Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th Sept 2026

2pm

Chair's Welcome

Julian Barlow

Key achievements from 2025/26

Julian Barlow

- Achieved our targeted 5.5% return for investors in Silverwood in its first year of operation and maintained the maximum 7% for existing members.
- Established a dedicated Solar for Silverwood School community fund and agreed its first £5,000 payment to support a new beekeeping initiative.
- Delivered the first instalment of our largest ever grant to a single organisation, making a £50,000 payment to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for its Lower Moor Farm transformation. With a another 50k to follow.
- Created a new strategic finance panel (CASS), tasked with allocating circa £1 million in larger grants to local projects.
- Keeping Warm This Winter delivered its most impactful year yet, supporting over 450 people across Wiltshire.
- Approved a record number of grants through our Community Fund, providing finance to a further 14 projects.
- Welcomed Tim Gilson to the WWCE board joining Sylvia as our WWT reps and bringing Richard Death to the Community Fund panel.

Questions

Julian Barlow

Any questions will be answered at the end of each section and there will also be a Q&A at the end of the AGM

Agenda

Julian Barlow

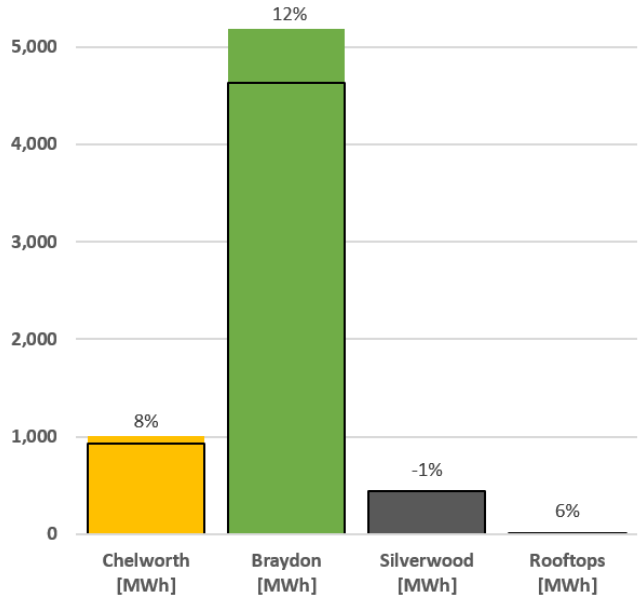
1. **Welcome and introduction** – Julian Barlow, Chair
2. **Revisit our aims and objectives** – Julian Barlow, Chair
3. **Minutes of last year's meeting and quorum** – Julian Barlow, Chair
4. **Technical performance of solar farms** – Tom Cosgrove, CfR
5. **Land management** – Rob Gillies, Director
6. **Community fund** – Jon Bateman, CF panel chair
7. **Community outreach** – Julian Barlow, Chair
8. **Accounts and finances** – Tom Cosgrove, CfR
9. **Future strategy** – Julian Barlow, Chair
10. **Member share withdrawal rule amendment** - Tom Cosgrove, CfR
11. **Proposals and resolutions** – Julian Barlow, Chair
    a) approval of Braydon and Chelworth shareholder interest payment
    b) approval of Silverwood shareholder interest payment
    c) approval of proposed Community Fund Payment
    d) approval of amendment to rule 22
    e) election and re-election of directors

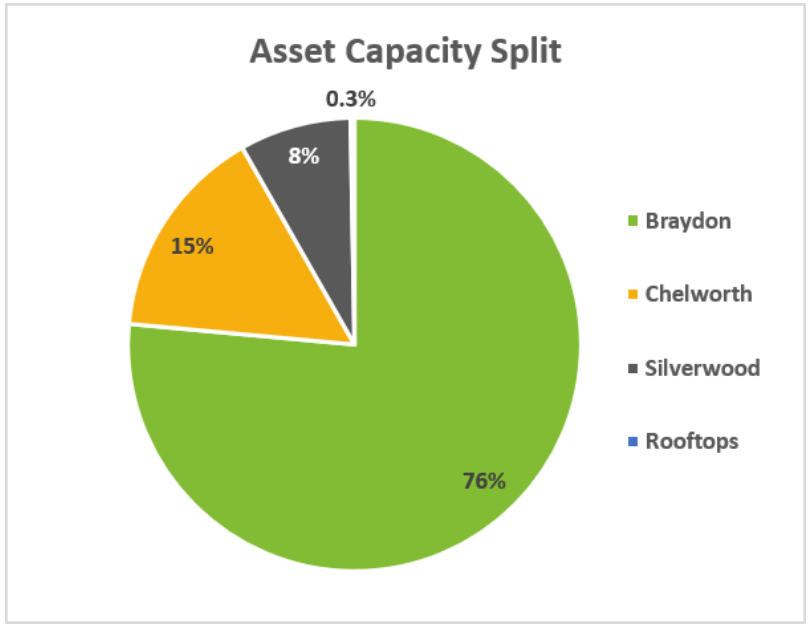
The minutes of the 2024/25 AGM are available to download in the documents section on the Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy website: wwce.org/resources/


