

Bretherton Energy Partnership

Update – July 2022

1. Introduction

GA are circulating this by-monthly update to all those who attended the launch of “Our Mutual Journey to Net Zero” on 20th May 2022, to keep you fully informed as to what is happening.

This is an update note produced by GA, and confirms the position as GA understands it to be, and does not purport to be the views of any other party.

2. Postcard Returns

GA circulated to 280 households in Bretherton the information booklet “Our Mutual Journey to Net Zero” and has received a Return Card from 25%, being 70 cards in total.

Of the cards returned, 80% were in favour, 16% were undecided (did not tick either box) and 4% did not wish to be associated with the proposal.

3. Bretherton Parish Council

Bretherton Parish Council, through the Energy Working Group, have now confirmed that they are pleased to be associated with “Our Mutual Journey to Net Zero” and have agreed to work in partnership with GA, in its development and understanding of the proposal.

The Working Party, working on conjunction with Renewables for the Community and Locality, are proposing to undertake a parish wide consultation on the proposal in Autumn 2022.

4. British Energy Security Strategy

GA wishes to play its full part in the consultation proposed under the British Energy Security Strategy, for a limited trial of On-Shore Wind, where there is community benefit. Working in conjunction with the Parish Council Working Party and their consultants, GA are advancing the proposed scheme by undertaking the following further assessments to identify as to whether an Energy Park is possible, suitable and deliverable. The analysis of the concluded reports will determine the size, shape and appearance of any final wind and solar generation.

i) Ecology – Wild Bird Survey – Winter Ground Feeding

Alongside other ecological assessments, a Winter Bird Feeding Assessment is required to consider the impact any development would have on the potential feeding grounds for winter feeding of wild birds (primarily Pink Footed Geese), in relation to the Douglas Estuary SSSI Ramsar site. This study will include last year’s study work within the two year study requirement.

ii) Landscape, Culture and Heritage Assessment

An assessment is being prepared to identify the current landscape, its historical features and to suggest where landscape planting and pathways, for both pedestrian and cycle routes could improve overall access, understanding of the Energy Park. This

assessment will in due course include a photomontage from key advantage points showing the development and how this will look over time.

iii) Social and Economic Assessment for Residents of Bretherton

Energy Local, working in conjunction with Renewables for the Community are preparing a full assessment as to how the proposed scheme would operate and the benefits to the residents of Bretherton, detailing the physical electrical energy that will be available to them, together with the opportunity to change their energy consumption patterns, to make best use of the potential energy.

iv) Physical Assessments

The following additional physical assessments are being prepared. All of which will affect on what is possible.

- a) Flood Risk Assessment
- b) Agricultural Land Classification Assessment
- c) Noise Assessment
- d) Aviation Impact Assessment
- e) Telecommunication Link Assessment
- f) Safety Assessment
- g) Electro Magnetic Interference Assessment
- h) Geological Assessment
- i) Shadow and Flicker Assessment from the Wind Turbine
- j) Solar Panel Glint and Glare Assessment

A full Environmental Statement will be produced following completion of the assessments, setting out the risks and potential impacts. These assessments will determine what is and is not possible.

5. **Bretherton Energy**

It is proposed to establish a Member's Owned co-operative known as "Bretherton Energy Co-Operative". Residents of Bretherton who wish to become members of the co-operative and take part in the receipt of electrical energy, would need to be members of a community-wide and effectively owned co-operative. The Bretherton Energy Co-operative would receive all the electrical energy, with the assistance of Energy Local, as advisors, if required. The Co-operative would select an electrical supplier to receive the energy and distribute to members.

6. **Timescale**

As can be seen from the above, there is a considerable amount of technical work required to establish as to whether the site is suitable as an Energy Park. This will not be fully known for at least 12 months. However, this by-monthly update would seek to keep all those who attended the launch of "Our Mutual Journey to Net Zero" fully informed of progress.

A copy of these updates will be Emailed and are available at www.brethertonenergy.co.uk

