

UpBEAT

Newsletter from Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)



UpBEAT no 15, September-October 2011

From the editors:

BEAT's AGM is on Wednesday 12th October 2011 at 7.45pm at the Methodist Church, Blackshaw Head. Everyone is welcome. For this meeting we have included reports from BEAT's working group and treasurer in this newsletter. The first hour of the meeting will include three speakers: Emma Thompson from Calderdale Council, Polly Webber from the Alternative Technology Centre (ATC) and Peter Hill from 'Power from the Landscape'. They will be addressing community owned energy systems. The other half of the meeting will be AGM business – see agenda later in this newsletter. BEAT was present, as usual, at the village fete on the 3rd September. We had an exhibition on our sustainability plan for the parish, and we conducted a survey on our plan for a community owned wind turbine where the income from the turbine will be reinvested in the community. We also invited everyone to come to a public meeting on 14th September to discuss the plan and in particular the wind turbine project. Everyone who participated in the survey and in the public meeting on 14.9 supported the sustainability plan, including the wind turbine, everyone apart from one person from Heptonstall, that is. We are grateful for this support and will now try and raise the necessary funds through a combination of grant applications, issuing shares and fundraising.

****NEWSFLASH****

BEAT was successful in its application for 420 trees from the Woodland Trust, which we will use for the windbreak at the Community Orchard & Allotments at Frank and Magg's. We will be applying for another 420 trees and we'll be coming out to the community to help plant the trees soon – so watch this space!

BEAT gave a presentation of the village plan at the September 26th Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council has previously given their support to our hydro project, to our work for the Chapel and to our community orchard project. This support is important to BEAT as we want to work closely with the Parish Council. On the 26-9 meeting the Parish Council decided to give BEAT £50 towards the printing costs of UpBEAT.

A member of BEAT also attended a community energy event organised by Calderdale Council on 14th September in Halifax. BEAT has for the last couple of years attended meetings of the Upper Calder Valley dCarb group, which has representatives from several Calderdale Council departments. These links have been very useful. This is the time of year for planting daffodils. Last year BEAT paid for 2500 daffodils to be planted around the village (including 1500 planted by Steve Redmond, 500 by Colden School). BEAT has bought more daffodils this year and needs volunteers to plant them in public places. Please let us know if you can help. If we have enough people on 15th October (see below) some people could start planting rather than litter picking if they prefer.

Finally, we have our six-monthly village clean-up on Saturday 15th October, starting at 10.30am. We meet at the Chapel, where you will be given pick-up sticks, gloves, plastic bags for the rubbish, and allocated a particular stretch of road to clean up. Children are welcome as long as they are supervised by an adult.

Refreshments are served in the Chapel afterwards. If you cannot come on the 15th but want to do your bit to keep the village looking nice, please let Finn know which piece of road you are doing, by phone 01422-846863 or email finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.

The BEAT team



You can contact BEAT on:

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Finn Jensen, treasurer, tel. 01422 846863, email: finn.jensen@rocketmail.com

Report from BEAT's working group on sustainability

BEAT's working group on sustainability has met monthly since our last AGM. The group currently has the following members: Paul Willson, Jan Melloy, Steve Hall, Dale Blundell, Ashley Sharp, Andy Clegg and Finn Jensen. The group is open to everyone who wishes to participate.

The group has been working on the sustainability plan for the parish, which includes four current projects:

A hydro project at Dog Bottom in Hebden Bridge, which is a joint project with Hebden Bridge Transition Town (HBTT), with the support of Peter Hill at Power from the Landscape at ATC.

A 'Making the Chapel greener' project which involves putting 9kw PV solar panels on the roof of the Chapel, insulating the walls of two of the rooms, and installing double glazed windows in those rooms.

Two community orchards where the windbreaks will be planted this year. Next to one of them we will have community allotments, which Blackshaw Food Network (BFN) will organise.

A community-owned wind turbine the size of a domestic wind turbine, to generate income to be reinvested in the community.

In order to manage the income generated from the community wind turbine, BEAT is in the process of setting up an Industrial Provident Society. This legal structure will also be needed for the hydro project and other energy projects. It will enable us to issue shares and will protect BEAT members from potential liabilities. We are grateful to Mark Simmonds for the free advice he has given us on these issues.

We have kept the community informed of our work through the BEAT newsletter, UpBEAT, our website, and at our monthly public meetings – and will continue to do so.

