

# UpBEAT

Newsletter for Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

Sep - Oct 2012

Issue 21



## From the editor

We did it! Pennine Community Power – an offshoot of BEAT – raised enough money through the issuing of shares for the community wind turbine to proceed. The directors explain elsewhere in this newsletter the tremendous progress achieved so far.

The insulation work at the Chapel



Photo: Chapel insulation work

is now completed with internal wall insulation and new double glazed windows in the two downstairs rooms and a smart meter has also been installed – all paid for by fundraising by BEAT.

Many thanks to everyone who helped – not least LEADER who gave a grant for this project.

Please note our tree planting day is on Sunday 23rd September. We hope you will be able to come at 12 noon for an hour or two. See

## Hydro project

BEAT has been working with a residents association at Windsor Road in Hebden Bridge to develop a 15 kW hydro project on their land at Mills Pond.

Such a project can generate green electricity without producing greenhouse gases and can

below for an update on the progress at our Community Orchards.

BEAT's AGM is on 10th October. The agenda for the AGM, the reports from the BEAT committee and the treasurer are all in this newsletter.

BEAT is now a member of Community Foundation for Calderdale (cfdc) and of Co-operatives UK.

We are pleased to welcome two new BEAT committee members, Peter Bradley and Jan Melloy.

Also thanks to Helen Eccles for helping BEAT with our nature conservation work. Any help from others is welcome.



Photo: Tree planting

generate an annual income.

Hebden Bridge Transition Town's energy group used to be involved in this project too but no longer is. However, the residents are happy to just work with BEAT.

Paul and Finn from BEAT had a meeting with three of the members

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of the residents association on 11th July.

It was agreed that BEAT will draft a lease between BEAT and the residents association/ the land owners.

The draft lease will go out for a six-week consultation with all the local residents.

## Community wind turbine



Photo: Wind turbine foundation

Paul Willson - one of the directors of Pennine Community Power - explains the progress made so far:

“Pennine Community Power’s website is called [powerinthecommunity.org](http://powerinthecommunity.org) for two reasons:

1. It was set up to help generate local energy for the community, and
2. It is a way for the community to

become more powerful by generating a substantial income that can be used for new projects.”

“We are pleased to announce that we have reached our target for applications for shares in the community wind turbine at Blackshaw Head”, says Paul Willson, treasurer of Pennine Community Power (PCP) and acting chair of Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT).

“Our target was £28,000 but we had applications for shares worth £32,500 from 61 individuals. All 61 live within five miles of the site of the wind turbine and the vast majority of them live in Blackshaw Head or Colden.”

“Nearly all the applications we received were for either £250 or

£500, which allows all the local people who wanted to become a member of the Pennine Community Power cooperative to become a member and have a say”, explains Paul Willson.

“We are now ready for the foundation for the wind turbine to go into the ground in mid-August. We need to have the transformer for the grid connection upgraded, which will happen on 24-25th September. So if everything goes to plan the wind turbine should be operational by early October.”

“We would like to thank everyone who has made this possible. Once all the cheques have been cleared and all the payments received we will be contacting all the applicants with details of their share allocation”, concludes Paul Willson.

## Community orchards

The fencing and gates are now completed at Garry and Carol King’s land for one of the two Blackshaw community orchards.

The planting of the wind break on that site can now start. We also have the trees ready for planting which will be started on Sunday 23rd September from 12 noon. Trees responsibility will be bringing the tools and will be doing an instruction for people who have not planted trees before. If we have enough volunteers coming we can complete the planting in about two hours as it is not a big job. The land for the tree planting is 2-3 minutes’ walk from the New Delight Inn, down the road past the red phone box – along the stream.

The grass around the trees we planted at Frank and Maggs’ earlier this year is now getting very

high. So if you have a strimmer please bring it along on 23rd September so we can cut the grass down. Please come to Carol and Garry King’s land near the Newdy first so we can take you to Frank and Maggs with someone who can show you what to do. We hope you will be able to give a hand even if it is only for an hour.

The grafted fruit trees will also need to be planted into the nursery this autumn – probably in November when the leaves have fallen off the grafted trees.

