

FEP Fal Energy Partnership Ltd
AGM Minutes
Falmouth Council Chambers, Municipal Offices The Moor *Falmouth* TR11 3QA
11 April 2013
Final Copy by NM

Attendees (21)

Paul Britton, Richard Hopper, Graeme Steer, Rob Homewood, Philip Pearce, Robin Curtis, Jeremy Tridgell, Geoff Fairman, Rob Follett, Nina Ennaji, Neil Farrington, Jonathan Adey, Dan Nicholls, Caroline Robinson, Charmian Larke, Nigel Murray, Paul Martin and baby Maya, Kate Simpson, Kate Thomas, Laurence MacRory

Apologies (2)

Lorely Lloyd, Sarah Newton MP

1. Welcome from Nigel Murray, FEP

First year of Fal Energy Partnership
Thanks to Falmouth Town Council for their support
Remind everyone that they can join by becoming a member

2. Smart Grid for Cornwall Presentation by Jonathan Adey (JA), Cornwall Development Company, Convergence Manager

- What is a SmartGrid?

New type of electrical network which can cope with fluctuations in supply and demand

Better storage plans too ie. Huge batteries

Increased data collection from domestic and commercial properties

- Why looking at SmartGrid in Cornwall?

Telecoms and IT industry has enabled this potential project to happen

Reversing of energy supply from large sole point to small renewable supply across the network

Rising electrical energy costs makes this SmartGrid seem more efficient

- What we are doing as SmartGrid programme in Cornwall?

We need a SmartGrid in Cornwall because we are at the end of the line

Energy gridlock in Cornwall

Early technology transfer means potential to sell the knowledge process abroad (Jobs)

Selling this concept to funders as already have 'Community Engagement' with the Cornwall Council

WesternPower and LEP is involved on steering group

Global Companies involved – Samsung, Toshiba, General Electric

WREN are involved

Tremough are involved

From document "2020 Routemap Consultation", Cornwall Development Company, Feb 2013

3. Q&A

Q. Will the profits from the SmartGrid go out of not only Cornwall, but the UK?

A. Energy re-sale and community-owned markets are issues. Will the community have capacity to do that? Want local communities and businesses to work together.

Q. Save money in the region of £14 Billion and costs to Cornwall? Big business will own the kit after implementation?

A. Developing strands of technology, ownership and strategic economy planning ie. Who benefits?

Q. 15 x Community groups not being supported by Cornwall Council or CDC, even being cut at present time. All that voluntary and long-term support for years which has been under-funded

and this project is benefiting from that community work. Can CDC then make promises to ensure that these people and groups will be supported now and in the future?

A. SmartGrid maybe a potential solution to this. The money we are getting to give to WREN is national government money.

Q. Financial gap between current new connection spend by NationalGrid and what should be spent on improving the network with future new connections is large. How does SmartGrid which is expensive technology fit with that current new connection spend?

There is a 30 year gap between being able to generate renewable energy and from local being able to benefit from local energy production.

A. In short-term – no. Long-term – yes.

Only by being early movers, the better leverage would be.

Q. Jobs for Cornwall... We don't have enough trained electricians in Cornwall to cope with further training with SmartGrids. How will the training be done? What can you do to fix the shortfall in people to match the plans?

A. We are at early stages. Having discussions with local colleges and schools, even at GCSE level. Need a skill strategy.

4. Community Engagement from Cornwall Council Presentation by Dan Nichols, Planning and Regeneration Dept for Community Energy Projects in Cornwall

Speaking from renewable energy point of view about planning permissions.

– Voice frustrations and optimism about renewable energy and the planning process

Regulator and Council want to support community groups

As a regulator, NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) means planners must have a positive stance on renewables and doing it with communities in-mind. Politically supported.

What can planners do about fairness, communities and fuel-poverty?

Dan is keen to help and is getting out in the community

Haven't been to a community meeting yet and said 'Yes, we can help you with that', but have had to spend a lot of time organising funding to do this work.

What can Dan do to help FEP?

5. Q&A

Q. Why don't you use your regulatory powers to influence developers to contribute to local community projects such as FEP?

A. We can't say 'No' to development. There is a presumption in favour of development and contributions needs to be fairly and reasonably related to the development. Funding for community projects does need to be provided and we are now working on the 'how'.

Q. There are schemes up and running [Section 21]? which should be used as ways to support and fund community projects?

A. Where the community benefit is clearly defined, Planners can then seek to require developer contributions that can be linked to the planning permission.

Q. How will the emerging Local Plan support community projects?

A. The Local Plan supports widespread community engagement and we will seek to work with FEP.

Q. Draft Cornwall Local Plan. Does the community really have a voice? Would like planners to help with democratic process, informing and raising awareness of Fal Energy Partnership? there? We would also like a Neighbourhood Plan for the area so why is there not one proposed within the Local Plan?

A. Agreed to look at ways to work with us and would attend a future FEP meeting to take this forward. Suggested making close links with Parish Council Members.

Q. Capital costs might be funded by a variety of funding opportunities, but it's the preliminary stages where there is little in the way of funding for community groups so how can Cornwall Council support us?

A. We can support, but depends on the needs of the community group. So offered to continue to work with FEP.

Q. Can you work within the regulatory planning system and support community led renewable energy projects?

A. Yes, by linking community planning with the wider role of Cornwall Council, particularly by helping to identify funds and political support..

Q. Could FEP submit a pre-application for free?

A. Not currently. But, we want to support community groups and offered to work with us and attend future meetings.

Q. Can Cornwall Council help to raise the profile of FEP?

A. Suggested briefing the Parish Council after the elections and to continue to work with Cornwall Council.

Q. How can FEP interface with the democratic process and ensure new councillors raise FEP issues?

A. We need champions to brief new councillors and create positive working relationships to ensure FEP messages are clearly understood.

6. Board Report from Charmian Larke

Previous board members were Charmian Larke, Lorely Lloyd and Caroline Robinson.

We had LEAF monies helped to bring FEP to a community group.

We have created a report which gives a baseline to move forward from.

Thinking of new projects – SolarClub, Windturbines, Activity in outlining Parishes.

Need more members and volunteers.

7. Treasurer's Report from Caroline Robinson

Community/Business Triodos Bank account for FEP.

£37 in Membership

£10 from Advertising on HotMap

Total £47.00

Some installers need to re-new their advertising.

In the FEP area, renewable energy companies don't need to pay to be on the map.

Outside the area, renewable energy companies do need to pay to be on the map (£50).

And we use that money for promoting FEP.

8. Election of Board

Nominations were read and there was an open vote of the new Board by all FEP Members attending the AGM. Voting resolved to elect the following members as the 13/14 FEP Board:

Paul Britton

Caroline Robinson

Robin Curtis

Richard Hopper

Rob Homewood

Lorely Lloyd

Nigel Murray

Charmian Larke

End