

Chairman's Report – 11 January 2021

1. BWCE

An initial engagement meeting has been held with BWCE (Bath & West Community Energy) following the general online presentation that BWCE gave in December to Freshford, Limpley Stoke and Winsley PCs.

BWCE work with communities in the areas of energy demand management and renewable energy solutions.

These are some key areas for addressing the Climate Emergency.

BWCE are able to undertake a scoping study to identify the areas that they are able to help with, and then undertake an options analysis on the areas that are decided to proceed with.

BWCE are able to provide 50% of the funding of the Options analysis, and funding is being sought for the remaining amount, which is likely to be in the order of £3-4k.

This preparation work will enable aspects of the Action Plan resulting from the Community Forum to be proceeded with more rapidly.

Once the options analysis is completed, then following a decision on the available options, BWCE will be able to produce a Feasibility Study for which funding will be sought at the time.

2. 2021 Census

It's that time again – 2021 – and things are going to be a bit different.

This year the census will be undertaken online, with households receiving a letter with a unique key allowing an online form to be completed, although paper forms will be available and how this will work needs to be identified.

The importance of the census is that it will help to provide the required services to where they are needed.

“This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but codes will be received from early March.

The PC is being asked to:

- start talking about the census with your friends and family
- tell people in your community about the census, its benefits and importance to them
- raise awareness of the census in community organisations and any places people go to for advice
- promote the census in things like community newsletters, meetings and social media groups
- arrange for information to be added to a community website
- offer the use of community spaces for census events
- run a presentation to members of your community

It's not clear how some of these items can be undertaken or achieved during a lockdown.

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On reading the full details through, the guidance has clearly been put together without consideration of the current situation as regards Covid-19.

I will need to discuss this through with BANES as to how best support the community during the lockdown – which may (probably?) still be in place – to understand exactly what is needed.

Then a plan of action will need to be outlined.