



## **Minutes from the Kingsley Transition Initiative Energy Group Meeting Tuesday 30 June 2010, 7.30pm. The Horseshoe Pub**

**Present:** Allan Arthur, Bryan Bulloch (Minutes), Alison Daves, Roy Griffiths, John Woulds.

**Apologies:** Stephen Lawson, Melanie Nolan (EST), Simon Sherlock

### **Energy Saving Trust**

- Heather Gott has now begun her maternity leave and has been replaced by Melanie Nolan. Melanie's contact details are:

tel 0151-637-3678 and e-mail: [melanie.nolan@est-northwest-mc.org.uk](mailto:melanie.nolan@est-northwest-mc.org.uk)

### **Insulation Campaign**

- According to conventional wisdom insulation and the replacement of old inefficient gas boilers by modern condensing boilers are the simplest and most cost-effective actions to save energy.

- Despite good intentions and discussion over many months we have so far had little impact on the takeup of insulation. Feedback from Melanie after the meeting is that there were only 16 responses from the 800 letters sent out. [How many visitors to the EST event promoting insulation at the Community Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> June?]

- Melanie will be asked to confirm that 100% grants remain available for the over 70s. If so, Bryan suggested that we focus a campaign on the section of the community who would qualify for free loft/cavity insulation in the hope of achieving some quick wins.

- Noted after the meeting that **DECC Press Release: PN10/075** of 30 June indicates that the new Government's policy is going to be very much "back to basics" on energy saving with a renewed concentration on home insulation as the most cost-effective way to deliver results.

### **Condensing Boilers**

- Re condensing boilers, their typically small high intensity combustion heat-exchangers are less tolerant of circulating sludge than old (lower efficiency) heavy-weight conventional boilers, so that a power flush prior to changeover is often desirable. With older systems this runs the risk of finding pinholed radiators. On this basis John Woulds was advised to stick with his old inefficient boiler. It was not clear how to take this forward as a case study of a successful changeover (eg Roy Griffiths) might not extrapolate to other situations.

- It was suggested we contact a local installer for advice and possible involvement in the 9<sup>th</sup> October event (Who will attempt to make contact?).

- Subsequent to the meeting examination of Npower boiler installation literature shows that they provide a 5 year extended warranty on the new boiler and a "2 year central heating repair promise regardless of whether we've installed just the boiler or the full system." This sounds promising but would clearly be reflected in the price and small print would need to be examined carefully.

### **Solid Wall Insulation**

- John Would's eventually heard that his application for inclusion in the trials had not been successful. There is a trial taking place in Alsager, and another near Congleton.

### **Renewable Energy and CHP**

- Allan Arthur has completed a draft case study on Roy Griffiths' solar thermal installation. The final version is to be available for the 9<sup>th</sup> October event.
- Allan will also approach Dave Lightfoot on Top Road with a view to putting together a case study on his installation.
- On solar PV, Allan has approached Simon Batey's installer to discuss the practicality of installing panels at Weaver Cottage, Gibson's Mill and the Community Centre. The issue will be raised at the KCA AGM. Other possible sites include the two schools. George Ablett (Cheshire West) would be involved in investigating finance for systems at the Community Centre and the schools. There is a competition for the primary schools in September to win a 3kW PV installation.
- Melanie advises that the EST predictions for wind speeds in Kingsley are below the threshold at which they would recommend the installation of domestic wind turbines. There may well be places within the area where actual wind speeds exceed the threshold 5 m/s, but the EST predictions should not be surprising as Kingsley is not a windy area.
- Re CHP, Worcester Bosch are developing micro CHP using a Stirling engine. It will be at least 12 months before domestic systems are fully developed. John Would's considers this may be a more appropriate upgrade for his boiler than a straightforward condensing boiler. (See [www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/homeowner/products/micro-chp?gclid=CLOE3KX08aECFOI9IAodzQ2cmA](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/homeowner/products/micro-chp?gclid=CLOE3KX08aECFOI9IAodzQ2cmA) , and for Stirling engines: [www.howstuffworks.com/stirling-engine.htm](http://www.howstuffworks.com/stirling-engine.htm) or [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stirling\\_engine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stirling_engine) )

### **Energy Monitors**

- Melanie reports that British Gas is running a scheme where they are offering all of their customers on benefit a free Energy Monitor. Other than that she notes that monitors can be purchased from BG for around £35.

### **KTI Event 9 October 2010**

- The event needs to be publicised in the next KCA News in early September.
- Suggestions are sought on who might be asked to open the event.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17 August 2010 at 7.30pm in the Horseshoe.