

Meadows Ozone Energy Services Ltd (Mozes) Annual Report 2012-13

This is the fourth 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

Dave Shaw: 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 (Chair)

Alan Simpson: Friends of the Earth (Associate)

Thomas Whiffen: Local Resident

Thomas Whiffen and Dave Shaw is standing down this year so in addition to the 3 board places up for re-election, there are several vacant places on the Board.

City – City Council/NCH member

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.

In accordance with the constitution the following members were elected and they drew lots to establish their term of office. Those who drew a term of 2 years are up for re-election this year*.

Working closely with MPT

Mozes continues to be closely supported during the year by the Meadows Partnership Trust and a number of our projects and bids have been undertaken in collaboration with MPT. Because of our limited funds, however, meetings have been in Board Members homes and administrative support

from MPT kept to a minimum. In particular Rachel Gama left MPT in the spring and all her files have been taken over by Mozes in dealing with British Gas.

This years activities:

Existing PV Project and Carbon Leapfrog

You will remember that I mentioned in last years Annual Report the fact that we had been successful in obtaining legal aid from Carbon Leapfrog, an energy charity based in London. We sought this aid because we found that the Feed in Tariffs that were promised us by the Government from the Low Carbon Communities Project we undertook were being blocked by the Governments own interpretation of the EU State Aid Rules. The outcome of this was that we and many other communities in the country were being denied the funds we had sought to do important projects within our community. In our case we were losing a potential sum in the order of £30,000 per year but also being saddled with the insurance costs of the PV's with no money to cover them.

One of our main strands of work this year has been to help spearhead this case on behalf of all the Low Carbon Communities and has led to some high level meetings with the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The latest on this is that the Government have decided that there will be no change in the State Aid Regulations – so we won't be receiving any income – but they have said that they are likely to consider the position of groups like ours that are out of pocket because of the Low Carbon Communities Scheme and we are now beginning to start work with Carbon Leapfrog on obtaining some recompense.

New PV project

You will also remember from last year's report that we undertook a further PV installation project with borrowed funds also aimed at raising money from the FITS Tariff to carry out work in the Meadows. 9 PV installations were carried out by British Gas in a rush to complete the installations before the date in Dec 2011 when the Feed in Tariffs were dramatically reduced. The work was completed within the deadline and we were told by British gas that the panels were registered for FITS. We paid a deposit of £15,105.71 + 5% VAT prior to the works, but refused to pay the balance until two unsatisfactory installations were put right and a satisfactory outcome was agreed to an installation where panels were put on an east facing roof without our approval. Despite lots of chasing the panels were not finally put right to our satisfaction until April this year. British Gas then demanded payment and we asked for resolution of the east facing panel issue as this was going to result in reduced income and also confirmation that the FITS had been registered and would be paid. British Gas refused to do either of these things and threatened us with their debt collectors. Carbon Leapfrog came to our aid along with Alison Deighton of TLT Solicitors and we have spent the summer trying to get a response out of British Gas. In the end we made a formal complaint through their complaints procedures, which has still not been acknowledged and have made a formal complaint to the Ombudsman for Energy which is currently being dealt with. We have recently finally heard from British Gas confirming that they will pay us FITS from the date of registration on all the panels and they will make good the shortfall on the wrongly installed panel. We are currently waiting for their agreement to paying our expenses involved as a result of their inefficiency and then we will complete payment and start receiving the FITS.

The Wind Turbine

At the last AGM we reported that Mozes would carry out a study to assess the viability of a wind turbine in the Meadows. As a result of lack of funds this has not been able to be carried out. We have however been given the data by the University for their wind turbine application and we are seeing whether we can extrapolate this to assess viability. During the year we made a bid to Eon for funds to help us run and also to organise a trip to look at the community wind turbine at Swaffham in Norfolk and we will be organising this in due course thanks to their help.

The Green Deal and Education Programme

We have been working with NEP during the year to see if there was any possibility of helping people insulated their houses within the Meadows using the Green Deal Eco Scheme. A lot of work was done on this but it has in the end come to nothing as NEP were being passed over for the ECO work in the City by the City Council, who wanted all the work to go through NCH and the Efficiency East Midlands Framework Contractors which effectively ruled out local involvement and employment other than the City's 35% rule. The City wished to focus on other areas they considered more deprived with their initiative.

The Exemplar Terrace

Nottingham City Council continues to offer MPT a property on Barnsley Terrace for a retrofit exemplar project at a peppercorn rent. This would be upgraded and let to a Meadows family at an affordable rent for 5 years with monitoring in place. As yet a source of funding has not been found, despite applications being made and we intend to keep trying.

Goldsmiths

Some time ago we started talking to the product designers at Goldsmith's College in London over ways in which products could be designed to enable people to more easily engage with their own actions in relation to energy use. 4 prototypes are now available for trialling and will introduced at the AGM. See image below.



Joint Bids

During the year we collaborated with the University of Nottingham on a Research Bid to the European Union entitled Smart Integrated Retrofit for Building Efficiency and Sustainable Urban District Metabolism. The purpose of the bid was to promote the optimization of retrofitting solutions, taking into account both the available resources and the environmental impacts on the urban areas objects of investigation, in particular regarding climate change, in order to contribute to the achievement of the European energy targets for 2020. We were unfortunately unsuccessful.

We are currently hoping to collaborate on another European Project called TURAS. This will look at how urban communities become more resilient and more sustainable.

Anaerobic Digester

Mozes is currently working with NEP and the Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens to assess the feasibility of installing a small scale pilot biodigester there which could generate power, heat and fertiliser for the gardens. An introduction to Biodigester Plants will be given at the AGM.

Future Project Directions

Develop the Education Programme with NEP

Concentrate on developing income through resolving the FITS issues and funding bids

Develop the Exemplar Terrace Project

Look further at Green Deal Opportunities if the system is amended.

Set up a newsletter when funds are available

Professor Julian Marsh

Chair: Mozes