Technical performance
Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Technical performance

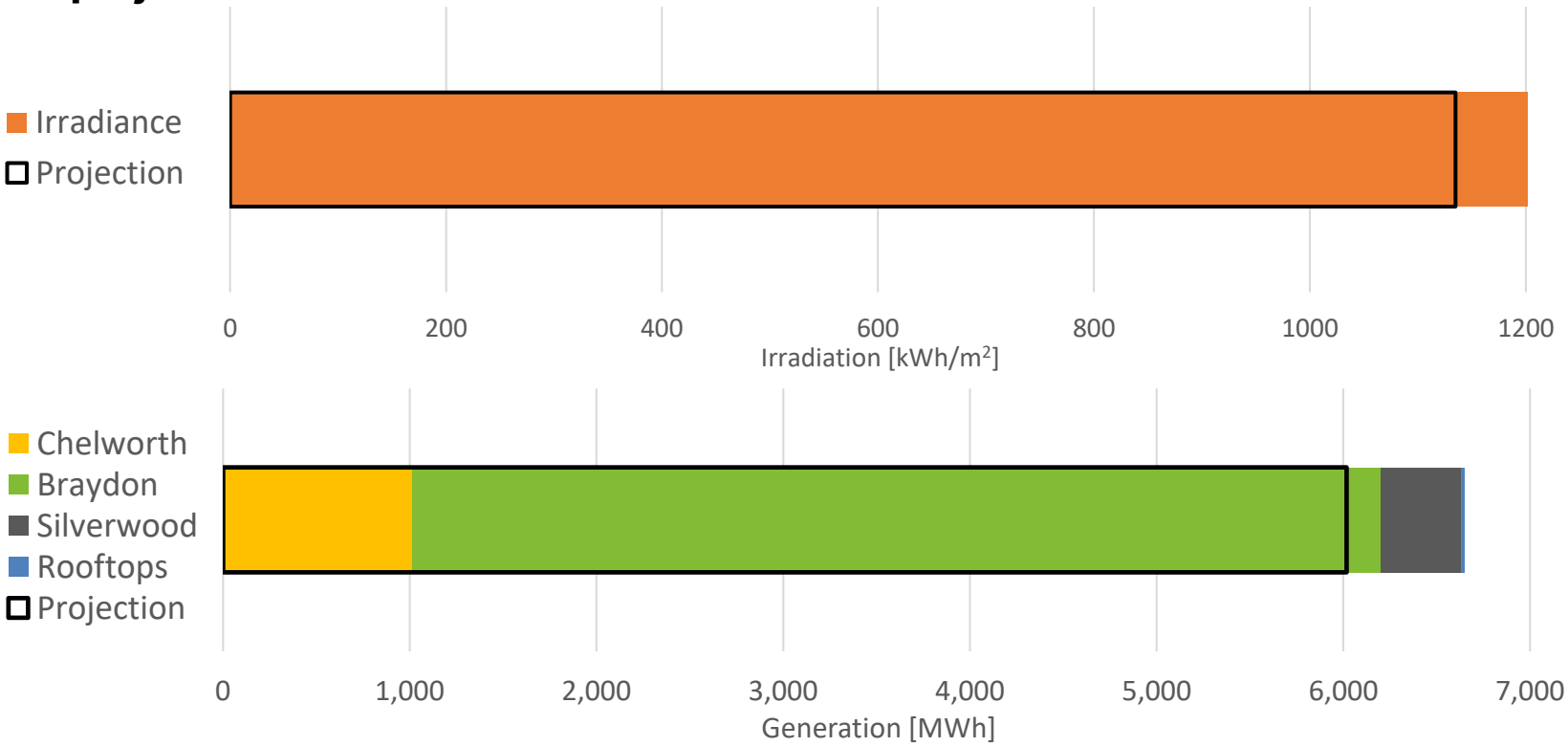
- In the period April 2025 – March 2026, total generation was **10%** ahead of projections
- Chelworth performed well, exceeding its generation projection for the period by **8%.**
- Braydon continues to do well, surpassing its generation projection by **12%.**
- The WWCE rooftop sites were **6%** above their original projection for the period.
- Silverwood came in **1%** below its generation projection due to unavoidable array shading.





