

Dear Cllr Carroll (copied to the Mayor and all Bishop's Castle Town Councillors),

Lightfoot and the Bishop's Castle Climate Action Plan group hereby request that the following policies are included in the Bishop's Castle Neighbourhood Plan.

1, A proposal for a community owned low carbon heat network will be supported subject to:-

- A, the heat sources to be used being verified as low carbon and to not use biomass,
- B, the location and scale of any energy centre does not have an unacceptable impact on the town,
- C, the minimisation of inconvenience to residents and traders during the installation of the network.

2, A proposal for a single community owned wind turbine of up to 1MW capacity, at either of the locations marked on the attached map (A. East of Love Lane, B, East of B385 on land below the Conery), connected into the proposed heat network energy centre will be supported subject to:-

- A, confirmation of the avoidance, or mitigation, of nuisance from noise and shadow flicker and minimisation of visual impact,
- B, safety of the highway and rights of way are maintained,
- C, the removal of all related infrastructure at the end of the operating life.

These policies in combination could provide for a considerable reduction in carbon emissions from heating and electricity for the town, (which are 44% above the national average per household), enable the removal of unsightly oil and LPG tanks, provide some protection against rising fuel prices, provide rental income for a local landowner and enable community ownership of a low carbon resource. This accords with the responsibility under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that Neighbourhood Plans should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and address climate change mitigation.

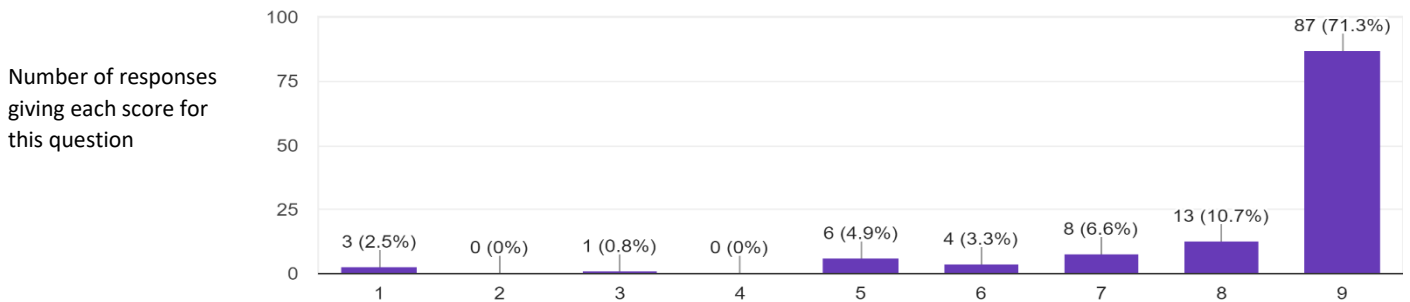
The heat network proposal is at an early stage, but Bishop's Castle is an ideal town for such a scheme, with no mains gas, limited room for heat pumps and a fairly tight development pattern. The proposal is to use heat pumps to power the network, adding the wind turbine would reduce considerably the cost of running the network and may well be the difference between the scheme being viable or not. The turbine would also further reduce the carbon emissions from the scheme. Likewise linking the wind turbine to the heat network rather than to the grid provides a good income for a turbine in a site that would not normally be considered viable. The heat network could supply some of the social housing in the town and also larger buildings such as the swimming pool, schools and SpArC.

The two wind turbine sites chosen were identified through a detailed Wind Constraints study carried out by Locogen (see Appendix B). Both proposed wind turbine sites are at least 500m from residential properties. There were two further sites, but one is considered to be too difficult to access and the other is not acceptable to the landowner. The intention is to only develop one of these sites but two are being included in this application to give a fall-back site if one of the sites is found through detailed investigation to be unsuitable. Both sites are fairly near the town and fairly low lying so reducing their impact on the surrounding landscape and in particular the AONB. The survey has not highlighted a strong preference for a site.

We have carried out significant public consultation on these proposals including, posting a leaflet and survey through most of the doors in the town, advertising an online version of the survey, holding a well-publicised and well attended public meeting and holding two stalls on the High Street. We have also discussed the scheme with the local MP, local Shropshire Councillor, the AONB manager, Connexus housing and representatives of Enterprise House, SpArC, the Community College, the National Trust and Shropshire CPRE.

