



# **Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund: North Walsham Community Report**

August 2022



**VATTENFALL**



# Vattenfall – Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund

## Report of workshop at North Walsham Community Centre

August 2022

The meeting was held at North Walsham Community Centre on Monday 15th August between 6pm and 8pm.

### 1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting

This was the sixth workshop for local residents, forming part of a dialogue that is expected to continue over the coming year, aimed at shaping Vattenfall's Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund.

The first workshop was held at the Necton Rural Community Centre earlier this year, followed by events in Happisburgh, Reepham, Aylsham, and Dereham. To view a summary report from the first phase of dialogue and each of the other workshops, please visit the Community Benefit page of the project website: <https://bit.ly/NorfolkZoneCBF>.

The purpose of the workshops was to share the broad parameters of the Community Benefit Fund, discuss locally appropriate climate smart community ideas that local residents might have, and review and build on the findings of the first phase of dialogue (the 'Give My View' survey).

### 2. Workshop detail

The workshop started with a warm welcome from Denise Hone, Senior Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager at Vattenfall, who then gave a very brief project update in relation to the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas offshore wind projects before introducing Vattenfall's collaborative approach to establishing a Community Benefit Fund, and describing the key findings of the phase one Community Benefit Fund Survey – Give My View.

A second presentation showcased [Vattenfall's Unlock our Future Fund](#) - which is attached to Vattenfall's Aberdeen Bay Offshore Wind Farm, the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) – and the community projects it supports in Scotland. While the differences between Vattenfall's Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm and Norfolk Zone were pointed out, this session highlighted similarities in approach to establishing the two funds. Foundation Scotland, administrators of the Unlock our Future Fund, outlined key parts of the process involving communities and stakeholders in shaping and setting up the fund, such as appointing a local panel of decision-makers to determine which projects would be funded. They also shared some lessons learned during the four years the fund has been in operation and described case studies of community projects. Community members reflected on, and chatted about, what they had heard and then took part in a group reflection activity which was followed by a Q&A session – see section five.

The main workshop session involved small group discussions with residents, exploring their ideas for climate smarter community living and the kind of support that could help them develop great projects, delivering lasting benefits for their communities. Participants noted their views, ideas and comments on worksheets and post-it notes. Please see the appendix for examples of the feedback received.

In total, 18 residents and stakeholders attended the event. The attendees comprised residents and representatives of local community groups, as well as local councillors and parish councillors. The slides that we presented during the workshop can be found on our project webpage here: <https://bit.ly/NorfolkZoneCBF>.



### 3. Participants' initial climate smarter community ideas

The idea-sharing session was framed by the earlier presentations, and clarified further through the Q&A session – the fundamental criteria surrounding the fund at present are simply:

- To support locally appropriate, climate smart community initiatives. Eligible ideas could involve investing in community facilities e.g. spaces or transport, and activities to ensure they are fit for the future (i.e. helping to reduce energy consumption through installing energy-saving measures/technology, promoting sustainable development, helping communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and helping the natural environment regenerate).
- To ensure a legacy and lasting impact, which clearly brings benefit to the local community.

Group discussions initially responded to the following question:

*What ideas do you have to help your community live a climate smarter life?*

A summary of the key themes from this session is outlined below.

### **Rural connectivity and smart transport**

- Assist community transport projects, such as a local electric bus service or e-transport to and from communal allotments.
- Help deliver a local 'dial-a-ride' service.
- Support the purchase of an electric vehicle (EV) for the local town council, shared EVs for schools and electric/solar-powered North Walsham-liveried minibuses.
- Create EV charging points at village halls, churches, and car parks.
- Work with Sanders Coaches.
- Improve cycle access/routes.
- Convert Trunch's village shop into an electric personal transport shop (selling e-bikes and e-scooters).

### **Energy efficiency and renewable energy generation**

- Collaborate with the local council to require all new builds to include rainwater harvesting systems.
- Assist green energy initiatives and green buildings that facilitate glamping.
- Roll out solar – on community buildings and in parks.
- Greenhouses – supply & heating, construction.
- Set up water harvesting systems for allotments.
- Upgrade Trunch village hall with energy-saving measures.
- Replace the pavilion on Trunch playing field with an energy-efficient alternative.

### **Education and green skills initiatives**

- Provide mentoring opportunities for local teenagers.
- Create apprenticeships.
- Establish communal allotments.