Technical performance

- Average irradiance this year totalled at **1201 kWh/m², ** ahead of the sites' projected average figure of **1135 kWh/m²** by **5.91%**.
- In the period, the WWCE portfolio generated **6649 MWh**, enough energy to power **1847 average UK homes** for a year*.
- The target for the portfolio was **6018 MWh**, meaning we were, in overall, **10.49% ahead of projections**.



Proactive management



Braydon (5MW)

One of the two generation meters found to be under recording due to an internal fault. Unit replaced in September 2025 and tested to confirm recording generation as expected. A retrospective subsidy claim was submitted in October using export data to recover under claimed revenue due to the fault with payment received in November.

Silverwood (521 kW)

An inspection of the array was carried out by a solar operations and maintenance company in May 2026, which did not flag any material concerns. One minor item was flagged, slight DC cable sheath abrasion due to missing edge protection on a part of the framework, which will be rectified by the construction contractor.

Chelworth (1MW)

The existing wired communications system connection was replaced with an updated wireless solution due to external operating constraints and to improve reliability of monitoring and timelines for fault recording and resolution.



Rooftops (18kW)

A visual inspection of all arrays was completed in summer 2026. All arrays were in a good visual condition and supplying the respective WWT properties. Cleaning of all three arrays will be organised in due course to maintain performance and array health.


‘Less carbon, more wildlife’
Land Management
Rob Gillies, Director

Chelworth

- Academic research, including RSPB guidance published in June 2026*, continues to find that solar parks, when managed for nature, can deliver significant biodiversity benefits. Having contributed to this research in recent years, at WWCE we are fully committed to playing our part in helping local nature and biodiversity to thrive on our solar parks.
- At Chelworth, we have continued to work with WWT to create favorable conditions for plant, insect, birdlife and mammals. 2025 brought with it some challenging weather conditions with a wet winter followed by a very dry and hot spring and summer.
- Minimal grass growth has had a positive effect on the growth of the finer herbs that we are trying to encourage including Pepper Saxifrage, a good indicator of unimproved grassland. In 2016, it was found in 5% of the areas sampled, in 2026, it was found in 10%.
- During last winter we planted new hedging to start to replace that lost due to redevelopment on neighbouring land. These were a mix of species but were predominantly Blackthorn to provide more habitat for Brown Hairstreak egg laying.





*https://solarenergyuk.org/news/solar-farms-can-protect-iconic-wildlife-says-rspb/

Braydon

- At our Braydon site, wildflower seed sowing using seed sourced from the WWT's Avis Meadows reserve was completed during September 2025, with maintenance completed in August to support wildflowers establishing.
- Our species monitoring report from Wychwood Ecology showed some promising results with significant pollinator numbers across the site both in the margins and interior of the solar array. Several endangered and at-risk bird species were observed including Skylarks and Little and Brown Owls.
- Bird and bat monitoring surveys were completed on site in Mid-2025 as part of a post doc Exeter University research project, which recorded the presence of several bird and bat species in the site's boundary and interior hedgerows including some red listed species.