We will be calling for volunteers to help with the tree planting via the Blackshaw and Charlestown Google lists. Everyone else can offer their help with the planting by contacting us.

We still need newspapers and magazines for the tree planting (mulch and weed suppressant)

If you have newspapers and magazines you want to give to BEAT we will collect them if you contact BEAT.



Photo: Fencing and gates at Garry and Carol King's land

## Blackshaw food network creates great rock coop

Blackshaw Food Network is about to embark on a very exciting venture - creating a local co-operative operating out of Sally and Jonathan's barn at Staups Lea Farm! The space will be rented to the BFN group for a peppercorn rent and will run by a cooperative group of members. It will be called The Great Rock Co-op, in honour of our latest community acquisition as well as being an excellent landmark to direct folks to our Shop.

Its aims are:

- To promote, support and encourage links between consumers and producers.
- To encourage and assist residents to become local food producers and entrepreneurs
- To encourage skill and knowledge sharing about food growing and use from garden/field to kitchen.
- To promote access to good local food by working with other organisations with similar objectives.
- To provide potential employment for local people through creating a successful co-op
- To provide education facilities for local people and schools to teach about food and rural enterprise

- To strengthen the community by acting as a community hub, with information about events and services which are available locally

We have written an initial business plan and now hope to secure some support from Cooperative Enterprise Hub to help us set up as effectively as possible. The basic idea is for producers to be able to sell their stuff to the local market, a small percentage will be taken from the price for the cooperatives costs which will be a non-profit making community enterprise.



Photo: BFN (Colden School Fete)

Some of you may be thinking about if this is OK by May, well we were concerned that we didn't want to negatively impact on May, so we have spoken to her and she's happy to support the idea. We'll only be open on a Saturday,

selling local produce that we hope complements the fab farm shop we already have.

So, how can you help?

In the first instance we'd like to know if anyone else out there would like to help us get started? We are especially looking for people with accountancy, web design and marketing skills to help with the business side of things, and obviously we want to know if you'd like to be one of our producers!

We are hoping that someone with a 'table top talent' and an inkling of an idea may be inspired to take it to the next level if there is a shop to sell things from. And on a very practical level, we'll need some help to prepare the space (partitioning, painting, lugging stuff - that kind of thing!).

So if you'd like to know more, email [angie.guy@btinternet.com](mailto:angie.guy@btinternet.com) to register your interest and in what capacity.

We'll also be at the Blackshaw fete on 1st September where we'll have more details on how the co-operative will run, so you can speak to us then too.

The idea of creating a beautiful shop in our gorgeous countryside selling all our delicious local produce is very exciting to us, and we hope you feel the same!

## Charlestown allotments

On Monday 6th August Blackshaw Parish signed the 125 year lease with Calderdale Council for the proposed allotment land in Charlestown.

For more info please see

[www.charlestownallotments.co.uk](http://www.charlestownallotments.co.uk)



Photo: Signing the lease

## Village fete

Remember that the village fete is on Saturday 1st September from 1.30PM.

Come and visit the BEAT stall in the red tent. - If you want to become a member of BEAT it only costs £1.

## Green news

The government announced new levels of Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) for hydro projects generating electricity, for wind turbines, for anaerobic digestive systems and for combined heat & power systems (CHP).

The planned reductions in FIT will take place from 1st December 2012 and are broadly in line with what was proposed in the consultation documents. However, the consultation documents had suggested these changes to take place from 1st October 2012.

For wind turbines up to 100kW installed from 1st December the FIT will now be 21 pence per kWh produced. For wind turbines between 1.5 and 15 kW this is a 25% reduction.

For photovoltaic (PV) solar panels,

small-scale systems with less than 4kW of capacity that are installed from 1st August 2012 will receive 16p/kWh through the feed-in incentive scheme, rather than the previous 21p/kWh rate.

Larger installations will also face cuts with arrays boasting 4kW to 10kW of capacity securing 14.5p/kWh and those delivering 40kW to 50kW receiving 13.5p/kWh.

