

I am writing to you in regard to a project I am working on with Liskeard Town Council. My team and I have been looking at viable community owned renewable energy projects on a Town Council headed project, funded by the Rural Community Energy Fund.

During the project we have identified several viable projects that can be community owned, for community benefit. The project has already seen large solar PV systems installed on local schools and colleges.

One of the sites we have been considering is the Lux Park leisure centre. With high heating demand from the swimming pool and electrical demand from pumps and lighting it is a prime candidate for renewable technologies.

The main area of interest at the leisure centre is a combined heat and power (CHP) system. This is a gas fired engine that produces both heat and electricity to be utilised by the leisure centre. The CHP unit would reduce costs to the leisure centre by providing reduced cost electricity. It would generate revenue for the local community through the energy sales and Feed in tariff revenue. The centre already has 30 kWp of solar photovoltaic panels.

The basic idea is that the local community own the CHP scheme and the income generated pays back the investors and generates enough money to set up a community fund for local good causes. This is a model that has worked well on other projects we have delivered, including the schools in Liskeard and others in and around Plymouth.

To summarise I am writing to you to establish whether Newquay Town Council would be interested in looking at the feasibility of CHP for the leisure centre in the town? I realise that Cornwall Council own the leisure centre facility and it is run by Tempus leisure, but the energy installation could be owned independently by the local community, selling heat and electricity to the leisure centre. We have found that Town and Parish Councils are the most appropriate local organisation to apply and manage the RCEF funding. There is very little administrative burden for the projects and the final project, if feasible, would not be developed by the council but by the community.

A community energy project could be a way of reducing costs for an important local facility whilst generating revenue for local people and good causes. The feasibility work would be fully funded by the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF). Of course a wider remit of technologies and site could be considered as part of any project.

If you are interested please do let me know. We work throughout the South West and we are available to come and talk to people about community renewables. To be clear these projects are community owned for community benefit. We merely carry out the feasibility work and get the projects ready for investment. We don't make any money out of the schemes themselves and are completely independent and impartial.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

Ben

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