Lower Moor Farm

- As reported at last year's AGM, WWCE awarded a grant of £100,000 to WWT over two years, part-funding significant biodiversity and nature restoration enhancements on over 48-hectares of the Trust's 129-hectare Lower Moor Farm nature reserve.
- The project, which commenced in July 2025, aims to restore parts of the reserve with wooded pasture and ponds and open a wooded part of the site to grazing. This approach will hopefully allow nature regeneration to occur and return these parts of the site to a more wildlife friendly form of management whilst addressing several challenges in parallel through flood management, climate change resilience and biodiversity increases.
- WWCE directors recently joined Leo Henley-Lock, the Trust's Director of Conservation & Land Management for a guided tour of the site and to review the plans for the project.
- During the first year of the scheme the WWT has made good progress including environmental reports evidencing good opportunities to deliver interventions which will significantly improve the habitat quality and climate resilience of the meadows to the west of the site. Work on these interventions is planned to start in late summer-early autumn. Planning is also well underway for the building of a new bird hide and access footpath.




Community Fund
Jon Bateman, Panel Chair

Community Fund: Overview

- May I start by thanking members for approving the £40k donation to the Fund at last year's AGM. This allowed us to have another busy and successful year. Thanks also to Members who donated their interest to the fund.
- As well as completing prior year projects, we awarded grants to six new projects bringing the number of active and ongoing projects to fourteen worth some £50k.
- Since inception WWCE has supported and helped local groups deliver projects worth over £220k across the County.
- The Fund is administered by WWT and has a governing Panel comprising members from both WWCE & WWT. Last year founding member Emma Sambrook retired and the panel was joined by Richard Death and more recently Harriet James. We express our special thanks to Emma for her huge contribution to the Fund for over 10 years and look forward to working with Richard and Harriet.
- Meanwhile, the work continues: - publicising opportunities, - assessing applications and - awarding grants to those applicants that best meet WWCE's criteria.
- We are particularly grateful to Jessica Thimbleby and her colleagues from WWT for the invaluable assistance in administering the Fund.

Projects Funded in 2025-26 (1)

On top of the £40k from WWCE for 2025-26, due to the rising number and quality of applications, WWCE donated a further £10k to increase the Fund's reach.

Grants awarded broadly fall into two main categories reflecting WWCE's twin aims: more wildlife and, -less carbon. A number of highly ranked community projects were also supported.

For More Wildlife we supported:

- Rise:61; provision of shrubs and trees to liven up a community garden (Bemerton)
- Washpool Area Restoration Project; funding for creation of a wildflower space (Chiseldon)
- Corsley War Memorial Playing Field; funding for The Knowledge Trees project to upgrade a community orchard (Warminster)
- Bishops Canning Village Hall; grant for rainwater harvesting for community wildlife garden (Devizes)



Projects Funded in 2025-26 (2)

For Less Carbon we supported:

- Ogbourne St. George Village Hall; funding new windows and LED lighting to improve energy efficiency (Marlborough)
- Wiltshire West District Scout Association; funding a solar powered lighting and battery storage system (West Ashton)
- GUL; funding to support new solar panels and associated battery storage at youth centre (Shrewton)
- Derry Hill United Football Club; finding solar panels for heating and pitch lighting at sports facilities (Derry Hill)
- Mind Tree Café; funding installation of solar panels and a battery storage system (Rowde)

For Community Projects we supported:

- Salisbury Transition City; repeat sponsorship of 'People in the Park' sustainability event (Salisbury)
- Warminster Community Orchard; small grant to fund a battery powered strimmer for a habitat mosaic
- Afghanistan & Central Asian Association; support for energy efficiency for low income households (Salisbury)
- Dauntsey Academy Primary School; part funding of pond dipping platform, outdoor seating area and improved accessibility (West Lavington)

Supporting the Community

Cycle Chippenham



West Wiltshire Scouts



Ogbourne St George Village Hall



People of Dauntsey Academy Primary School pond jetty



Ogbourne St George Village Hall





People of Dauntsey Academy Primary School outdoor learning

Looking Forward

- For next year we're asking members to approve a £40k donation from WWCE to support qualifying projects up to £5k in value.
- The Fund will continue promoting WWCE's community programme focusing particularly on wildlife and public participation where alternative funding is unavailable.
- To help achieve these objectives we welcome members' leads and support in networking with potential applicants.
- If you feel able to help bring together: people, projects and money to: increase wildlife, reduce carbon or engage communities, we'd love to hear from you.

