

## **Renewables Roundtable - Community-Led Pilot Projects**

The council is in the process of engaging a specialist consultant to assess and advise on the feasibility of three community-led renewable energy pilot projects at:

- Juniper House
- Haddonhall TMO
- Brenchley Gardens TMO

The projects are diverse - located in different parts of the borough, with different types of properties, and propose different models and are at different stages of development.

All three of the projects have been initiated on estates with strong resident communities. Haddonhall and Brenchley Gardens have well established Tenant Management Organisations, while Juniper House was a TMO for many years and has an active TRA.

### Juniper House project

Juniper House is a 5 storey block with 75 flats on the border with Lewisham. While a TMO, Juniper House accumulated over £30,000 in its Surplus Fund. With the ending of the TMO, this money should be transferred to the Juniper House TRA. There has been some delay in processing this change and the TRA has yet to receive the funds.

Juniper residents have been developing plans to use this surplus to pay for the installation of PV panels on the block's roof. The TRA obtained electricity consumption figures and has worked with PV suppliers to develop proposals. Before the work can progress, the council needs to assess the implications of PV installation. It is also necessary to understand how the benefits of reduced communal electricity costs could be distributed to the TRA or directly to residents, in service charges.

### Haddonhall project

Situated by the Bricklayers Arms roundabout, Haddonhall TMO has been working with South East London Community Energy (SELCE) to explore a scheme by which shareholders would invest in PV panels to be sited on the estate to generate income through feed in tariffs.

### Brenchley Gardens project

Located next to Honor Oak cemetery, the TMO is keen to explore the options for renewable energy generation on the estate, which is composed of both blocks and houses and has a considerable amount of communal land.

### Consultant

The council does not yet have its own capacity to assess the technical feasibility of estate based PV schemes. It also needs to develop criteria for assessing their financial viability. It is important that community-led initiatives are assessed in a professional and transparent manner and that residents are fully informed about their potential benefits.

Christine Coonick of the Building Research Establishment (BRE) is an international expert on solar power who has advised numerous public and private sector organisations. Ms Coonick will undertake feasibility studies of the three pilot projects in January and February 2019. The consultant will visit each estate and talk with residents. LBS will facilitate access to all relevant areas and provide consumption and other information as required.

The consultant will provide a report on the technical feasibility of each project and will advise on capital funding, maintenance costs, as well as likely power and income generation. The consultant will also help LBS develop objective criteria for assessing the technical and financial feasibility of future community-led renewable energy projects.