

2.4 A Plastic Bag Free Kingsbridge

Project description:

Working with traders and the public to create a plastic bag free town.

Objectives:

1. To reduce and eventually eliminate the use of plastic bags in the town, by persuading traders to provide and consumers to use more environmentally-friendly alternatives.
2. To improve the appearance of the town, help protect wildlife, reduce long-term landfill and reduce carbon emissions related to the use and long-term degradation of plastic bags.
3. To encourage the introduction of improved processes by the relevant local authorities and their contractors for the recycling of waste plastic.

Key actions:

- Learn from the experience of Modbury and other plastic bag free towns.
- Establish a campaign to raise public support for the project and its objectives.
- Work with local supermarkets to effect changes in their practice in the use of plastic bags.
- Aim to influence changes in policy by supermarkets, and legislation by government
- Liaise with local authorities re the introduction of improved collection & disposal processes.
- Establish measures to track the impact of the project.

Progress to date:

- The South Hams Society have held a public showing of the film 'Message in the Waves', with a talk by TQ Recycling on their plans for plastic recycling.
- A 'Plastic bag free Kingsbridge & Salcombe' campaign group called 'Freedom from Plastic' has been formed, and begun discussions.
- Initial discussions have been held with the Tesco Store Manager and their PR Officer regarding a range of local food & food packaging initiatives.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

It takes 2 Kg of oil to produce every Kg of polyethylene, producing 6 Kg of CO². On average, each family uses approximately 400 per year (equivalent to 80 Kg of CO²).

Suggested ownership:

The Freedom from Plastic'campaign group - with input from SHS and the Local Food Group

Possible sources of funding & support:

South West local authorities

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2.5 A chance to grow your own

Project description:

Creating improved access to land for all members of the community to grow their own food.

Objectives:

1. To establish a wider and more effective network of allotment within the community.
2. To introduce a 'garden share' scheme within the town and its surrounding parishes.
3. To facilitate the development of other ways through which people may 'grow their own' - including communal or cooperative small-scale agriculture.
4. To put more land within and around Kingsbridge into productive use.
5. To increase the proportion of people in the community who actively grow their own food.

Key actions:

- Learn from the experience of similar schemes elsewhere.
- Use the Local Food Survey to initiate more detailed investigations into the desires and current practices of members of the local community regarding growing their own.
- Liaise with the Town Council, other authorities and local landowners regarding the use of land for allotments.
- Set up a garden share scheme.

Progress to date:

- The existing local food group have made enquiries about current allotment waiting lists.
- The group has already facilitated the introduction of raised produce beds at KCC, with the intention that some of these will be available for public use. It has also identified some further land on the school site that may be suitable for allotment purposes.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

Food that is grown at or close to home has the least impact on the environment - avoiding carbon emissions associated with transporting and packaging the food, and the use of petro-based fertilisers if supported by local composting.

Suggested ownership:

The Local Food Group

Possible sources of funding & support:

South West local authorities
The Big Lottery (Local Food Fund)

2.6 Putting local food in the hands of local people

Project description:

To create new and improved retail outlets for local food producers within Kingsbridge and surrounding parishes, and improved access to local food for residents and visitors.

Objectives:

To use the findings of the local food survey to create or improve local outlets for local food producers. From our discussions so far, these might include:

- establishing cooperative wholesale arrangements
- setting up a 'local food hub'
- shared stalls on the farmers markets
- a 'food glut' stall on the bandstand
- a 'real food bus'
- a scheme to highlight local food in shops and restaurants
- encouraging the supermarkets to set up a 'local food market' isle

Key actions:

To be established once the results of the local food survey have been analysed.

Progress to date:

The survey is underway.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

To be established.

Suggested ownership:

Some aspects by the Local Food Group & others by farmers' cooperatives and local entrepreneurs.