### **Climate smart rural living**

- Set up an exemplary green tourism business in North Norfolk AONB.
- Support wellbeing holidays (e.g. focused on writing, painting, photography).
- Renovate orchards.
- Extend woodland.
- Install composting toilets and bio-digester waste systems in local churches.
- Establish a community health and wellbeing hub in Sheringham, consisting of an eco-sustainable building with a green roof, outdoor and indoor performance/community space and a post office.
- Build a 'green' concrete skatepark in Stalham.
- Use sustainable paper when communicating with local people.
- Assist outreach projects.



### Additional ideas and discussion points

- Fund large 'exemplar' projects.
- Deep History Coast – Happisburgh and beyond.
- Provide a stimulus for community activities.
- Engage directly with businesses.
- Concern that some projects are likely to require funding earlier than 2024.
- Support efforts to get young people interested in joining groups and activities in local village halls.
- Deliver face-to-face meetings for groups to engage.
- Make use of existing networks in Norfolk e.g. via Community Action Norfolk.
- Focus on helping birds, especially those most impacted by the development.
- Ensure the application process is simple.
- Help small groups investigate the viability of ideas and apply for funding.

## 4. Additional Feedback

- The application process should be collaborative and educational to help those who lack resources/ knowledge to develop their ideas.
- Organisations like Community Action Norfolk can provide assistance and help deliver activities.
- Suggestion to provide support at future workshops for attendees whose first language may not be English.
- Establishing a team to support the application process would create green jobs and make the fund more accessible.
- The fund criteria could include: how the project will help support the growth of green jobs.
- Some attendees questioned whether £15 million is enough for 25 years and suggested investing this money now (so it grows over time).





## 5. Q&A session

Here is a flavour of the key topics covered during the Q&A session and at other points during the workshop. We will capture these alongside questions raised by other communities during the course of the ongoing dialogue in a FAQ document, as many questions resulted in sharing insights that are of interest to others who will help shape the Community Benefit Fund.

### **Q: Where will the cable route start and finish?**

A: The cable route will run from Happisburgh to a National Grid substation at Necton.

### **Q: Will we only be able to get grants from the fund, or can the money be invested into local community businesses to help support clean growth?**

A: Clean growth is a great aim, and very much aligned with the aims of the fund. We anticipate that awards will be made to applications from community groups, including community enterprises, community interest companies and similarly structured groups re-investing any profits back into the local community, and registered charities.

### **Q: Can you offer support to those that don't have the resources or knowledge to create the bid itself (bid writing support)?**

A: Yes, that is a possibility. Over time we will consider whether certain groups or communities need support to access the funding, and we would work with the administrative body to see how best to support their applications. So even if this is not provided from the outset, that does not mean that it cannot be offered at a later date, if considered necessary or appropriate to do so.



**Q: Will the fund support lots of little projects or favour large projects?**

A: This is yet to be decided. We are starting this dialogue now to shape the criteria by which the local panel of decision-makers will judge proposals, and determine which projects will be allocated funding. Our fund in Aberdeen currently awards small grants of up to £2,000 and large grants of up to £30,000 through two separate funding pathways, so there are different ways to structure the fund. We will consider these options as we move through the dialogue process and gather views from Norfolk communities.

**Q: Can you support feasibility studies for projects?**

A: Yes, that is a possibility, and we have awarded grants for feasibility studies through funds attached to our other projects.

**Q: Will funds be allocated on a first come, first served basis?**

A: No. The administrative body and local panel will develop a register of all applications received, of which all will be treated equally following the full review process.



## 6. Next steps

Vattenfall is continuing dialogue to ensure that the fund remains based on, and responsive to, community interests, needs and aspirations. There will be other opportunities to get involved and influence how the fund will be spent. We will be holding similar meetings along the cable corridor to talk with residents and explore their ideas for how they would like to benefit from the fund.

