

Meadows Ozone Energy Services Ltd (Mozes) Annual Report 2014-15

This is the sixth full year where Mozes has been running as a constituted body. It was set up in October 2009 with the following remit.

To carry on, whether alone or in combination with others, in the United Kingdom and elsewhere the businesses of design, build, construction, operation, supply and procurement of sustainable energy, waste and other utilities services and facilities, the provision of information and educational resources, the provision of training and skills development, the provision of volunteering and employment opportunities and the provision of advice, grants and loans in relation to any of the foregoing and shall include, in particular but without limitation, the following:

- reducing the carbon footprint of the Meadows;
- enabling the Meadows to become a place of experimentation and innovation in the development and deployment of sustainable energy-related technologies;
- enabling the Meadows to become self-sufficient in its energy use and then to become an energy generating community;
- enabling the residents of the Meadows and then other areas to access affordable energy; and
- contributing to the community and economic development of the Meadows.

During the year the board has consisted of the following people:

Phil Angus: Local Resident and CEO of Nottingham Energy Partnership

Graham Beaumont: Local Resident

Cllr Alan Clark: Nottingham City Council (City)

Professor Mark Gillott: University of Nottingham (Associate)

Nigel Lloyd: Local Resident

Professor Julian Marsh: Local Resident (Acting Chair)

Alan Simpson: Friends of the Earth (Associate)

Emily Braham: NCH Member

Mobina Latif: Local Resident

David Hallett

Richard Gutteridge

Phil Angus was due to take over the Chair before the year end but was unable to do so because of pressure of work.

No Board member is due to stand down this year but are several vacant places on the Board. These are for 2 social housing and 1 owner-occupier members.

Ordinary – Normal full member meeting the qualifying criteria, full voting rights etc...

Associate – Don't meet criteria e.g. live outside of the Meadows or are under 18.

Working closely with MPT

Mozes continues to be closely supported during the year by the Meadows Partnership Trust.

Because of our limited funds, however, meetings have been in Board Members homes and administrative support has now been brought fully in house.

This Year's Activities:

Existing PV Project and DECC Negotiations

You will remember that I mentioned in the previous two year's Annual Reports the fact that we had been working with Pure Leapfrog to get the Government to change their approach to the State Aid Regulations. They had been using these to deny communities such as ours access to the Feed in Tariffs we had been promised for the energy generated. I also reported that these discussions had been going nowhere. As a result we decided to change tack and inform the Department of Energy and Climate Change that instead of giving us a community asset, they had in fact given us a community liability with no means to support it. We calculated that over the lifetime of the panels it would cost in the region of £250,000 to maintain and insure the systems as they grew older, replacing inverters and other parts that were out of warranty within 5 years. We also threatened to go to the newspapers with this fact. As a result of this threat, Alan Simpson was able to arrange a meeting with Greg Barker, the Energy Minister, and Alan and I met with him in London in May. At the meeting he accepted that we had been saddled with a liability, but disputed that it would be as much as £250,000. He suggested that they send an expert to visit the Meadows and assess the costs on site. The expert they appointed was Ray Noble, the Director of Solar BIPV, and he came to visit us in August. Unfortunately Greg Barker resigned his post before the report was received and we found that DECC was then denying any agreement to look at our costs, saying that Ray Noble's remit was to give us advice rather than them. As a result we have asked Lilian Greenwood to take this up with Amber Rudd, the new Energy Secretary. Although Lilian asked a question in the House about our predicament no further progress has yet been made.

There have been a number of issues with pigeons and PV Panels this year and we have paid for 3 installations to have guarding fitted. There is concern that this will start to become a drain on resources as they have mostly been on installations not receiving FITS

New PV project

This project is now running relatively smoothly and giving us an income to enable us to insure everybody's panels.

Remaining Debts

Apart from the loan from Pure Leapfrog which is being paid off over 7 years with 4 years still to run, we still have a loan from NEP of £23,000 which we were hoping to pay off with equipment from the Battery Project being donated to NEP at the Mundella Building. As NEP have now lost the building we are currently exploring other options.

Working with the Universities: European Funding Bids

The Horizon 20-20 Sensible Project to explore the use of Community Battery systems is now well under way with over 65 households wanting to be involved as well as two Community Battery hosts. We are currently in the interview and survey stage of the project and will be purchasing and installing systems during 2016. This is now our major project and will consume most of our energies until its completion in 2018.

The Nottingham Tariff

Nottingham City Council has now Launched its Robin Hood Tariff which seems to be going well. It was trialled with NCC staff in the end as this was felt to be more practical.

The Wind Turbine

It is still the intention to organise a trip to look at the community wind turbine at Swaffham in Norfolk during the coming year, now that our finances are starting become more stable.

Scouts Energy Project

Richard Gutteridge ran a project with the Scouts for Scout Community Week where they explored the use of recycled drinks cans to make solar heaters.

Future Project Directions

Set up a newsletter when funds are available

Professor Julian Marsh

Chair: Mozes