

# Shropshire and Telford Community Energy

## Newsletter August 2025



### Our Second Share Offer is Open

This share offer will enable us to carry out the next phase of securing the Twemlows solar farm, to pay out more from our Community Benefit Fund and increase our membership. We've raised £140,000 in the last 9 weeks but still have a way to go to achieve our main target of £500,000. Thanks to our existing members who've bought more shares and welcome to our 34 new members. If you know anyone else who might be interested, please spread the word. Organisations can also invest.

We maintain our target 6% return on investment and have recently paid out 6% to our existing investor members for 2024. The share offer will close on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.

See [www.stcenergy.org.uk/investors-home](http://www.stcenergy.org.uk/investors-home).

We've had two successful share offer launch events, one in Market Drayton attended by Helen Morgan MP and one in Wellington attended by Mayor Cllr Reg Snell (with apologies from Mark Pritchard MP). We'll be at several events over the next two months including the Ironbridge Coracle event on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, Clun Futures day on Sept 28<sup>th</sup> and the always excellent Blackberry Fair in Whitchurch on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. Do come and say hello.



*STCE Directors with Helen Morgan MP and our new sign*



*Dave Green & Robert Saunders with Cllr Reg Snell, Mayor of Wellington*

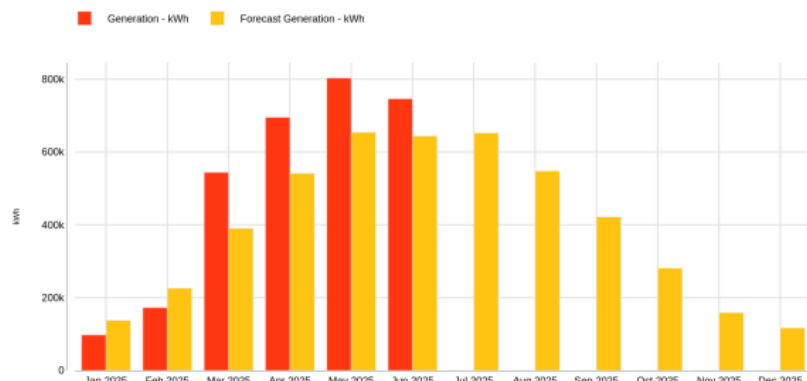
### Bishop's Castle Wind Turbine Approval!

Shropshire & Telford Community Energy and Lightfoot are delighted to announce that Shropshire Council has approved our Wind Turbine planning application at the site near the Connery on Oakley Mynd. Getting to this point has taken 4 years, it is a significant milestone for the heat and wind project. For Bishop's Castle it strengthens the town's commitment to energy transition. It's one of the first turbines to be approved since the government effectively re-opened applications – it's both unusual and impressive that it's a community-based project. We've received many congratulations for this work, including a video message from Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

Meanwhile work continues on the heat side of the project. A report on options for moving that forward will be available soon and there will be a public meeting in Bishop's Castle on the evening of Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. See <https://lightfootenterprises.org/heat-network/> for more details of the scheme.

## Record Output from Twemlows

After a slightly disappointing year in 2024 we have generated 20% more electricity than forecast in the first six months of 2025, over 6,000,000 kWh!



*Twemlows 1 (half the site) output figures for 2025 against forecast*

On a recent site visit we counted six skylarks on the site and apparently 40% of our bird boxes were used this year. We will be organising more volunteer work parties on site late September/early October.

## STCE 2025 AGM

19 people attended our 2025 AGM and 22 sent apologies. The annual report and accounts were accepted; Neil Pulker was voted on as a new director and Rob Saunders and Dave Green were re-elected. Thanks to all who attended or sent in proxy votes, particularly Becky Oliver who ran the voting tech for us. Rob Saunders is continuing as Chair, Dave Green as Treasurer and also Howard Betts as Secretary, although we are looking for a replacement secretary so Howard can cut down on his STCE workload.

## Community Benefit Grants

There will be another tranche of the Twemlows 2 fund for carbon reduction projects across the area in the autumn. The maximum claimable is £6,000 per application but follow up applications can be made in following tranches. If you want to apply email [secretary@stcenergy.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stcenergy.org.uk) or see <https://stcenergy.org.uk/community-benefit-funding/>

## Big Solar Co-op Bond Offer Going Well

Well done to our partners the Big Solar Co-op who have raised over £1M for a 3MW ground mount solar scheme on an old open cast mine in Nottinghamshire.

## You Can Still Join STCE Without Investing

Most of our members have come from investing in our Twemlows solar farm share offer and you can become a shareholder investor for only £250. However, if you're not able to invest you can still 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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