The BEAT newsletter has been discussed at working group meetings. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles and pictures and particular thanks to Fiona and Angie for the formatting and design work. Thanks to Judith and Ash for proofreading the newsletter.

Also thanks to Tony for updating the BEAT website: www.blackshaw.net/BEAT. To relieve Tony from some of this work, BEAT will be setting up its own website so we can update it ourselves. It will still appear on the blackshaw.net website as well – with a web-link to the BEAT website.

Horn of Africa charity walk on 2nd October

The sponsored walk went very well. Thanks to everyone who participated, the organising committee, the marshals and the Newdy.. It was suggested to make it into an annual event around 1st October. The money raised along with the money raised by the Chapel has been sent to the Disaster Emergency Committee.



In July BEAT invited local groups to hold a joint fundraising event. Blackshaw Food Network, Blackshaw Optimistic Gardeners (BOGs) and SHED (the history group) participated in organising a 'Visit your neighbour' event – for local residents to see gardens, smallholdings, renewable technologies, tropical fish and corals, etc. It is likely we will hold a similar event next summer. The money raised for BOGs and BEAT was donated to the community orchard fund. Also in July, BEAT also participated in a 'Local Economy' public event at Riverside School and the Trades Club, organised by Hebden Bridge Transition Town. Over a hundred people participated.

BEAT members have participated in conferences and training courses to gain further knowledge for our sustainability work. BEAT is currently a member of the Low Carbon Communities Network and we will recommend to the AGM that we also become a member of the Transition Network (www.transitionnetwork.org.uk), which is free and will provide us with useful information and contacts.

Throughout the year BEAT has encouraged households to sign up to buying green electricity from 100% renewable sources. We have a partnership with Green Energy UK which gives customers 10% discount on their electricity bills if they sign up through BEAT. When we have five more households signed up BEAT will receive 5% of the all the bills paid, providing BEAT with a couple of hundred pounds per year. That is our target for the coming year. Hebden Bridge Transition Town has now started a similar scheme – inspired by BEAT's initiative.

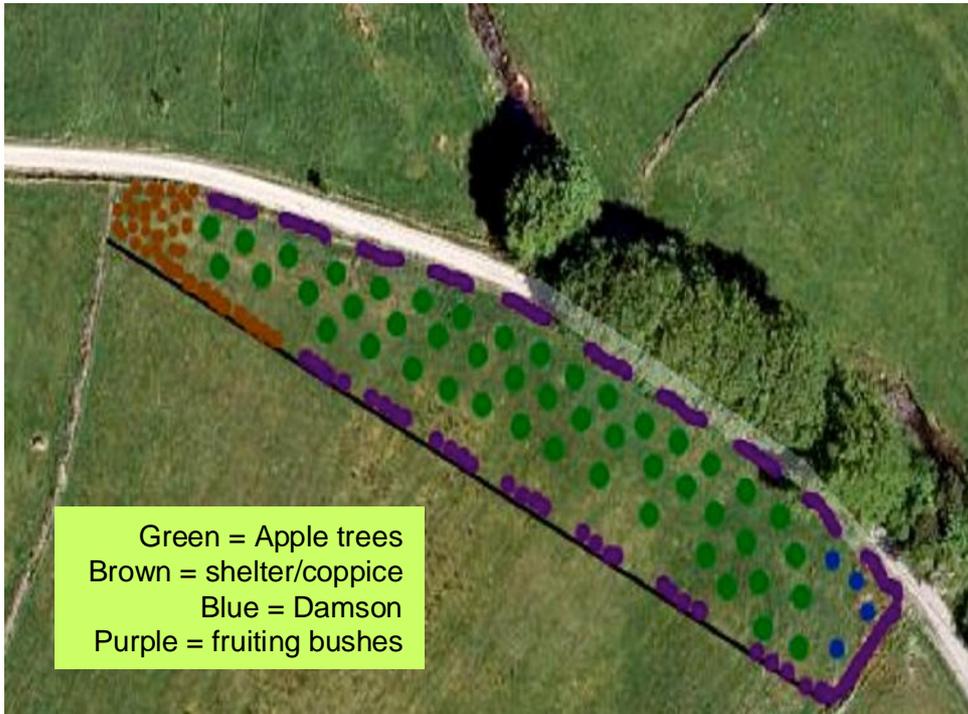
Every month, with the exception of August, BEAT has held a public meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, at the Sportsman, Kebs at 8pm, with a variety of speakers and films covering many aspects of sustainability. We intend to continue with that in the next year – except that our meetings will move to the Chapel in Blackshaw Head village and start at 7.45pm. We would like to thank all the speakers for some very interesting talks and the Sportsman and the Chapel for offering us their facilities.