Possible sources of funding & support:

DEFRA
Small Farms Association

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CONTACT

For further information on any of the actions in the Local Food section of this action plan, or to express an interest in getting involved, please contact:

Bob Willars

Tel: 07582 111708

Email: bobwillars@sky.com

RENEWABLE ENERGY

3.0 Overview

The availability of affordable energy has been taken for granted for more than a generation. It never was this way before cheap coal, oil and then gas led to complacency. Whether predictions of peak oil are accurate or not, it is clear that as a nation it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to be sure that the price and availability of energy will remain within our control. This fact applies to every town, village, community, business and household in the UK.

An opportunity exists, possibly only for a few years, for communities to work together to deliver new energy capacity that is owned and controlled locally. In this way we can ensure that we will not be at the mercy of those controlling distant energy sources, or at the mercy of the decisions of multinational corporate businesses.

Independently of, but related to, the urgent need to take control of energy prices and availability, the UK Government has set (in the Climate Change Act 2008) a target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. A central part of this strategy is to deliver as much renewable energy as possible - everywhere that energy is consumed. That means wind turbines, solar panels, hydro and tidal schemes here in the South Hams.

Kingsbridge sits at the head of a beautiful estuary and is surrounded by miles of responsibly managed farm estates. We do not want to see this environment compromised - not least because it is the basis of our most important industries, tourism and food production. We must therefore take action now to ensure that when renewable energy installations are built here, it is on our terms.

One of the principle motivations that brought the Carbon Reduction Working Group together is the knowledge that, if the people of Kingsbridge work together, we can deliver at least half of our energy needs using renewable energy. Not only that, but we can decide what is built, where AND we can share the financial reward of doing so. Furthermore, it can help take every Kingsbridge household that struggles to pay their energy bills out of 'fuel poverty'.

The residents of Goveton successfully demonstrated that a community can be powerful in stopping large wind turbines in the wrong location, but we now need to work with the District Council and with the industry to give a clear message about what we do want.

It is our objective, therefore, to bring the community together - residents, landowners, businesses, the Town Council and all interest groups - to identify how we are going to take control of the renewable energy agenda for the benefit of Kingsbridge. We have the knowledge, experience and determination to do this, and we now need to act with one community voice to tackle the issue.

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The process will begin with an open debate - the aim being to establish the concerns, interests, ideas and enthusiasm of the community for this project. The debate will be led by a well known and respected figure from our community, and it is essential that the debate is attended by as many people as possible and that all points of view are expressed.

There will no doubt be conflicting views, but the overriding truth is that if the community cannot reach a consensus about how renewable energy will be delivered in Kingsbridge it will not be long before the industry takes that decision for us. As the people of Goveton know, it is expensive and stressful fighting off proposals. It will only get more difficult with time.

Many communities have already demonstrated what is possible. In Wadebridge, for example, opportunities are being identified that will deliver locally-owned renewable energy installations that raise money for the community (see <http://www.wren.uk.com/>). There are other examples on our doorstep: Sustainable South Brent was formed in 2007 to pioneer sustainable solutions to climate change and energy security for the community of about 3000 people. Similarly, Ivybridge Renewable Energy has been formed. An example of a project in full swing is Transition Town Totnes, where planning permission has been granted for a medium-sized wind turbine that will be owned by the local residents. Not only will they enjoy free energy, but they will receive payment through the Feed In Tariff scheme. A number of 'Community Interest Companies' have been established to achieve the same in Cornwall.

These initiatives do not necessarily provide a blueprint for Kingsbridge, but they do provide us with inspiration - and the confidence that we too can come together to identify our own programme and deliver it.

We believe that by identifying and delivering renewable energy capacity in Kingsbridge we can:

- Improve energy security
- Reduce the impact of energy consumption on the environment
- Eradicate fuel poverty
- Support local business in this sector
- Derive a source of income to be used for the benefit of the community

We hope to achieve this by the implementation of a staged plan, starting with the energy debate and followed by:

- The establishment of a community-led body to co-ordinate the delivery of renewable energy projects
- The identification and implementation of a suitable pilot project
- Undertaking a feasibility study for all renewable energy technologies
- Establishing a local services directory

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3.1 Bringing the community together

Project description:

A facilitated debate to establish the interests of individuals, community groups, local businesses & entrepreneurs, the Town Council and others.

