

ENERGY PROJECT PREPARES TO BE SWITCHED ON....

A contract between the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Barningham Net Zero Community Interest Company is about to be signed for a Stage 1 feasibility study of renewable energy technologies. Funding is provided under the Rural Community Energy Fund. A final choice of consultant who will undertake much of the initial project has been made after a rigorous assessment of proposals from three consultants all of which approached the brief in very different ways.

ENERGY SURVEY: THE FIRST STEPS

Households in the Barningham area will be invited to join in a survey of energy use. The survey forms will be distributed with The Flyer at the end of August; completion of the survey by residents will make a vital contribution to the first and essential step of determining total electricity generation requirements.

PRODUCE AT THE FOUNTAIN

July saw the start of our *Produce at the Fountain* initiative, every Thursday at Barningham fountain from 11am-6pm. Fresh produce provided by local gardeners can be “purchased” by making a donation. All proceeds and any unsold produce will go to the Food Bank in Barnard Castle. They operate a zero-waste policy, so any fresh produce not taken from the Food Bank on a Friday will be passed on to Wetheriggs Animal Rescue.

Our offerings in July included freshly picked rhubarb, black currants, gooseberries, lettuce, spring greens, turnip, herbs and small pot plants. A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated! In August we expect a wider range of produce as crops carefully nurtured over the past few months start ripening, leading to the usual end of summer glut of fresh food.

In the first 3 weeks, we raised over £40 for the Food Bank. It would be great to see this figure doubled in August! So please, stop by the Fountain on a Thursday and pick up some great tasting home-grown fruit and vegetables. Contact George-Anne (Tel. 621203) with any queries.

GREEN HOMES GRANT

From September, homeowners will be able to apply for up to £5000 for energy-efficiency improvements. The ‘Green Homes Grant’ is expected to cover a wide range of measures including double glazing, insulation, boilers, energy-efficient doors and energy-saving light bulbs. The government vouchers can be used to cover at two-thirds of the cost of an eligible energy-saving home improvement. Contact Judith (Tel. 621562).

TREE PLANTING: TREES FOR TEESDALE.....BARNINGHAM BRANCH

We are now working with two local landowners to undertake tree planting activities. At the first site, we will establish a new 300m² copse and 40m hedgerow along an existing wire fence. At the second site, a wildlife set aside area is being created. At both sites, dead and missing hedge plants will be replaced in existing hedgerows. A variety of species will be used to enhance biodiversity as well as visual amenity and the work will be completed at no charge to the landowners.

Thanks to *Trees for Teesdale* for supporting us! As the umbrella organisation, they will provide insurance cover, equipment, materials and of course, the trees! They will also supervise the work and provide training for new volunteers.

We plan to join forces with Newsham to provide this local service and are seeking volunteers from across the area. The work is mainly done in the winter when the trees are dormant, although we can construct some stock fencing in advance. Work sessions are typically 2 hours duration and usually on weekdays by agreement with those available. Contact Martha (Tel. 07984 756080).

Barningham Net Zero Community Interest Company

Meeting the Climate Change Emergency in Barningham

www.barninghamnetzero.com