BEAT had two successful grant applications this year: Society for Environmental Improvements (SEI) Trust gave us £250 and Cooperatives UK Community Fund gave us £1078. We would like to thank both for support which has enabled us to do a lot more than planned. In the coming year we will be making much bigger grant applications to support the four projects prioritised in our sustainability plan.

One of the potential funders is Village SOS – one of the Big Lottery Fund's programs – see

www.villagesos.org.uk and type in 'Blackshaw Head'. You can sign up as a member on the website.

The coming year will therefore be an exciting year – how many of our four projects will take off? We are pretty confident that the community orchard will, but the other three projects will very much depend on how much money we can raise.



Second community orchard planned

Garry and Carol King have kindly offered BEAT the use of some of their land for a community orchard. With the one planned at Frank and Maggs', this will mean we could have two places for the community to pick free fruit. The land Carol and Garry are offering is only a few minutes walk from the New Delight Inn, the bus stop there and from Colden School. Treesresponsibility and Calder Local Orchard Group (CLOG) have offered their help with establishing **both** of these orchards.

We will be looking into getting a variety of fruits, like apples, pears, plums and perhaps even nut trees and fruit bushes. We are open to suggestions from the community. Bottom left we have an artistic impression of what the site at Frank & Maggs' could look like and bottom left is a design of the site at Carol and Garry's.

A = Lower Moss Hall
B = allotments
C = 20 metre wind break of trees
D = 2 metre metre wind break of hawthorn
E = orchard

Proposed agenda for the AGM on Wednesday October 12th 2011

- ❖ Emma, Polly and Peter speaking on community energy projects
- ❖ Apologies received
- ❖ Election of officers: chair, secretary and treasurer.
- ❖ Minutes of the AGM held on 13th October 2010
- ❖ Report from the working group on sustainability
- ❖ Report from the Treasurer
- ❖ Proposal: BEAT to join the Transition Network (see www.transitionnetwork.org.uk)
- ❖ Village clean-up on 15th October
- ❖ Green Energy UK
- ❖ Complains procedure



Cider- Making Course

Calderdale Local Orchard Group (CLOG) will be running a cider-making course on:

Sunday, 23rd October 2011 at the Stubbing Wharf Pub in Hebden Bridge. Email calderclog@gmail.com for details.

Finance report for the period 1.10.2010 to 30.9.2011

Income:

SEI Trust grant	250.00
Cooperatives UK grant	1078.00
Membership fees	43.00
Donations for community orchid	91.21
Garden vouchers cash back	63.92

Total income: 1475.13

Expenditure:

DVDs	27.94
Screen for projector	57.99
Flowers for Fiona Gail	25.00
Stamps	16.00
Photocopying & printing	799.08
Phil Knowles	9.90
Local economy event	20.00
Laminating pouches	12.19

Total expenses: 955.91

In the bank as of 1.10.2011 1160.57

Notes:

The above figures have been cross-referenced with the bank statements, which will be available at the AGM, along with the receipts, cheque books and paying-in books. This report has been approved by the BEAT officers and BEAT's working group.

The expenses for photocopying and printing cover the period from October 2009, but it is not possible to estimate how much of it is from the period 1.10.09 to 30.9.10 (previous financial year). We now receive the photocopying bill every quarter and have made fewer copies of the BEAT newsletter.

Apart from the £91.21 earmarked for the community orchard, we have set aside up to £75 for a new lamp for the projector and £784 for the setting up of a Community Benefit Society – the legal entity we need for generating income from renewable technologies.

Upcoming BEAT meetings

10th October: Three speakers on community energy projects; and the BEAT AGM.

9th November: Sally Darlington from Incredible Edible Todmorden speaking on community gardening.

14th December: Richard Armitage and Anne Handley speaking on insulating 'hard-to-treat' houses (stone walls, no cavity walls, pre-1930 buildings, etc), Calderdale's environmental pilot projects and preparation for the Green Deal.

Please note that as the Sportsman pub has closed we will now be holding our BEAT meetings at the Methodist Church (locally called The Chapel), which is right in the middle of Blackshaw Head village. All meetings start at 7.45pm. Bus E from Hebden Bridge stops next to the Chapel.

The CT1 bus from Todmorden also goes to the Chapel – at least for the time being.