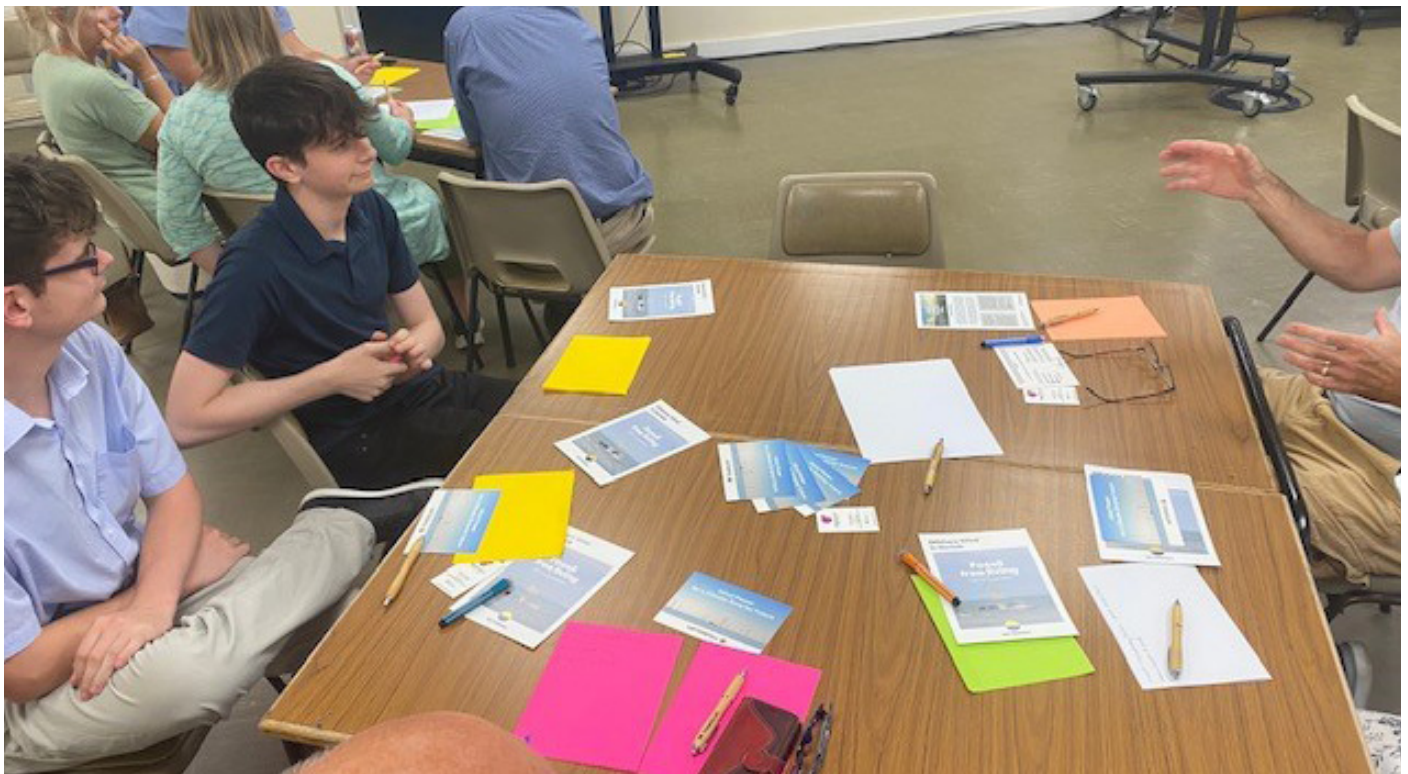
Following these workshops, we will use the feedback received to decide on the key themes for the fund. We will then run more thematic workshops to explore these ideas in more detail.

Please continue to take part in the conversation. We need to hear from you to make sure we understand your priorities, how you can benefit from the fund and your local climate initiatives. Community involvement will help ensure the fund provides a lasting legacy of locally appropriate initiatives and support.

If you are not yet signed up to receive our e-shots and newsletters, then please register here: [Subscribe to Norfolk Zone E-News](#).

If you have any questions or would like to share further ideas at this stage, please contact: [norfolk@vattenfall.com](mailto:norfolk@vattenfall.com).

We look forward to continuing the conversation with you.



