

Parish Magazine/Web site article for October

SAY YES TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

In response to Robert Tweed's letter in September's magazine, we wish to make the following points:

1. We would like to emphasise that we are group of village volunteers whose aims are to help to combat global warming, provide money for village projects and provide funding for community projects in countries that are already being affected by climate change.

Our endeavours have so far taken place in the absence of any alternative proposals being put forward. We therefore welcome a letter from somebody who opposes our wind turbine scheme but agrees that there is a problem around climate change and our need to reduce dependency on finite and increasingly expensive fossil fuels. It asks for a community discussion with a view to doing something about it.

2. We believe it is important that local communities do play their part, and this also sends a signal to national and local government that individual people care enough to be proactive, hence encouraging them to do more too.

3. Our group has already tried to provide a solution that was non-controversial (the hydro-electric project at the weir), but another potential provider has been given permission to go ahead.

4. Ours is a practical, much-researched and costed solution which involves no financial burden for anybody who does not wish to be involved and an investment opportunity to those that do.

5. Given the above, we invite those opposed to the wind turbine scheme to come forward with a practical, researched and costed (at least in outline) alternative solution which might stimulate a useful debate. For comparison purposes, our wind turbine has a projected annual output of 800 MWhs of electricity.

It is good to know that in spite of differences in approach, some of us at least are together in seeing there is a problem that needs addressing, and that local communities should play their part. We would be happy to discuss/help with any alternative scheme, but when faced with a global problem of this magnitude, we do not think a position of "NO equals Do Nothing" is acceptable.

We welcome as much community involvement in our project as possible whether as helpers or investors. Specifically we would value assistance with accountancy, financial management and marketing but if you would like to help in any way or find out more about what is involved, please contact us.

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