

Low Carbon Leighton Linlade

On 22nd September over 60 people gathered in Leighton Buzzard's All Saints Parish Church for a meeting entitled 'What's the Future for Energy'.

The evening began with presentations from the RSPB's Climate Policy Team and Tring Community Energy (TriCE).

Alice and Melanie from the RSPB spoke about the impact of climate change on wildlife and how renewable energy can be delivered without harming nature. They stressed the urgency for action in order to halt and reverse the increases in global temperatures.

Jan from TriCE explained how the Community Energy scheme works in Tring and how we can do something similar in Leighton Buzzard. Community Energy is about local people investing in local renewable energy developments and energy efficiency schemes.



Alice and Melanie from the RSPB

(Alan Brown)

- Both presentations can be downloaded at www.southbedsfoe.co.uk

From listening to acting

After the presentations and some very interesting questions and suggestions from the floor, attendees were invited to sign up to specific actions to help with the setting up of a Community Energy scheme for Leighton Linlade. These actions are:

- 1) **Pledge to invest in the scheme once it gets going**
- 2) **Tell another person about the scheme**
- 3) **Find out about similar schemes so we can learn from other people's experiences**
- 4) **Join the 'action group' to set up our Community Energy scheme**



People were also urged to take immediate action to write to our MP and local councillors to stress the urgency of acting on climate change and in particular to show support for the second wind turbine near Heath and Reach (Checkley Wood), and to encourage friends and neighbours to do the same.

To find out more about how to support the second wind turbine visit www.southbedsfoe.co.uk or contact Victoria Harvey at vapharvey@btinternet.com.

What happens next?

- There will be a meeting of the Energy Action Group to start setting up a Community Energy scheme on Wednesday November 2nd at 7.45pm at the Friends Meeting House in North Street. All are welcome to attend.
- Andrew Selous MP will be chairing a meeting on Saturday 26th November at 10am, venue to be confirmed. This will be the first in a series of educational meetings and workshops looking at our low-carbon future. We hope to have a speaker from UK Power Networks at this meeting to tell us about the Woodman Close battery and the exciting developments in energy storage technologies.
- Join the facebook group [Community Energy Leighton Linlade](#) to keep up to date



More on Low Carbon Leighton Linslade

We are keen to do more things and get more people involved in making Leighton Linslade a Low Carbon Town. Here are some things that are already happening as well as areas we'd like to develop:

Encouraging sustainable transport



Leighton BuzzCycles is a cycle club and campaign group working to encourage more cycling and improve cycle routes www.buzzcycles.org.uk

We'd like to set up a Bus Users Group or similar to promote bus use

The Leighton Linslade Green Wheel is a network still in development of walking and cycling routes around and across the town to encourage more people to get out and explore and to ditch the car for local journeys. See their Facebook page [Leighton Linslade GreenWheel](#)

Reducing waste

LetsBuzz is the local trading scheme group for Leighton Linslade. This is a great way to share stuff so that not everyone has to buy new stuff: www.letsbuzz.org.uk

Freecycle Leighton Buzzard is a great way to stop stuff going to landfill by giving it to someone else who wants it: www.groups.freecycle.org/group/freecycleleighton-buzzard/posts/all



Could we persuade the council to introduce kerbside food waste collections? And how about Real Nappies?

Supporting local food producers and other local businesses



LB First is local businesses and residents in Leighton Buzzard who are committed to supporting the vitality of the town centre www.lbfirst.org

South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth is supporting the farmers market and local food suppliers www.southbedsfoe.co.uk. They are asking the Market Committee (13th October 10.30am at the White House) to say to the local council to support the Farmers Market and local food

Increasing the biodiversity of the town and celebrating our greenspaces

Keep the Buzz in Leighton Buzzard is looking after 17 bee-friendly habitats across the town including a community orchard and Linslade Memorial gardens: www.southbedsfoe.co.uk/bees__what_you_can_do

Off the Rails looks after the flowering tubs on platform one at Leighton Buzzard station. Contact Daphne Walker daphne@flairtech.co.uk



Volunteer Friends Groups help the Greensand Trust www.greensandtrust.org look after Tiddenfoot Waterside Park www.tiddenfoot.org.uk, Linslade Wood www.linsladewood.info and Knolls Wood www.knollswood.com

Information and References

- The RSPB 2050 Energy Vision document can be downloaded at www.rspb.org.uk/whatwedo/projects/details.aspx?id=350939
- You can read more about TriCE here www.trice.org.uk
- Google 'Community Energy' to get lots of links to information and ideas about this
- Friends of the Earth: national: www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/campaigns_index and local: www.southbedsfoe.co.uk
- Christian Ecology Group/Green Christian: national: www.greenchristian.org.uk/climate-action and local: www.leightonlinsladechurches.btck.co.uk/Organisations/ChristianEcologyGroup