



## Community Workshop summary report

April 2014

## ScottishPower Energy Networks

Accelerating Renewable Connections (ARC) Project

## Introduction and aims

1. A Community Workshop was held on 27 March 2014 at the Bleachingfield Community Centre, Dunbar. The event was led on behalf of ARC by Community Energy Scotland (CES). The main purpose of the event was to present the ARC project alongside Sustaining Dunbar and to explore with the local community if there is potential for the projects to work together on energy projects. See Appendix A for a list of invitees. For a full list of participants see Appendices B and C.
2. The workshop aimed to answer the following questions:
  - a. What issues are Sustaining Dunbar facing?
  - b. What support do they want from the ARC team?
  - c. What community projects do they have in the pipeline that will support the ARC project?
  - d. What are the key points of contact at Sustaining Dunbar?
  - e. What is the structure of Sustaining Dunbar?
  - f. How does Sustaining Dunbar link into the local council and community?
3. The workshop also gave attendees the opportunity to meet members of the project team and to ask any questions about the project objectives and deliverables, and to discuss their own ideas.

## Method

4. The workshop was run according to the programme below:
  - a. Welcome and introduction – Andy Maybury (Community Energy Scotland)
  - b. Sustaining Dunbar presentation – Sean Watters
    - i. What is Sustaining Dunbar
    - ii. Challenge of fossil fuels running out and climate change
    - iii. Need to transform energy production and use
  - c. Project presentation – Euan Norris (SP Energy Networks)
    - i. Who we are
    - ii. SPEN overview
    - iii. ARC project
      1. Aims
      2. Background
      3. The problem...
      4. The solution...
  - d. Speaker – Sustaining Dunbar, Philip Revell
  - e. Question and Answer session
  - f. Refreshments and informal discussion
  - g. Summary and closing remarks – Felix Wight (Community Energy Scotland)

5. To make the workshop productive there would need to be a two-way flow of information to allow the team to understand how both Sustaining Dunbar and local residents viewed the project and their current perception of SPEN. This was achieved in two ways: first by holding a Question and Answer session, after the introductory presentations, followed by an informal opportunity for general discussion with members of the ARC team.

#### Question and Answer and discussion session

6. The majority of the issues raised during the discussion were around the importance of meeting local needs from local resources. Fuel poverty and how to replace dependency on oil for householders off gas-grid was seen as a key issue for the area. It was felt that the project was an extremely good idea and it was suggested that it could provide monitoring of energy use and share current available information from other areas of the UK.

7. CES was asked if they would consider carrying out a community audit. Felix Wight agreed and said that it would help to put ARC into a wider perspective using similar information they have for other areas of Scotland. He stressed that Dunbar has a unique opportunity with the ARC project.

8. There was then a discussion about building standards and the housing development planned for Dunbar.

9. The importance of developers working with communities was emphasised.

10. Felix summed up and asked two final questions:

- a. Should Sustaining Dunbar continue to explore opportunities with the ARC project? YES
- b. Should Dunbar set a target for sourcing a percentage of its energy from local renewable sources? Agreed to work to the target in Sustaining Dunbar's Action Plan – 50% less energy from fossil fuels by 2025.

#### Summary and conclusions

11. The aims of the day were met as follows:

- a. What issues are Sustaining Dunbar facing?
  - i. The blocks that stand in the way of their ability to build low-carbon infrastructure – a previous planning application had been turned down by the Scottish Government
  - ii. Upfront costs of projects
  - iii. Many local properties are either listed or in a conservation area, severely restricting what is permitted in fitting micro-renewables
  - iv. Disconnection between local demand and local supply
  - v. Confusing and changing Government incentives
- b. What support do they want from the ARC team?
  - i. Help in targeting off-gas areas
  - ii. Monitoring current household energy use
  - iii. Encourage local developers to invest in green energy projects rather than large developers from outside the area
  - iv. Help in meeting their energy action plan by exploring working together on community projects

- c. What community projects do they have in the pipeline that will support the ARC project?
  - i. At the event participants were keen to explore the ways in which Sustaining Dunbar could support the ARC project. Further discussion with Philip Revell has ascertained that there are currently no projects in the pipeline that would obviously support the ARC project. However Sustaining Dunbar is currently in discussion with Zero Waste Scotland about a range of further, confidential projects.
  
