

## **Chappel Parish Council**

Dear Residents,

Essex County Council's Climate Commission has created a Climate Focus Area (CFA) in Essex. The CFA is a demonstration site for best practice in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The main objective of the CFA is to reach net zero as soon as possible. The area identified is the catchment area of the Colne and The Blackwater, so our back yard. One CFA initiative is to encourage community renewable energy schemes to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and cut energy bills.

**40% of UK emissions now come from households.**

A project entitled South East New Energy (SENE) is being part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. It is led by the University of East London and delivered by Essex and Kent County Councils as well as a range of specialist organisations.

The SENE project helps local communities to work together to identify opportunities to generate their own cheaper renewable energy. SENE provides data in the form of a solar survey which identifies where energy generation opportunities exist, followed by a feasibility study which examines how those opportunities can be pursued, including how new business models will enable installation of solar PV **at no upfront cost to households**, reduce our reliance on the national grid, and to become net zero in a shorter space of time.

Rather than fields of solar panels the "solar farm" becomes our own roofs, with some ground mounted panels on small parcels of land.

The proposed area is White Colne, Wakes Colne, Chappel and Great Tey. Using data already in the public domain, a geospatial analysis has been carried out. This has identified which buildings and land, whether commercial or domestic, are best suited for solar panels. A feasibility study is now under way and once completed will inform a special public meeting in

### **White Colne Village Hall on March 22nd at 7.30pm.**

We had hoped to hold this meeting in Chappel Village Hall, but we will need broadband for all speakers to join us, to make the meeting accessible by zoom, and so that all relevant data can be presented. Unfortunately Chappel Village Hall does not yet have broadband, but White Colne Village Hall does.

If the feasibility study shows potential for generating clean energy, and the community agrees, we can move the project forward. An Energy Services Company (ESCO) will use the study to raise finance in the markets. An ESCO is not like large companies such as EDF or EON, but a not-for-profit professional company well versed in financing, procurement, design and management of smart local energy systems. As an example, please visit <https://powercircle.org.uk>

The householder/business will have a range of options:

1. Buy the solar array on your roof/land outright.
2. Buy the systems on a 'Pay as you Use' contract (once paid for, the system becomes yours)
3. Just buy cheaper green electricity from the ESCO

To receive the survey and feasibility study support from the SENE project we needed eligible organisations to sign up so that we can all benefit. The named company does not receive any funds nor take any risks. It is solely a requirement to access the EU support. Happily, the Browning family have nominated two of their companies, one in White Colne and the other in Great Tey. The East Anglian Railway Museum is also named as a beneficiary. We are indebted to them for allowing their businesses to be used.

**So cheaper greener electricity, less reliant on the national grid, providing benefit for the community. A faster way to net zero.**

Kind regards,  
Sue Chamley, Chair of Chappel Parish Council