

Report for OBPC 2nd April from OB Sustainability Group

Please thank WCC on our behalf for the new equipment. The two cameras have been used to survey 30 properties so far. The new camera arrived just in time for us to learn how to use it and then show a few "clients" from late February onwards, but now the weather is warmer we cannot do any more thermal surveys until next autumn.

I wrote an article printed in the latest parish newsletter. Every home in the parish received a copy and we invited people to ask for a thermal survey of their property. Surprisingly, we had only up to half a dozen people ask, although we were expecting more, possibly a lot more. The offer of thermal surveys will be well publicised for the rest of the year with a particular focus next autumn as the weather cools. I am sure both cameras will be used a lot more next winter.

We cannot harass people and demand to know what actions they have taken as a result of using the thermal camera. So, the home energy team (Gary, Jo, Dave Brian and I) decided to give them two or three months and then ask, gently, if it has helped them. I suspect some people will need suggestions of what to do next at that time. It will be worth reminding people as we all forget about winter when the weather is warm, I think! Summer is a useful time to install insulation etc and we shall remind people.

As part of the WeCAN project two members of our home energy team recently attended Energy Champion Training which will help our small local team here. We have yet to decide how to incorporate all the extra information we now have into activities next winter.

Another action this month was creating a display for The Repair Café. Ideally, we would like a monthly display here, focusing on a different sustainability topic each month.

I also wrote an article for the Community News about using thermal imaging camera to "see" waste heat and suggested insulating loft hatches. I send out

FUTURE PLANS:

A Big Outdoor Swap on Saturday May 11th. We will create posters and display them round the parish. We hope the timing is such that the date will go into the next parish newsletter.

We would like to continue with the hedgehog project and wildflower meadow on the corner of the Battery. Could the PC influence the gas and cable companies into sowing wildflower mixed with grass on the bare soil in the verges, I wonder?

I also attended a second WeCAN workshop (with OB Sus member Isabel Mack) about Communications. I reached the conclusion that this group needs to make far more use of the PC website, facebook etc. **How can I update the information on the PC web site?** Does the PC have any plans to use the web site to develop the resilience of our community?

Finally, we would like to host a social event in St Marks for local people interested in sustainability issues. We have about 70 people on our email list currently and I send news once or twice a month. I would find it helpful to know what our budget is for this year. **Would each of the members of the parish council like to receive this newsletter?** Then you would keep abreast of sustainability?

Thank you,

Clare Shorter