In addition, the government has from 1st August reduced the feed-in tariff payment period from 25 years to 20 years; although the price paid for power exported back onto the grid from solar installations will increase to 4.5p/kWh.

Please take two minutes to sign the petition, email your MP, and ask all your supporters and networks to do the same.  
<http://www.energybillrevolution.org>



Photo: Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels

## BEAT events

On **Wednesday 11th July** we had Treesponsibility and directors of Pennine Community Power speaking. Many thanks to the speakers.

On **Wednesday 12th September** we have Bradford Environmental Action Trust (another BEAT!) coming to speak along with Ruth Hair from LEADER. For more information about the two organisations see [www.beat.org.uk](http://www.beat.org.uk) and [www.pennineprospects.co.uk](http://www.pennineprospects.co.uk).

On **Sunday 23rd September** at 12 noon we have tree planting for a community orchard at Garry and Carol King (two minutes' walk from the Newdy). If you have a strimmer please bring it along.

On **Wednesday 10th October**



Andy Walker from SURE Insulation ([www.SUREinsolation.co.uk](http://www.SUREinsolation.co.uk)) is coming to give a talk. SURE Insulation is a social enterprise doing internal wall insulation.

They have also produced a booklet on how you can do the insulation yourself. - The other half of the meeting will be BEAT's AGM –see elsewhere in this newsletter.

On **Saturday 13 October** we have our six-monthly village clean-up, starting at 10.30AM at the Chapel where you will be giving litter pickers and plastic bags for the litter. Afterwards there is coffee, tea and cakes in the Chapel as a thank you for your help. Children are welcome if supervised.

On **Wednesday 12th December** we have Jenny Shepherd speaking about her work with [www.energyroyd.org.uk](http://www.energyroyd.org.uk), Phil Knowles and Finn Jensen speaking about their solar panels and Peter Bradley speaking about his wind turbine. We will also have something nice to eat with our tea and coffee – in preparation for the festive season. If you fancy baking a cake please bring it to the meeting to share.

All BEAT's public meetings are held at the Blackshaw Head Methodist Church at 7.45pm. Tea and coffee will be served. If you are working you are welcome to make a donation of £1 for the hire of the room. If you bring a cake or sign up as a BEAT member (£1) you do not have to make a donation.

# BEAT AGM

BEAT's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th October at 7.45PM at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church (the Chapel).

It is open to the public but only members of BEAT can vote.

You can become a member of BEAT for just £1.

The agenda for the AGM is:

1. Apologies received.
2. Minutes of the last AGM.
3. Report from the BEAT committee – see written report below.
4. Report from the BEAT treasurer – see written report below.
5. Resolutions submitted for voting.
6. Election of BEAT officers and committee.
7. Any Other Business.

Resolutions for voting need to be received by BEAT's secretary, Ashley Sharp, no later than 14 days prior to the AGM. Proposed resolutions can be emailed to [secretary@blackshawbeat.info](mailto:secretary@blackshawbeat.info).

## Report from BEAT committee

It has been another busy year for BEAT. We have managed to make good progress on our four projects:

1. We have prepared two sites in Blackshaw Head for community orchards; done the drainage, fencing, stiles and gates on both sites, planted 1300 trees as wind break and 100 trees for coppicing on one of the sites, grafted 100 fruit trees over two grafting courses attended by 26 people and created a nursery for the grafted trees. We have also helped Charlestown Allotment Group clear their site and helped them with funding.
2. We raised the funds to have two of the community rooms in the Chapel insulated and this work has now been completed. We are applying for funds for PV solar panels on the roof of the Chapel.
3. We received planning permission and raised the money to buy a community wind turbine, with £30,000 from the Big Lottery Fund and £29,000 via a share offer. We set up a Community Benefit Society called Pennine Community Power – see [www.powerinthecommunity.org](http://www.powerinthecommunity.org).

4. We are working with the landowners of Mill Pond in Hebden Bridge to create a hydro scheme that will produce green electricity.

Apart from these four projects BEAT organised in the last year village clean-ups every six months, had a public meeting every month (except in August), produced a newsletter - available on our website [www.blackshaw.net/BEAT](http://www.blackshaw.net/BEAT) along with other BEAT documents – and held a social in June at the Newdy.