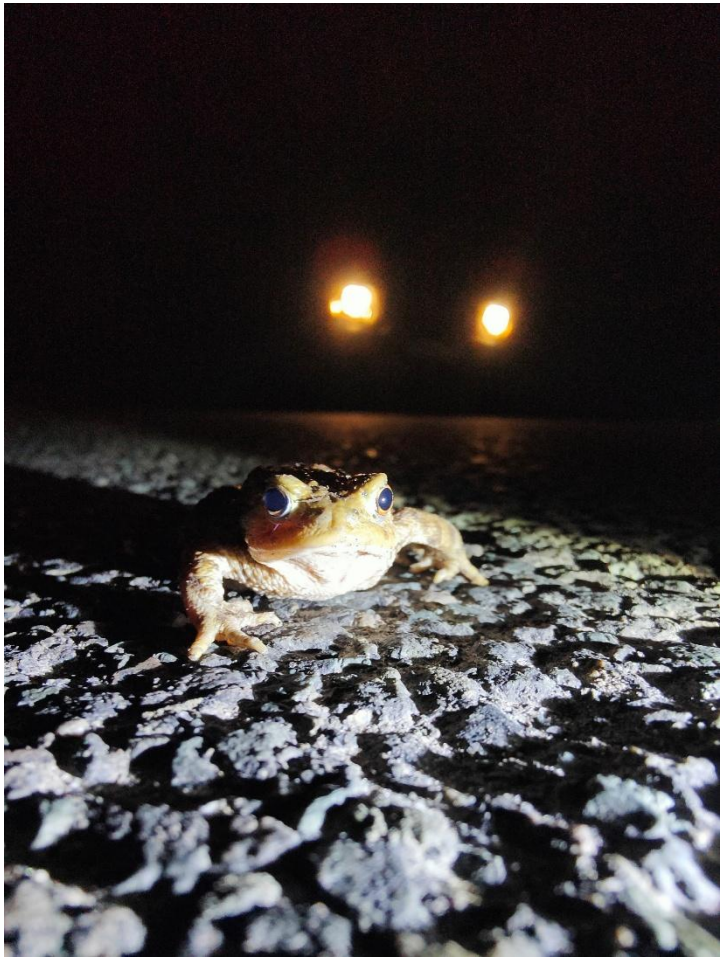
Presentation from Harriet James

Introduction

- Harriet is a WWCE member and has recently joined the Community Fund Panel
- She formerly led the Warminster Toad Patrol project and Sustainable Warminster Committee both of which were recipients of Funding from WWCE for Environmental projects.
- Harriet is going to share with us her experience as an applicant and how the funding from WWCE brought her projects to life.

After that we'll be happy to answer any questions on WWCE's Community Fund

Warminster Toad Patrol















- Rescuing toads from traffic
- 40% decline in UK toad population in last 40 years
- Frogs, newts and otters also crossing Smallbrook Road

