

Newsletter

Wadsworth Community Association Newsletter

January 2024

Contact us at:
Wadsworth
Community Centre,
Billy Lane,
Old Town,
Hebden Bridge
HX7 8RY

or phone
07979452053

or look at our website link:
<http://www.wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk>

Also find us on



Happy New Year 2024

Welcome to our first Special Greening Wadsworth edition

First of all, everyone at Wadsworth Community Association would like to wish you a very happy New Year. We hope 2024 turns out to be a wonderful, happy, healthy year for all of us and that the many conflicts and problems facing our planet and its citizens can be peacefully resolved.

If you missed our September newsletter, you may be interested to know that the Centre has set up a "Greening Wadsworth" group with the ambitious aim of making Wadsworth the greenest Parish in the country! Nothing like being ambitious! What's important is that we want to work together with all Wadsworth residents to raise our knowledge about what we can do to help tackle climate change, limit the damage we might be doing to the planet and hopefully save some money in the process.

The project has already got up a head of steam! We have now held four well-attended meetings to which everyone is cordially invited.

The next Greening meeting is on **Wednesday 10th January** at the community centre, Billy Lane, Old Town at 7.15 p.m. If you get this newsletter after this, the next one will be on **Wednesday 28th February**—same time, same place! If you'd like to be on the mailing list, please contact Keri on stephensonkeri@aol.com. **All welcome.**

At our first meeting, the group identified 6 priorities to get to grips with. These are:

- ◆ Priority 1—Energy: to explore local green energy solutions including community owned solar panels or buying into a community energy supplier to save energy costs.
- ◆ Priority 2—Insulation: to help every household in Wadsworth to better understand what heat is being lost from their homes as a baseline for better insulation and draught proofing
- ◆ Priority 3—Food Growing and Eating: share information about growing your own, create shared growing spaces and shared spare fruit and veg and link into local organic food growers and suppliers
- ◆ Priority 4—Transport: to work with the TLC bus company to improve local services and explore green alternatives to car use
- ◆ Priority 5—Tree Planting: to explore suitable pieces of land for tree planting as one of the simplest forms of carbon capture.
- ◆ Priority 6—Education: to educate ourselves about the steps to net zero but also to find ways to help our local school to tackle energy bills and the cost of insulation on the school budget.

Greening Wadsworth

Priority 2 —Insulation: Saving heat and money

Thanks to a generous grant from Northern Powergrid, the Greening Wadsworth project is off to a flying start. We have been able to buy 2 Flir C5 Thermal Imaging cameras and are now in a position to offer everyone living in Wadsworth the opportunity to have your homes photographed outside and if you want, inside, with the special cameras which will show you where you are losing heat, if you are, and then to work with us to find solutions.

The cameras work best when it's cold and you have warmed your homes as you would normally at this time of year. The photos are also best at night or on an overcast day—plenty of those to go at!!

Vu 19.5 ± 5.5°C v Im 86 Mv (5)4:19 I



So please get in touch with Keri (email on page 1) or complete the questionnaire (see link below) giving your name and address (data protection rules apply) and we will get in touch. We may even do some door knocking in early 2024 so we hope you will get involved. We also want every household to complete a questionnaire which will allow us to set a baseline on the condition of every dwelling in the Parish so that we can seek funding on a group basis to help any costs incurred in making our homes more weather proof. We are printing some paper copies but if you feel able, you can go online and complete the questionnaire. The more returns we get, the better the data we will have to argue for funding.

Copy the link below into your internet to reach the questionnaire:

bit.ly/greeningwadsworth

It's quite easy to complete but if there are any questions you don't know the answer to, then just leave that one blank.

Together Housing properties:

Marcella Walsh, one of our Parish Councillors who you may know as she's also Chair of the Wadsworth Environment Group and a bee keeper with the Wadsworth Bee Group, has contacted Together Housing on our behalf to ask them if we could work with them to identify any insulation issues in their properties in Wadsworth and help to improve any that need it.

Unfortunately they can't help us with lists of Together Housing properties in Wadsworth because of Data Protection constraints. However, they have offered to help any members of the Wadsworth Community Association who wish to obtain their Energy

Performance Certificate (EPC) providing that they are tenants of Together Housing Association. They can contact Alice Hammond, Retrofit Project Officer at Together Housing on Tel: 07912207457 or the Energy EPC Management team

at epcmanagement@togetherhousing.co.uk and they will be more than happy to provide the necessary information. For properties without a valid EPC, they can arrange for an EPC survey to be conducted with the tenant. So that's good.

On the down side, they don't currently have an insulation programme planned for the Wadsworth area.

We think the best way forward, if you're willing, is to get us to come and do some thermal imaging at your property and if it turns out that several of the Together Housing properties need attention on the insulation front, then with the strength in numbers, we will hopefully be able to ask them to start an insulation programme here.

Again, contact Keri on stephensonkeri@aol.com



What to do about the Wind Farm?

What an irony!!! We set up a Greening Wadsworth group and agree our first priority is Energy and the next minute, Wadsworth Parish Council and Calderdale Council are asked to consider a 150 page Scoping Report for a large wind farm and ground mounted solar panels on Walshaw Moor Estate!