The BEAT committee currently consists of:

Paul Willson (acting chair),  
Ashley Sharp (secretary),  
Finn Jensen (treasurer),  
Donna Goodman (Charlestown Allotment Group),  
Andy Clegg,  
Peter Bradley,  
Jan Melloy  
Dale Blundell.

The whole of the committee will be up for election at the AGM and we welcome new members to the committee.

We particularly hope to get people onto the committee that are interested in nature conservation as we want to do more work in that area.

Whatever your interests are you are welcome to join. So far one person, Helen Eccles, has volunteered for the nature conservation work.

BEAT has been working with various partners during the last year:

- Calderdale Local Orchard Group (CLOG)
- Treesponsibility
- Hebden Bridge Transition Town
- Upper Calder Valley dCarb group (which includes Calderdale Council, Alternative Technology Centre, etc)
- Powerfromthelandscape.



## BEAT AGM continued...

BEAT has received good coverage of our work in Hebden Bridge Times, Todmorden News, Halifax Courier and on websites like HebWeb and Energy Royd. We appeared in the Big Lottery Fund/Village SOS magazine and in a European youth magazine – see [www.wavemagazine.net](http://www.wavemagazine.net) July 2012 issue.

The committee would like to thank everyone who has helped out over the last year, whether it has been with tree planting, grafting fruit trees, putting up fencing, donating money to our projects, investing in the community wind turbine, speaking at our public meetings, helping create our newsletter and website, helping at the village clean-ups, etc. Without these many volunteers it would not have been possible to do all the above.

Special thanks to our funders, who have enabled the volunteers to do the work. In particular thanks to Big Lottery Fund, LEADER, Calderdale Council, Community Foundation for Calderdale, Parish Council and LocalGiving.com for their financial assistance.



Income:	9,855.00
Awards for All/Big Lottery Fund	1,545.00
Calderdale Council	900.00
Community Foundation for Calderdale	2,140.96
LocalGiving.com	2,498.92
Other income	16,849.88
Total:	

Expenditure:	
Contractors (fencing, etc)	5,965.48
Stationary	67.46
Photocopying & printing	534.59
Planning application	995.00
Travel	75.00
Food for 23.6.2012 event	300.00
Room hire, Chapel	210.00
Other	156.81
Total:	8,304.34

## Report from the treasurer

The treasurer's main job is to keep proper records of all in- and outgoings of BEAT's finances.

This job gets bigger the more funders BEAT has to deal with as each funder needs a separate report on how their money has been spent in accordance with what the money was given for.

This past year the treasurer has been busy with fundraising as well – with help from other committee members. This enabled us to do the work we have prioritised in our 'Sustainability Plan for Blackshaw Parish'.

The treasurer prepares a written report for every BEAT committee meeting and all BEAT cheques need to be signed by two people.

All receipts, bank statements, etc will be available at the BEAT AGM for inspection.

To be transparent and accountable to the community we produce this financial summary covering the period 1st October 2011 to 31 August 2012:

### LocalGiving.com

*"We are pleased to announce that our £500,000 Grow Your Tenner campaign will begin at 10am Tuesday 25th September to celebrate the launch of the new Localgiving.com monthly donations feature! From 10am 25th September Localgiving.com will encourage new supporters to make one-time and/or ongoing monthly donations on the website by matching up to £10 per donation. We will continue matching donations until we've matched £500,000 in donations to local charities and community groups across England. So when you gives £10, LocalGiving will double it to £20! And even better- when you sign up to donate £10/month to a local charity, LocalGiving will match the first three months! The new monthly donations feature will enable you to give automatically and regularly to BEAT through online Direct Debit. As with one-time donations, you can choose to give any amount from £5 to £1,000 per month plus 25% Gift Aid. During the Grow Your Tenner campaign, regardless of the amount you donate, up to £10 will be matched."*

If you want to support BEAT's work just go to [www.localgiving.com](http://www.localgiving.com) and type in 'HX77JB' - you will then see BEAT's home page on the top of the list where you can make your donation.