



FDT meeting 20.01.16. HQ. 7.30pm

Present: Holly O' Donnell, Matthew Black (Senior Energy Advisor), Gordon Cowtan, Iain Frazer, Jamie Pearson, Kayt Howell (Co ordinator), David Howell, Stuart Higgins, Hugh Edmond.

Apologies: Gordon Murray.

## **ACTION**

### **BALGAIR**

Update from MB regarding the recent issues with the heating regulator which left residents without heating in their homes. A meeting was called with members of the Board of FCE, residents, the site manager, Campbell Palmer Consultants and Alternative Heat contractors and FDT.

MB reported that the meeting was successful in identifying the urgent issues which needed to be addressed . The aim is to provide reassurance to the residents and to work towards a suitable alert system and provision of an emergency protocol which works for all.

All parties were given tasks to address in making necessary changes and will report back on progress.

FDT will need to absorb the costs of the additional emergency cover.

GC mentioned the difference in service provision for domestic plumbing issues and district heating issues. A system to differentiate the two is needed to ensure residents are able to contact the appropriate services for each.

MB and the Board discussed the remaining snagging issues and the service provided by Enviro Energy, in relation to those.

**MB**

### **SMART METER PROJECT.**

MB outlined the current progress of the LES stage 2 application.

The first draft has been submitted with the completed application due by 12th February.

MB highlighted the quality of the consortium of partners on the project and their positive working relationships.

The board discussed the pioneering aspect of the project and the ideas behind taking over the DNOs network - or at least overcome the constraints of the network by using a local energy supply.

SSE can provide ECO money for a district heating scheme of £120K - which needs to be spent by the end of September 2016. A higher level of RHI is available on district heating systems. Board and MB discussed the suitability of Culcreuch and Dunmore areas.

MB is applying through CARES for additional funding for a feasibility study to determine suitability and capacities. We should know decision on funding by April/May.

The Board discussed with staff, the positions and funding of positions for the phase 2 application. MB outlined the various posts required for the management for the project implementation.

FDT would be the main lead and have the overall responsibility of the project reporting. FDT would be responsible for the appropriate payments through invoices for other parties involved in the project.

A Community Liaison officer would be key in the community engagement and delivery as well as the publicity and marketing of the project.

**MB**

## ACCOUNTS

GC reported on recent visit to accountants in Edinburgh with KH.

The main discussion at the moment is in reference to the need for an Audit of the. Accounts for last year , however a decision on this has not yet been reached . The cost and the staff time would be considerable. - however may be necessary.

The Board discussed and agreed to take out Tax investigation insurance cover for FDT & FREE.

**KH**

Loan agreements between FDT and FCE and also FREE and FCE need to be drawn up and approved by the Board.

**GC**

## FINTRY CYCLES.

KH reported on the little use of the cycle club against the costs of insurance an maintenance. The Board agreed to review the situation following a publicity push over Spring and Summer.

**KH**

## EDUCATION GRANTS.

Students from Fintry have made two further applications, for the grants. The Board discussed what elements correctly met the grant criteria. Final award calculations to be made before agreement.

**KH**

## FDT TRAILER.

We have had some very useful advice and suggested prices, from a knowledgeable resident, for the purchase of a trailer for community hire. It would need to be suitable for multi purpose use, covered, and able to be used for further wood fuel collections.

Discussions and suggestions were noted re location, cost and security of the kit. Tracker systems and clamps would seem appropriate. Insurance costs required.

**KH**

Re Chainsaw tickets, training and insurance - SH has his chainsaw tickets and offered assistance for wood fuel gathering with MB. Insurance quotes needed.

**KH**

## DR ANNE WINTHER

Anne has worked with FDT on various studies and collaborations and has asked that FDT be partners to further extend her Phd research. Then Board were happy to accommodate this and now await further information from Anne.

## WOOD & FOOD EVENT

FDT are working with Stirling's Low Carbon Future to facilitate a wood up-cycling workshop on 23/01/16 as part of their current CCF project. All ages' welcome. Lunch will be provided for participants.

AOB.

FDT HQ

HOD raised the point of FDT accommodation provision, plans for suitable facilities for office, meetings, suitable storage and future proofing for the future.

Directors discussed the options of utilizing recycled units for construction and being able to offer examples of cladding and insulation.

SH provided a brochure of some timber examples.

Discussions with the Sports Club committee are needed to consider the practicalities and proposals, which would hope to include a combined facility for both FDT and The Fintry Museum.

A meeting to be arranged to pull together parties involved for initial discussion.

**KH**

CHRISTMAS TREES.

GC raised a question about disposal of real trees and what was the local practice.

Board discussion led to potential provision of "Loan Trees" in planters- returned after Festive season to grow on in bigger pots or planted out in suitable woodland. One to discuss for the future.

DIRECTORS ONLY MEETING.