We have received 128 responses to the survey, we have discounted 6 that are too far removed from the town, separated those that are within the parish (100) and those that aren't (22, including 2 where the postcode was incomplete). A detailed report on the survey is attached as Appendix D. We are providing a summary of the main questions here.

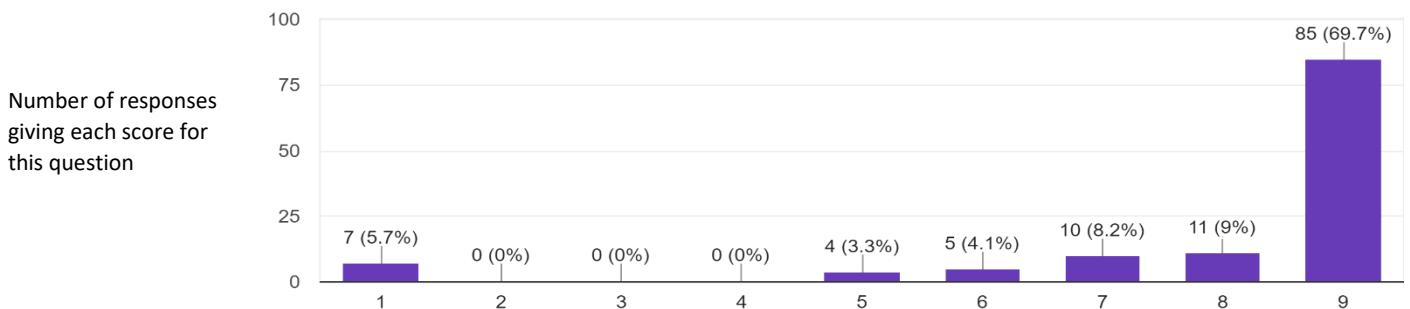
Q1, Do you support the idea of a Community Heat Network for Bishop's Castle?



Of the 100 in strong support of the heat network (scoring 8 or 9) 85% live within the parish, 15% live just outside it.

Of the 3 who are against the heat network (scoring 1 or 2) 33% live within the parish, 66% live just outside it.

Q2, Do you support the idea of a Community Wind Turbine powering the heat network?



Of the 96 in strong support of the wind turbine (scoring 8 or 9) 87% live within the Parish, 13% live just outside it.

Of the 7 who are against the wind turbine (scoring 1 or 2) 28% live within the parish, 82% live just outside it.

Q3, Do you have any preference out of the two wind turbine sites proposed? 57% said no, 20% were unsure, 22% said yes. Of these 11 prefer Site B at the Conery, 5 prefer Site A, East of Love Lane.

Q4, Might you be interested in joining the heat network? 58% said yes, 26% unsure, 16% no.

Our local MP has described the project as 'exciting', our local Shropshire Councillor has been supportive as have almost all of the other local organisation representatives that we have talked to. The 60 attendees at the public meeting were generally very supportive with just a few objections raised relating to possible effect on birds and tourism income. The AONB manager has not ruled out the idea of a 1MW wind turbine on the border of the AONB but has said that any planning application would have to be considered by the AONB partnership. We accept that due consideration of the proposals will be required by all parties if and when planning applications are submitted.

We therefore consider that the Bishop's Castle Heat and Wind proposal has extensive local support with very few objectors and urge the Town Council to include the suggested policies within the Bishop's Castle Neighbourhood Plan, which would enable the project to move forward with further studies.

Yours respectfully,

Lorraine Waumsley, Lightfoot,

Mike Watkins & David Luckhurst, BC CAP,

<p><u>Appendices</u></p> <p>A, Map of wind turbine sites</p> <p>B, Wind Turbine Constraints study by Locogen</p> <p>C, Copy of leaflet & survey form</p> <p>D, Full Survey results report, by Sharenergy</p> <p>E, BC Heat & Wind FAQ document</p>
--



Appendix A, map of proposed sites within which the turbine could be located. For details of how these were identified see Appendix B, Wind Constraints Report