**Kempley Parish Council - Climate Change Emergency**

**Report on progress to the September 2021 Parish Council Meeting.**

**Summary**

The main areas of progress since our last Parish Council meeting in July are:

* Contracts and Partner Agreements for the EU funded AURORA Energy Awareness Project are signed and complete. A firm start date of December 2021 is set and Kempley has the opportunity to gain benefits from the work undertaken by the Forest of Dean District Council as one of the lead partners in the programme ;
* Consultation by the Forest of Dean on their **“Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2022-25”** and the role of the **Forest Climate Group is underway;**
* Continued progress developing the *Sharing the Benefits* communication campaign;
* Broadband – Kempley Combined Solution Project installed by Airband is complete and the Gigaclear Glebe Orchard fibre optic scheme preliminary works have commenced. A community meeting can be expected 4th Quarter 2021 to cover the detail of actual ground works.

**We continue to need volunteers to progress our work and climate change campaign.**

**Introduction**

Kempley Parish Council (KPC) declared a Climate Change Emergency at our meeting in October 2019. We agreed at our November 2020 meeting that the KPC would move forward towards carbon neutrality by 2030 by taking the following actions:

1. **Baselining our current community carbon emissions**
2. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes**
3. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction**
4. **Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband [**to drive change in the way we work, travel and shop to reduce carbon emissions].

**Progress Report**

We have made the following progress on our four key target areas since our July meeting;

1. **Baselining our current community carbon emissions –**

Base line carbon emissions were reported for the village at our May meeting, using the Exeter University et al Community carbon calculator - [impact-tool.org.uk/](http://impact-tool.org.uk/)

We now have confirmation that the tool **does not** have provisions to adjust the calculations and reduce predicted levels based on carbon reduction measures put in place by residents and landowners. Guidance is given however on how our community and the parish council can use the data from the IMPACT tool to move forward with reducing their carbon footprints?

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/using-the-tool>

Kempley can also support the AURORA project which will launch in December 2021 and run for 4.5 years. AURORA will be developing an APP that residents can use to measure their carbon footprint. The APP will record data that will be translated to **provide personalized information about their energy consumption trends and environmental impact.** Thanks to the use of artificial intelligence, the app will return **specific and targeted** advice to the users on how to walk the path towards sustainable lifestyles.

Under the AURORA scheme a local energy community programme will be developed that builds a photovoltaic (PV) facility of around 200kW in the Forest of Dean. Crowd sourced funding will be used to raise capital for the initiative with shares offered starting at a value of €20 up to a maximum of €1000. Shares in the scheme will be available for parishioners to use to offset carbon emissions in their personal journey to net zero carbon. This aspect of the scheme will be led by the Forest of Dean District Council.

As part of our long term plan it is therefore recommended that:

* We support the Forest of Dean and the Centre for Sustainable Energy as they roll out AURORA locally and promote its uptake by local residents;
* That we use the outputs to calculate reductions in carbon emissions taking place in our community; and that
* We encourage our community to support the development of local energy communities within the Forest of Dean under the AURORA programme.

By engaging in AURORA we will also link up Kempley with 5 other European Countries starting out on the same journey to share experiences gained. We will also position our community to be among the European leaders on the route to net zero carbon, to benefit from EU funding and to gain first mover financial advantage from such an integrated approach. It will place our community on the map and open up future opportunities as utility providers see Kempley as an example of rural best practice in the UK.

Decarbonising homes and transport is critical to reaching net zero carbon in Kempley along with decarbonising farming activities in our community.

It is worth recalling:

* Domestic Energy use accounted for 21% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2019;
* The residential sector is the 3rd biggest emitter of UK carbon; and
* **To get too net zero by 2050 – the UK’s legally binding target – each home will need to reduce its carbon emissions from heating down from 2,745 kg of carbon to 138kgs per year (based on 2017 figures).**

1. **Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes** –

**2.1 Sharing the Benefits**

Bob Earll and Mark Warrilow have continued with their *Sharing the Benefits* initiative, exploring resident’s response to the climate, over-consumption, and nature emergency. Preliminary findings from these conversations are clearly identifying what residents are interested in. These findings can be integrated into the AURORA programme at year end.