Objectives:

To determine an agenda and protocol for the delivery of community-led renewable energy projects.

Key actions:

- The event is to be planned by the TASK team. To be successful the event must be:
 - attended by a broad representation of all interests in the town and its environs
 - well designed
 - allow for an open but focussed debate
 - be facilitated by an individual respected by all
- Common interests will be identified, concerns aired and the means for addressing conflict established.

Progress to date:

None.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

The event will establish the basis for a substantial reduction in carbon emissions through the provision of local renewable energy facilities.

Suggested ownership:

The TASK group.

Possible sources of funding & support:

DARE

RegenSW

Local renewable energy industry

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3.2 Establishing a community-led coordinating body

Project description:

A series of meetings will be convened to establish a community body with the role of co-ordinating the delivery of renewable energy facilities.

Objectives:

To ensure that the nature of renewable energy facilities will be appropriate to meet the interests of the community, delivery must be co-ordinated by the community. The specific objectives would be established at the facilitated debate (see 3.1).

Key actions:

- Agree the remit for the community-led body through the facilitated debate (3.1, above).
- Design a series of meetings to reach consensus. All members of the community will be welcome to join the meetings.

Progress to date:

None.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

The body will establish the basis for a substantial reduction in carbon emissions through the provision of local renewable energy facilities.

Suggested ownership:

The TASK group.

Possible sources of funding & support:

DARE

RegenSW

Local renewable energy industry

3.3 Delivering a pilot project

Project description:

The planning, design and installation of a renewable energy installation which provides cheap energy and an income stream for the community - without any adverse impact on the environment or adverse impact on amenity.

Objectives:

To identify and deliver a quick win renewable energy project to act as a catalyst for further action.

Key actions:

- Establish a team
- Identify a suitable pilot project
- Devise the project plan
- Deliver the project to plan

Progress to date:

None.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

The first installation would deliver a small level of carbon reduction and act as a catalyst for more significant reduction.

Suggested ownership:

Depends on pilot selected.

Possible sources of funding & support:

The renewable energy industry
Local landowner

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3.4 Renewable energy feasibility study

Project description:

The preparation and publication of a publicly available feasibility study, detailing the potential for renewable energy production in the Kingsbridge area.

Objectives:

To identify the potential for energy production in the Kingsbridge area for:

- Solar pv (photovoltaic)
- Wind
- Hydropower
- Tidal power

Key actions:

- Prepare a project brief that has the broad support of the community. This can be discussed at the energy debate (see 3.1, above).
- Identify sources of funding to pay for the study.
- Invite consultants to tender for all or part of the work.
- Communicate the findings of the research in a publicly accessible report.

Progress to date:

None.

Potential impact on Carbon Reduction:

The document would inform further action, including approaching landowners and developers with a view to delivering as much renewable energy as possible without compromising other objectives identified by the community (see 3.4, above).

Suggested ownership:

To be discussed

Possible sources of funding & support:

DARE

The renewable energy industry

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3.5 Local services directory

Project description:

Creation of a local directory of construction industry suppliers, manufacturers, consultants and other related services.

Note: this project could form part of a broader service directory for Kingsbridge (see 4.5)

Objectives:

- To promote the local service industry
- To encourage local investment in the service industry
- To reinforce supply chains
- To engender confidence in the renewables industry
- To promote local best value

Key actions:

- Engage suppliers and services.
- Engage with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Set up the format of the directory e.g. web based or a printed document.
- Define the categories of services.
- Establish the criteria for inclusion (e.g. accreditation, geographic location, commitment to carbon reduction).
- Establish membership arrangements (e.g. a subscription).
- Provide top tips for procuring services.

