

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world where Climate Change, targets for the reduction of emissions, the long term sustainability of natural resources and the UK's dependency upon energy from less stable countries impact us all.

The UK's future energy security in the next 20years (from 2014) has some serious challenges. Coal, Oil & Gas power stations are being closed in order to fulfill EU Carbon reduction targets, Nuclear stations built in the 50's and 60's are reaching their end of life and are being decommissioned. Investment and planning procrastination has inhibited replacement capacity being built. All of this will affect the way that we have become used to living and, importantly, will affect the UKs' economy.

Findon recognizes that it has a responsibility to contribute its small part to the Global and UK effort to address these issues. The approach should be holistic rather than just "what does it mean to me".

Accordingly our NP sets out to address these issues through:

- Energy Efficiency
- Embracing Renewable Technologies & "New" Energy (non-household)
- Embracing Renewable Technologies & "New" Energy (household)

Of course, household finances are never far from Parishioners concerns and the NP sets out to address this with an:

- Energy Collective

1. Energy Efficiency

1. Stipulating in the NP that all developments within the Parish fulfill minimum kWhr/M2 & CO2 emissions target figures by use of best-in-practice construction and insulation methods and the use of appropriate renewable technologies.
2. Ensuring that all developments adopt best practice water saving measures. All new developments and those where roof areas are extended by >20% should adopt rainwater harvesting. This should be used for garden irrigation and potentially for grey water flushing of toilets. This measure would a) reduce the demand for mains water (thus reducing energy and chemicals use by Southern Water), b) reduces the householders Water utility bill & c) reduces surface water, which in turn assists the flooding issues addressed elsewhere in the NP.
3. Encouraging the owners of existing building stock to adopt improved insulation and better energy use practice.

2. Embracing Renewable Technologies & “New” Energy (at a non-household level)

Findon recognizes that the adoption of Renewable technologies need to be considered alongside potentially conflicting aspects of the NP, eg Open Views. The NP sets out to adopt a pragmatic, responsible, approach to the use of such technology which shall inform developers and potential energy companies of the communities’ standpoint. Accordingly, any energy proposal would need to conform to UK, Local & SDNPA legislation and it being appropriate to the village and its surroundings.

It is recognized that the introduction of such installations has the potential to bring a degree of local employment, both temporary and longer term. It would also bring revenue into the local businesses.

It is also recognized that any commercial exploitation within the Parish boundaries would offer the potential of revenue for the parish.

The following technologies fall within this category:

2. Wind Farms (Windmills)

Given the context of the local downland views, the SDNP and an increasing move toward off-shore Wind Farms, Findon would not support such developments within its Parish boundaries primarily due to their height and visual impact. See Open Views also

1. Solar PV Farms

Once installed, Solar PV Farms have a low visual impact, produce no noise and, with careful selection, can exist without people being aware that they are there. (Evidence: Albeit different, the Vineyard at Wiston House is an example of an “installation” that is discretely located and that is not visible from a distance). Accordingly Findon would seriously consider installations within the Parish boundaries provided that they are sympathetically located and do not compromise Open Views.

3. Oil & Gas Extraction

Similar to Solar PV Farms, once installed, oil & gas installation have a low visual impact, produce little noise and with carefully selected sites can exist without people realizing they exist. (Evidence: Wych Farm in Dorset & Parham, nr Storrington) Accordingly, Findon would seriously consider installations within the Parish boundaries provided that they are sympathetically located and do not compromise Open Views and adequate traffic provision is made.

2. Shale Gas Extraction.

Findon recognizes that this energy source is at the forefront of current Government thinking (2014) and is one that is considered to secure the UK’s shorter term energy needs. There is considerable concern that Shale Gas extraction can affect the local water table and also can cause seismic issues. In a similar vein to Solar PV & Oil & Gas extraction, Findon, in principle, would not object to such schemes provided that the concerns regarding the issues stated above were satisfactorily answered by independent studies and the low visual and noise aspects were correctly addressed.

1. Embracing Renewable & “New” Technologies (household)

Some of the renewable technologies listed above have the ability to be deployed at a household level:

3. Windmills.

These devices would compromise the visual impact of Findon and are not supported in the NP.

4. Solar PV

Solar PV panels that sit on the roof structure (typically a retrospective installation) would compromise the visual impact of Findon and are not supported in the NP. (See picture).

However, Solar PV tiles are available and can integrate into the roof structure in such a manner that they are unobtrusive. Most appropriate for new developments or major refurbishment, such materials would have minimal visual impact and their use would be supported in the NP. (see picture).

5. Solar Hot Water

Solar panels that sit on the roof structure (typically a retrospective installation) would compromise the visual impact of Findon and are not supported in the NP. (See picture).

6. Heat Pumps

Both Ground & Air Source. These technologies would be acceptable subject to the Heat Pump device being situated such that it does not create a visual impact nor produce an unacceptable noise level.

7. Micro Generation (Micro CHP)

This technology utilizes gas or oil to operate an engine which is used to generate electricity for the home. The waste heat from the engines radiator and exhaust is captured and used to heat the home and hot water. The NP would support the use of such devices to achieve the lower kWhr/M2 figure mentioned previously.

8. Heat Recovery

The NP would encourage the use of heat recovery systems within proposed developments. These extract warm, moist, stale air from kitchens, bathrooms etc and, before discharging it to the outside atmosphere, the heat from it is removed and used to warm incoming fresh air by use of a heat exchanger and ductwork.

1. Energy Collective

The purpose of the Parish Energy Collective would be to:

- a) Create a competitive buying co-operative by aggregating the gas and electricity loads of participating households and then approaching Energy companies to obtain lower unit costs of energy.
- b) Encourage energy efficiency and conservation by having a register of advisory bodies and contractors who can help Parishioners improve their existing home.
- c) Negotiating local buying deals with installers and suppliers of energy related products. As a preference the initiative would support local installers from within the Parish subject to Quality, Value for Money and availability.