**2.2 The Forest Climate Group - Joining forces with local Parish Councils**

Parish and Town Councils in the Forest of Dean continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis to share best practice and to pool ideas on joint projects. The Group meet at the 9th September when discussion focused on the Forest of Dean Consultation **“Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2022-25”**

**<https://mcusercontent.com/6c6addb579eac269582fc7db2/files/30757cc5-7dce-a5e2-95b5-a93b9ab687df/FoDDC_Climate_Emergency_Strategy_and_Action_Plan_2022_25_DRAFT_for_consultation.pdf>**

The group also debated whether or not it should become one of the Hub Centres of expertise envisaged in the Forest of Dean Climate Partnership see:-

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/tlkaifix/outputs-from-climate-partnership-development-event.pdf>

The group also continues to share ideas and best practise now being explored across the Forest of Dean.

**2.3 – AURORA[[1]](#footnote-1) –** Contracts have now been signed by UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID (UPM), and the European Commission. The Partnership Agreement is also now in place and consists of:

INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COMMUNICATION (INSCICO) – GERMANY;

AARHUS UNIVERSITET (AU)- DENMARK;

KEMPLEYGREEN CONSULTANTS – UK;

UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI (UL) – SLOVENIA;

UNIVERSIDADE DE EVORA (UEVORA) – PORTUGAL;

QUALIFYING PHOTOVOLTICS, SL (QPV) – SPAIN;

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (CSE)- UK; and

FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (FoDDC) – UK.

1. **Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes** **that will support carbon reduction**

At this point in time the EU project AURORA provides EU research funding that will be of benefit to Kempley Parish Council once it begins in December 2021. Funding has also been received from both the UK and the EU to install fibre optic broadband to all promises within Kempley. Roll out has begun with a number of properties already operational and should be completed for the whole community during 2022.

1. **Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband –**

**Current Position**

* 1. **Kempley Airband Scheme –** This programme, supported by the County Council Fastershire scheme and installed and operated by Airband, went live on January 27th, 2016, and brought fast wireless-based broadband to micro businesses in Kempley. It remains operational and offers businesses and a few residents broad band speeds of up to 40Mbps
  2. **Kempley Combined Solution –** This programme, supported by the County Council Fastershire scheme went live summer 2021, and brought fast wireless-based broadband to isolated farms, businesses and residential property within the northern end of Kempley Parish It is now operational and offers broad band speeds of up to 1GB but typically 150Mbps.

Full details can be found in the following leaflet:

<https://kempleyparishcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200312_GD457_kempley-combined-doordrop_leaflet.pdf>

**Fastershire / Gigaclear**; For the remainder of the village Gigaclear have commenced way leave discussions for their Glebe Orchard build (which includes Kempley). Gigaclear are reviewing the option of switching to a mix of aerial fibre optic and buried fibre optic installation utilising existing infrastructure wherever possible to speed up installation and reduce costs. Gigaclear have continued to delay an online Community Meeting originally expected in September and it is now expected to take place in November / December.

**Alternate Broadband suppliers.** In addition the existing broad band services remain available from Open Reach (typically 1-2 Mbps download speeds); EE Wireless Broadband (typically 40Mbps download speeds) and Starlink Satellite Broad band with download speeds of between 50-150Mbps. The first Starlink service is operational in Kempley and we will get a better understanding of its capability shortly.

Once fibre optic broadband installation is complete, we can explore future events on how to get the best benefits from the new systems and understand how we might reduce carbon emission as a consequence.

**Martin Brocklehurst**

**Chair Kempley Parish Council – September 2021**

1. Martin Brocklehurst declares a financial interest in the AURORA project as one of the core partners, KempleyGreen Consultants (KGC). The role in the project is to lead the external international dissemination of the overall programme and its results. Local initiatives are being led by the Forest of Dean District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Development. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)