

Memorandum of Understanding

Participants

Grafham, Great Staughton, and Perry Parish Councils.

Purpose

The purpose of the agreement is to investigate the feasibility of a Community Heating scheme based upon an approach to decarbonisation of residential heating in the 3 Parishes.

Background

The UK Government and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) have declared a climate emergency. There are of course many aspects of reducing green-house gases but there is one which is particularly relevant in rural settings. CCC have identified this in their Climate change plan. Heating in rural areas is nearly wholly dependent on oil as there is little piped gas or other suitable alternative. CCC have stated they are looking for ways to remove 10,000 dwellings in rural settings from this dependence on oil. They are working closely initially with Swaffham Prior to investigate the possible technologies to provide an alternative heating source.

Approach

The 3 Parishes recognise any solution to this issue is far beyond their expertise and financial resources. They are therefore agreed with the help of CCC to approach the the Rural Community Energy Fund for funding to investigate possible solutions.

Governance

The project will be managed by representatives from the 3 Parishes with help, and guidance from County Council, other relevant Government agencies and companies as necessary. The lead Parish for the purpose of any grant application will be Great Staughton. There will be no legal commitment to any proposals without the agreement of the Parish Councils.

Agreement

The 3 Parish Councils agree this document and agree to provide each £400 for initial community engagement to gain local support and understanding for the project.