the grid.

Having approached potential partners the viability of the renewable source will have to be established against the business model that would deliver local renewable energy to the community at beneficial tariffs and in cases of severe need, free.

Funding will be applied for to carry out the investigation surveys which may initially be match funded by the parish council.

The delivery mechanism then will be set up to include land owners, partners and the parish council, once viability has been proven. This would usually be through a limited company registered as a charity.

Phase 1 of the project plan will be led by a steering group to work with Menheniot Green comprising Cllrs Cole, Berg, Smith and Croker.

The steering group will report to the Council at its public meetings on progress of the project.

Author Cllr Adrian Cole
Date 8 June 2022