While many of the people who have got involved in the Greening Wadsworth initiative support the idea of local wind farms, there are plenty of questions that the scoping report throws up, not least the vast number of turbines proposed—up to 65—so being one of the biggest windfarms in England, the size of each turbine—ranging from 150—200m to blade tip height and the location of the access roads and the impact they and the turbine foundations will have on the blanket bog which is itself a valuable carbon capture and flood resistance tool. Some questions have also been raised about the ownership of the scheme.

Feelings are clearly running high with a protest meeting held at the community centre on the 6th December '23 which attracted up to 150 people although many came to find out more about the scheme rather than to object to the very idea of a wind farm.

So, where to from here?

Calderdale Council has now responded to the scoping report, setting out expectations to get clarification on these and many other crucial matters including decommissioning arrangements when the turbines come to an end of their lives. You can read this EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) Response (14/12/23) on the Council's Planning website: [https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-](https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-applications/centralDistribution.do?caseType=Application&keyVal=S1E3AQDW0CF00)

[applications/centralDistribution.do?caseType=Application&keyVal=S1E3AQDW0CF00](https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-applications/centralDistribution.do?caseType=Application&keyVal=S1E3AQDW0CF00)

Once the consultants have clarified these many issues, the 8 Parish Councils so far consulted plan to arrange a public meeting to give local residents a chance to find out more and voice their concerns and support. The Greening group would also like to arrange a Food for Thought event where the consultants can explain their plans and the members of the protest group can have the opportunity to explain if and why they continue to object to the scheme.



Love your little bus xxx (Priority 4)

At a time when many villages have lost their public transport, we are very fortunate to have a good 'little bus' rural service. The route from Hebden Bridge to Crimsworth takes in Dodd Naze, Old Town and Pecket Well. It is operated by TLC based in Bradford. The daytime service, the 595, is half hourly in both directions from Monday to Saturday, and hourly on Sunday. The late evening service, the 594 runs hourly each day of the week.

A single fare costs a maximum of £2. For £2.90 a day pass will allow as many journeys as you want on TLC buses in the Hebden Bridge and Todmorden area., so it works out much cheaper than two singles. There are also various other bus passes available. For more information on fares and times, go to tlctravelltd.co.uk

If you wish to live track your bus, download the 'myTrip' app and enter your destination.

It is also worth 'joining' the Facebook group 'TLC Hebden Bridge Bus Information (Unofficial)'. Both bus users and drivers contribute so it is a useful tool to find out real time information on bus times and any unavoidable delays.

Food Growing and Eating (Priority 3)

The Greening Group has only just started to get to grips with Food as a priority. We have heard from Jenny Slaughter who lives on the hills above Old Town and who is an active member of Pennine Cropshare which has recently acquired some land behind the Dodnaze estate on which they plan to grow organic food.



We have been looking for patches of land on which to grow food along the lines of Incredible Edible in Todmorden where people can come and help themselves to locally grown food. There is a small patch at the community centre that we already have some volunteers to work on.

Now we have the plot of land on Chiserley Gardens in our sights. If anyone knows who owns it, please let us know! Equally, if you know of any small plots of land we could develop or a garden that needs planting which you can't keep up with again please tell us. One exciting idea is to

plant a tree corridor for the bees from Pecket Well to Old Town! Contact Keri to link up with our small team. All help very welcome.

Tree Planting (Priority 5)

John Butterworth, smallholder in Pecket Well, has written a very useful pamphlet on tree planting. Please get in touch if you'd like a copy. At our last meeting in November, Steve Hindle and Jess Yorke from the National Trust came and talked to us about the need to protect ancient grasslands and peat land. Did you know it takes a whole year to grow 1mm of peat?

We need to do more research to identify suitable sites for tree planting which won't do any harm to our grasslands which we now understand are very special and are home to some of the rarest and most endangered fungi in the world! If you are a local farmer or guardian of our grasslands, then you can help protect them by not using fertilizer or ploughing, not planting trees on it or digging it up.



Education (Priority 6)

At our last meeting, we took our first step towards working with the school to share knowledge and financial support so they can meet the financial challenges faced in trying to run an energy efficient and green building. Jo Buckley, Head teacher and two students, Bob and Annabelle, joined us to give examples of the amazing work the school does to raise awareness about climate change including visiting the local moors, finding out about Slow the Flow, insulation and championing recycling.

Don't miss our fabulous music events in partnership with BGR

Friday 2nd February 2024: The Cragg Vale Coiners with Steve Hartley, author, and Tom Kitching, musician featured in "Gallows Pole. Tickets £12.00

Saturday 10th February: Outliers - Boo Hewardine and Jenny Sturgeon Tickets £15/£8

Saturday 11th February : Steve Knightley and Phil Beer (Sold Out)

Saturday 23rd March: Lauren Housley and the Northern Cowboys Tickets £15/£7.50

Saturday 15th May: Granny's Attic

Contact 07731661053 or Jane on 07491676408 or wegottickets.com

Doors open 6.45 p.m. Pie and Peas supper and excellent bar