Progress to date:

None

Potential impact on carbon reduction:

Promotion of local services will reduce transport needs and procurement of carbon reducing products, services and actions

Suggested ownership:

Kingsbridge Town Council, Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce, Kingsbridge Information Centre, Local contractors, consultants and other service providers.

Possible sources of funding:

South Devon Coastal Local Action Group, local service providers, sponsorship.

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CONTACT

For further information on any of the actions in the Renewable Energy section of this action plan, or to express an interest in getting involved, please contact:

Tom Sylger Jones

Tel: 07788 553361

Email: tom.jones@anient.co.uk

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SUSTAINABLE & ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

4.0 Overview

We are privileged to live in an attractive area - a historic market town and surrounding villages, set within a beautiful rural and coastal landscape. Many of us take our natural and built assets for granted. But all is not well:

- Many feel excluded from the decision making process, and struggle with the rules and legislation affecting development, whether in support of or against a proposal.
- Insufficient affordable homes are being built, and those that are still fall outside the reach of many local prospective home buyers.
- Our existing homes are poorly insulated and inefficient in energy use.
- Energy costs are soaring, affecting our pockets and our health.
- There is a shortage of quality employment and year round jobs.
- Certain age groups, particularly the young and old, lack support and a voice on quality of life issues.

Our ambition through TASK is for a more sustainable town and rural hinterland. This gives us the opportunity to shape and guide the future, and deal effectively with inevitable change. We want to avoid unnecessary & adverse impacts, wasteful carbon emissions, and make best use of our valuable assets.

Within the recently adopted statutory plan for Kingsbridge (The Local Development Framework Site Allocations Development Plan Document 2010) just under 500 homes are proposed, and sites allocated up to and beyond 2016. There is a strong argument that new homes are needed - but they must respond to the local needs of the community.

Through a series of structured events and activities we aim to:

- Promote a shared understanding of what is important to our community in the built environment.
- Help shape new development so it best addresses local needs - such as affordable housing and new employment opportunities
- Support sustainable forms of construction - like self build and energy efficiency
- Assist decision makers, planners and councillors to look after the community's' interests on sustainability and quality
- Promote and signpost local building products and services
- Improve energy efficiency and help reduce our ever increasing energy bills
- Include all members of our community: young, old, permanent and temporary.

Projects we envisage under the sustainable and energy efficient buildings theme are:

1. A community forum
2. Setting up a Local Standards Framework for new homes
3. A design and planning advisory group
4. Promotion of energy efficiency in new and existing homes with a pilot project
5. A local service directory

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TASK

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE KINGSBRIDGE

4.1 A community forum - have your say

Project description:

To establish a forum for information exchange and debate on the existing and future built environment of Kingsbridge.

Objectives:

- To engender a better understanding of the development process, and related practical, policy, environmental and viability issues.
- Provide a forum for debate with local and regional decision makers for future development i.e. councillors, officers and government departments.

Subjects for debate at the forum could include:

- What type of development do we want in and around the town?
- The most suitable forms of renewable energy
- Practical ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home and workplace.

Key actions:

- Leadership: setting up the forum, a chairperson, and initial topics.
- Promotion: publicity of the events
- Support: administration, clerical support, follow up action.
- Issues/subjects: engage with the emerging forum on future and emerging topics.
- Keynote speakers: engage respected and inspirational national, regional, and local speakers.
- Venues and frequency: central location (Kings Arms), quarterly

Progress to date:

Many of the burning issues informing sustainability and carbon reduction have been raised within the sub-groups, and will be aired through the forum. We are able to build on the success of the CRWG launch at Coasters.

Potential impact on carbon reduction:

Through promoting better sustainable construction, energy efficiency and less waste.

Suggested ownership:

Local construction professionals, contractors and suppliers, housing providers, town council and community groups. First and second home owners. The Heart of the West LEP.

Possible sources of funding:

Lottery, Local Action, KTC, RSLs, DCC, SHDC

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