- d. Who are the key points of contact at Sustaining Dunbar?
  - i. Philip Revell: tel 01368 866920; email: philip@sustainingdunbar.org
  - ii. Sean Watters: tel 01368 866920; email: info@sustainingdunbar.org
  
- e. What is the structure of Sustaining Dunbar?
  - i. Sustaining Dunbar is a Development Trust and a Charity, regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). It has a membership open to anyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton Ward and it is free. The Members Forum elects the Board of Directors who are responsible for running the Charity.
  - ii. It operates as a network providing a structure to support individuals and groups in the Dunbar area to work towards creating a sustainable local economy. Some of these groups are run purely by volunteers while others have been supported to obtain funding to progress their projects.
  - iii. Sustaining Dunbar is part of the worldwide Transition Network and a member of the Development Trust Association Scotland.
  - iv. There are 149 members of Sustaining Dunbar (latest figure from Feb 2013). Several hundred more people participate in the projects that Sustaining Dunbar currently supports
  
- f. How does Sustaining Dunbar link into the local council and community?
  - i. Sustaining Dunbar has close contact with East Lothian Council both through the three local councillors and various officials as well as through its work with schools.
  - ii. It previously participated actively in drafting the East Lothian Environment Strategy and has run workshops with East Lothian Community Planning Partnership to explore local resilience and the opportunities for local jobs and wealth creation from moving to a low-carbon economy.
  - iii. It liaises closely with three of the four local community councils and has links with a range of local organisations – e.g. Dunbar Community Woodland Group, North Light Arts, Dunbar Cycling Group, RELBus, Dunbar in Bloom, various tenants and residents associations, Dunbar Fairtrade Town.

**Appendices:**

- A. List of Invitees.
- B. List of Participants
- C. List of ARC and partner representatives.

**Appendix A. List of invitees**

| <b>Name (if applicable)</b>                  | <b>Organisation</b>                         |
|--|---|
|  | Berwickshire Housing Association            |
|  | Castlerock Edinvar Housing Association      |
|  | Dunbar Community Council                    |
|  | Dunbar Shore and Harbour Group              |
|  | Dunpender Community Council                 |
|  | East Lammermuir Community Council           |
| <b>Paul Iannetta, Property Management</b>    | East Lothian Council                        |
| <b>Richard Jennings, Head of Development</b> | East Lothian Council                        |
| <b>Alastair Ranyard, Development Officer</b> | East Lothian Council                        |
| <b>CLlr Norman Hampshire</b>                 | East Lothian Council                        |
| <b>CLlr Paul McLennan</b>                    | East Lothian Council                        |
| <b>CLlr Michael Veitch</b>                   | East Lothian Council                        |
|  | East Lothian Housing Association            |
|  | Sunamp                                      |
|  | The Trees Tenants and Residents Association |
|  | West Barns Community Council                |
|  | Wingate Tenants and Residents Association   |

## Appendix B. List of Participants

| Name             | Organisation                      |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jon Lynn         | Beton Wirsey Group                |
| Mark Strachen    | Dunpender Community Council       |
| Anne Lyall       | East Lammermuir Community Council |
| Paul Iannetta    | East Lothian Council              |
| Gordon Jenkinson | Member, Sustaining Dunbar         |
| Jo McNamara      | Member, Sustaining Dunbar         |
| Sian Lynn        | Strong Energy                     |
| Philip Revell    | Sustaining Dunbar                 |
| Sean Watters     | Sustaining Dunbar                 |

## Appendix C. List of ARC and partner representatives

| Name          | Organisation                  |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Andy Maybury  | Community Energy Scotland     |
| Felix Wight   | Community Energy Scotland     |
| Sue Hayman    | Copper Consultancy            |
| Euan Norris   | ScottishPower Energy Networks |
| John Moffat   | ScottishPower Energy Networks |
| Martin Wright | ScottishPower Energy Networks |