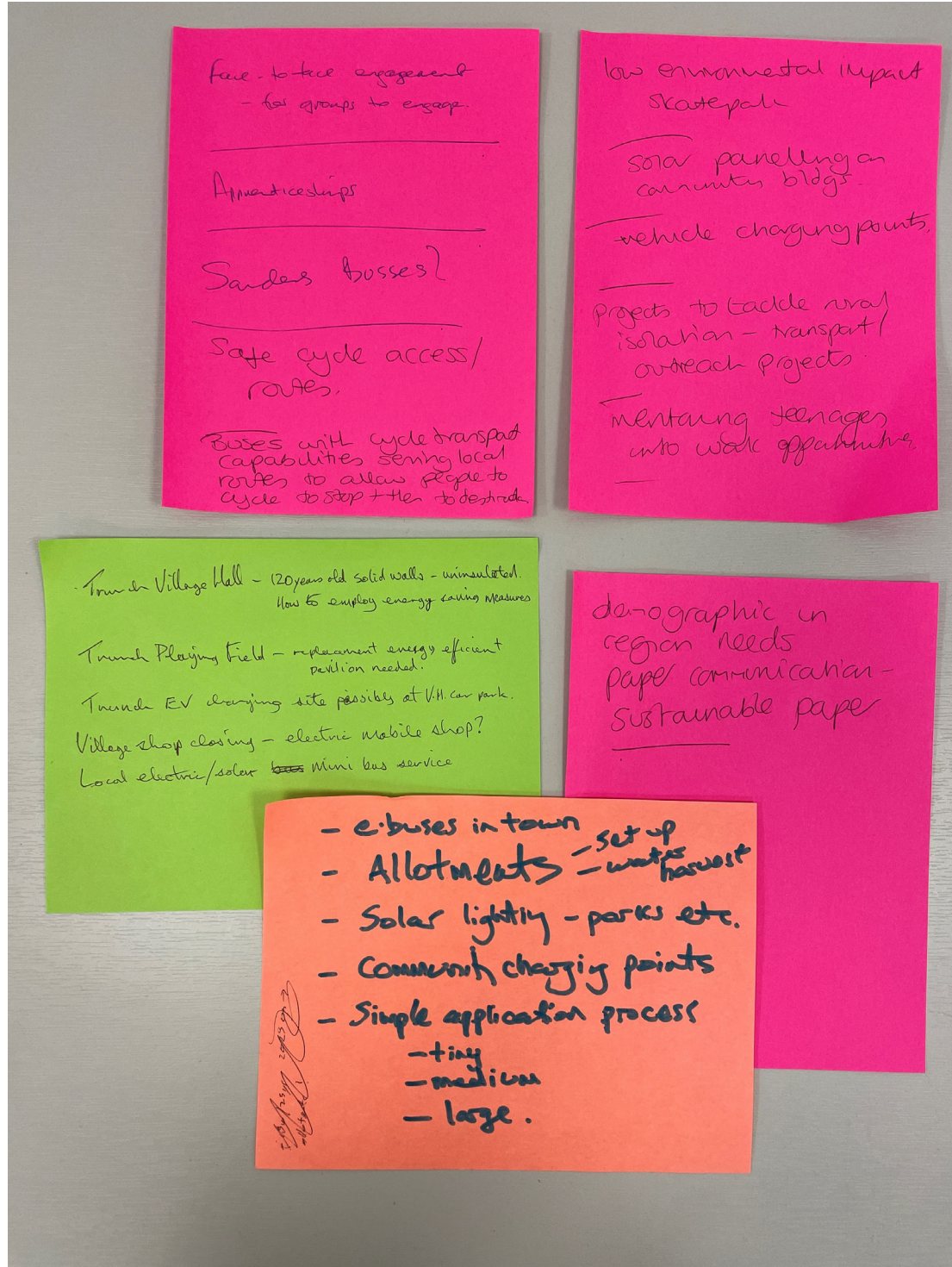
## 7. Thanks

Many thanks to all those who participated in the workshop. Vattenfall is grateful to all involved in organising and publicising the meeting and encouraging broad participation.

Thanks to Foundation Scotland for their presentation and participation in the Q&A session that followed, as well as Thomas White and Joe Bates, who supported the event during their four-week Ogden Trust summer internship with Vattenfall.



## Appendix - example of feedback provided on post-it notes



Is all over 25 years. Enough over time  
 Invest now rather than later  
 Show effect of saving  
 First come first serve!

Visit North Norfolk  
 - DMC

Deep History Coast  
 - Happisburgh & beyond

Engaging businesses

Stimulus for community activity

Green concrete skate park  
 - Stalham

- 1) 2024 seems a long while before any money is available. We are in the process of bringing our local village hall up to the 21st century & money is needed earlier.
- Perhaps electric power is placed at the village halls for the rural community.
- 3) Real-a-ride (we hardly have any buses in Bawburgh & Colley)
- 4) Try & get young people interested in. Some small groups / activities in our U-halls.

- Greenhouses - supply, heating, erosion
- Links with other organisations in Norfolk
- Importance of helping bids particularly ~~the~~ most disadvantaged
- Community Action Norfolk - better links
- e-charging points at suitable popular car parks - Crown, Oulton, Mundesley etc
- Communal allotments, not individual leased plots - e-transport ~~buses~~ to and from

- provide support to small groups to create bids.
- EV for town council



