

# scan

SENIOR CITIZENS  
ACTION NETWORK

**SHIPSTON ON STOUR** and surrounding communities

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Townsend Hall (large hall), Sheep Street,  
Shipston on Stour

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start

**How Warwickshire Vision Support  
assist those with reduced vision**

**Councillor Ian Cooper shares his  
experience of being Mayor**

***Please DO NOT attend if you feel unwell***

*Please advise us if you no longer wish to receive the SCAN notice by calling Marie Darwen on 01789 260 108 or email [marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk)*

*If you require transport to attend the SCAN meeting, VASA **may** be able to help with a door to door volunteer car. Mileage costs payable. Tel: 01789 262889 or Email: [transport@vasa.org.uk](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)*

## Shipston SCAN – March 2022 meeting notes

Marie Darwen welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Richard Millward and Rosie Hermitage from Act on Energy.

Richard began by talking about alternative heating systems to traditional gas central heating. There is a big push by the Government on alternative heating systems as the aim is for the country to be carbon neutral by 2050.

**Air source heat pumps** operate like a fridge in reverse. They are very different to gas heating systems which can give a quick burst of heat. Heat pumps offer a low and slow approach often being left on 24 hours a day. They operate with lower temperature but offer a more consistent heat. They work well with underfloor heating or oversized radiators.

Heat pumps cost about £12,000 so are not cheap! The problem has been that air source heat pumps have been competing with cheaper gas although recently that has started to change dramatically.

**Ground Source Heat pump** need a lot of space as they involve a lot of coils underground. They are more efficient as the ground is at a more stable temperature. They require a large trench to be dug in the garden so are expensive to install. Or a borehole, more expensive but takes up less space eg small front garden if technically feasible.

**Thermal Solar Panels** - series of tubes on the roof that absorb heat from sun and then heat the water in the home. Do not generate electricity. Not so popular now. They require a lot of pipework from the roof into the loft.

**Photo voltaic Solar Panels** – panels which generate electricity. All you need is a cable routed through the house to the unit. Convert solar energy into electric energy. Any surplus can be sold back to the grid. An inverter is required to convert electricity generated to be used on the power network. For a continuous supply of electric power storage batteries are also required. Can also store solar energy as heat in a hot water cylinder with a Solar Power Diverter.

**Smart export guarantee scheme.** Energy companies are obliged to provide a tariff at which they'll buy back your electricity.

For solar panels a south facing house is preferable, panels are installed at a shallow pitch & should not be shaded by other trees or buildings.

**Biomass** – burning organic matter (like a log burner or open fire). Inefficient! Gas boiler 90% efficient. Log burner 60% efficient. Produce particulate emissions - 43% of particulate matter is caused by 8% of population. Road transport produces 12%. Tiny particles that can get into the lungs and lodged in organs. Use certified fuel with a ready to burn certification. Make sure fuel is properly dried for a year.

**Incentive scheme** – clean heat grant offers £4k towards air pump. The Government offers funding towards energy efficiency measures via the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) and the Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGS). To be eligible your home must have a valid energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D-G. An EPC is a statement of how efficient your house is on scale of A – G & is valid for 10 years.

PV panels don't have to be on your roof. Are there grants for solar panels? Rarely been grants for solar panels in the past. However they are included in the LADS scheme.

Really important that house is well insulated before you consider a heat pump, otherwise it could end up more expensive than gas.

Q on external wall insulation. Might need planning permissions. Included in LADS scheme.

Q on living in a listed property? Depends on the property but internal wall insulation may be only real option. Quite an upheaval!

Rosie observed that climate change & fuel poverty are contrasting parts of Act on Energy's work.

External Wall Insulation costs approx. £12k for 3 bed semi. A lot of people going to be left behind with regard to making their home more energy efficient as the costs are prohibitive for a lot of people.

**Energy crisis focus.** Prices started to go up in Aug 2021. Started to have a direct effect on residents. Lot of suppliers have gone bust. If your supplier goes bust don't do anything, a new company will take over and offer you an alternative. Previously could have switched but now there's no offers to take advantage of.

**Reasons for increase** – UK production of solar & wind production not as high as expected. Europe's nuclear electricity production has been lower than expected. A long cold winter has meant consumption has gone up. And politically the situation with Russia is impacting.

**Price cap** – 5-6 years ago Ofgem realised energy suppliers were charging prices that were not legitimate. Taking advantage of some customers. Residents on standard tariffs had their prices put up and up and up. So Ofgem introduced a price cap. Standard tariff was capped. Twice a year Ofgem look at prices and the price cap. It is estimated the price cap coming in April 2022 will increase the average household bill by £693.

If fixed tariff comes to an end stay with standard tariff. Best fixed tariff offer is currently £3500 per year. Price cap £1900 per year. Suppliers don't know where this is going, what prices are going to be in a year's time.

Q on Wave energy – such a big coastline in UK. Expensive to deliver. Hostile environment to produce energy in. Tidal power production is slowly increasing. Environmental concerns. Massive infrastructure projects can have big effects on the coast. Under water turbines also. Sector still in its infancy.

Q on Geo Thermal power? Drilling down to get electricity from the earth itself. More different sources of renewable energy you have the better, portfolio of energy sources spreading risk.

**Committee on Fuel Poverty** – annual review links between climate change and fuel poverty. Recognising the link.

**Low cost / no cost hints and tips.** Draft proofing. Act on Energy can install draft proofing. Energy saving lightbulbs. Tuck curtains behind radiator in evenings. Reduce tumble dryer usage. Wash at 30 degrees. Put lids on saucepans while cooking. Insulate your hot water cylinder.

### **Shipston leisure centre offers free membership for people with Parkinson's**

Shipston Leisure Centre, run by Everyone Active is offering a complimentary membership for people living with Parkinson's. Free membership will also be given to carers to provide support if needed. The offer will give free access to gym, swim and group exercise classes. Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. People living with the condition find various activities beneficial in managing their symptoms.

For further information or to join ring 01608 662354 or visit <https://www.everyoneactive.com/promotion/parkinsons/>

