

# Shropshire and Telford Community Energy Newsletter November 2024



## STCE has been shortlisted for two Community Energy Awards!

We are honoured to be shortlisted for the Progress in Expansion Award and look forward to the awards ceremony on 22 Nov! The Community Energy Awards is a prestigious event hosted by Community Energy England, designed to shine a light on community energy and highlight achievements in the wider community energy sector. Our Treasurer Dave Green has also been shortlisted for the Community Energy Champion award.

See <https://communityenergyengland.org/news>



## Twemlows Litter Pick & Hedgerow Maintenance Sat Nov 30th, 10-1.00pm

We're holding a second litter pick session along with some hedgerow maintenance work on Sat Nov 30th. SY13 2HA, (just off A41 south of Prees Heath roundabout). Please join us and hear more about our plans for the solar farm and other projects.

If you're interested in joining us please email [info@stcenergy.org.uk](mailto:info@stcenergy.org.uk) so we can get a feel for numbers, thankyou. We hope to have lunch together afterwards.

## At our Twemlows Solar Farm

generation (and therefore income) has been down this year due to the poor weather. We are working hard to ensure that we still meet our financial targets for repaying loans, providing community benefits and paying interest to our investors. We still expect to pay 6% interest to our shareholder investors early in 2025, but in the "real world" nothing is guaranteed. Our professional management team in London are doing a good job monitoring the solar farm's performance and managing the planned maintenance and unplanned repairs.

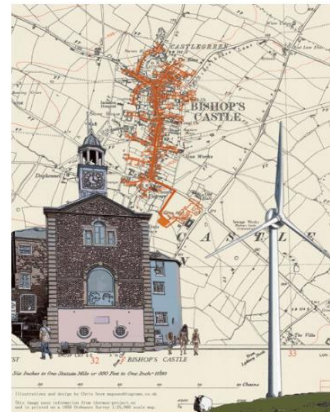
## Our Silver Lining?

The younger generation will be more affected by climate change than us "ageing eco-warriors". STCE is a really good example of a Community Benefit Society making a real impact. Businesses worldwide are getting involved and committed to climate action for real change. Are there any "Young Professionals" out there who want to get involved with STCE as a stepping stone in their careers? You can see and learn from our achievements and experiences, taking those lessons into your future lives. Do you have ambitions or skills in finance / accounts, marketing, social media, making videos, engineering, business administration, etc? Learn what we do and help if you want to. Remember our strapline *Community! Energy! Action!!!*

Do our investors, members or followers know the young professionals who want to shape our future world?

## Update on the Bishop's Castle Heat & Wind project

The wind turbine planning application will be submitted to Shropshire Council very soon. This follows a well-attended, very supportive public meeting in the Three Tuns on 25th September. We'll publicise the planning reference as soon as we have it, the more people who can write to Shropshire Council in support, the better. Meanwhile the heat network feasibility work is continuing, funded by the grant from the Community Energy Fund. We have strong interest from the SpArC leisure centre, the Community College, a holiday complex and over 40 households. The STCE board have agreed to continue working on the project, an application for Green Heat Network Funding for the final development works and a share of the capital costs should be submitted in January.



artwork by Chris Snow, see [www.mapsanddiagrams.co.uk](http://www.mapsanddiagrams.co.uk), using a 1958 Ordnance Survey map.

## The STCE Community Benefit Funds Put to Good Use

Our Community Benefit Funds are having a real impact across Shropshire. Rushbury VH, Festival Drayton Centre and Harmer Hill Village Hall have all fitted rooftop PV, enabled by our CBF grants. For Rushbury we also funded new windows and doors and advised them on new heat pumps. Rushbury has been transformed from “Nice but cold” to “Nice and cosy!!” and STCE was the lead funder for their project!

see <https://www.shropshirelive.com/news/2024/09/26/rushbury-village-hall-benefits-from-community-energy-fund/>

Little Wenlock VH has now gone completely carbon free, replacing their old gas cooker with a new electric induction cooker. More projects are in the pipeline and there is currently unclaimed money in the local grant pot managed by Community Resource, see <https://community-resource.org.uk/service-funding-advice/#grants-for-community-groups>.

We have recently increased the maximum on these local grants to £2,000 and whilst priority is given to groups within 15 miles of Prees Heath other Shropshire & Telford groups can also apply.



*Howard Betts at Rushbury VH with Grace Sandel & Christine Beaver*

**You Can Still Join STCE If You're Not Already a Member** Most of our members have come from investing in our Twemlows solar farm share offer. However, if you're not an investor member you can join STCE for just £10. For a membership form please email [info@stcenergy.org.uk](mailto:info@stcenergy.org.uk).

Shropshire & Telford Community Energy,  
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