Amphibian board funded by WWCE Community Fund



Toad Patrol hi-viz jackets, torches and road signs funded by WWCE Community Fund



Celebrating the road closure decision

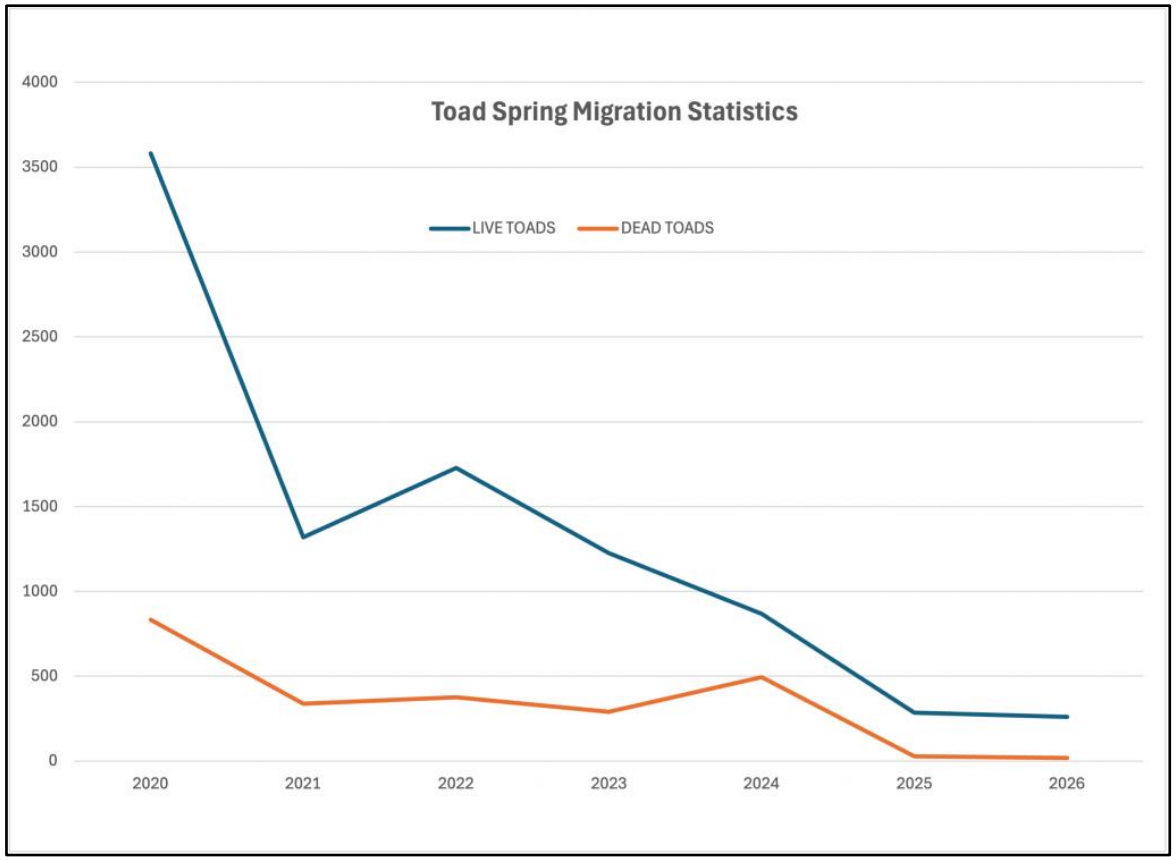


WWCE Community Fund contributed to the costs of the Wiltshire Council Traffic Regulation Order



Toad patrollers were runners up in the BBC Radio Wiltshire Make a Difference awards 2026





SUSTAINABLE WARMINSTER







Greater Horseshoe Bat

©Daniel Hargreaves

Mosaic of biodiverse habitats around Smallbrook Meadows. Rare species including bats

Bat surveys funded by WWCE Community Fund



Rare Bechstein's Bat never before recorded in Warminster



Ringing



Wiltshire Bat Group ecologists identifying bats

14 out of 18 UK species of bat recorded during surveys including 4 rare 'Annex II' species which are specially protected in UK Law.


BATS IN THE PARK
Saturday 1st June
PAVILION CAFE - WARMINSTER PARK 7.30pm
FAMILY WALK & TALK
Tickets £5 per person plus booking fee from:
sustainable-warminster-bats.eventbrite.com
Meet a bat expert from the Wiltshire Bat Group.
Learn all about bats at the bat presentation and talk.
Walk through the park at dusk using monitors to detect bats.
Come in fancy dress -prize for the best homemade bat costume.
Tea, coffee, soft drinks. Batty cakes and cookies for sale. Raffle.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
No dogs please.
organised by SUSTAINABLE WARMINSTER with thanks to ....


MAKE A BAT BOX
SUN 25TH AUGUST
11 AM TILL 3 PM
BANDSTAND, TOWN PARK
Come and assemble your own free bat box. It will take you approximately 30 minutes as all pieces are pre cut - you just need to put it together. Take the box home, put it up and wait for bats to move in. Then let Sustainable Warminster know when you have residents.
If you live in Warminster or any of the surrounding villages you will be helping to provide roosts for different bat species that live here, have the joy of watching them and also assist in their monitoring and recording.
FREE EVENT
All children to be accompanied by an adult
Funded by the Warminster Area Board and organised by
SUSTAINABLE WARMINSTER


Bats in Warminster




SUSTAINABLE WARMINSTER
LOVE WHERE WE LIVE
THINK GLOBALLY
ACT LOCALLY!




Community Outreach
Julian Barlow, Chair

Broadcast Media

Since our 2025 AGM, WWCE has continued to attract enquiries from journalists thanks to its increased profile. Earlier this year, our chair was invited to be interviewed by ITV on site at our Braydon solar park. The resulting footage featured in the ITV News 'Action on Energy' series, helping to shine a light on the role local communities can play in building a more sustainable future.

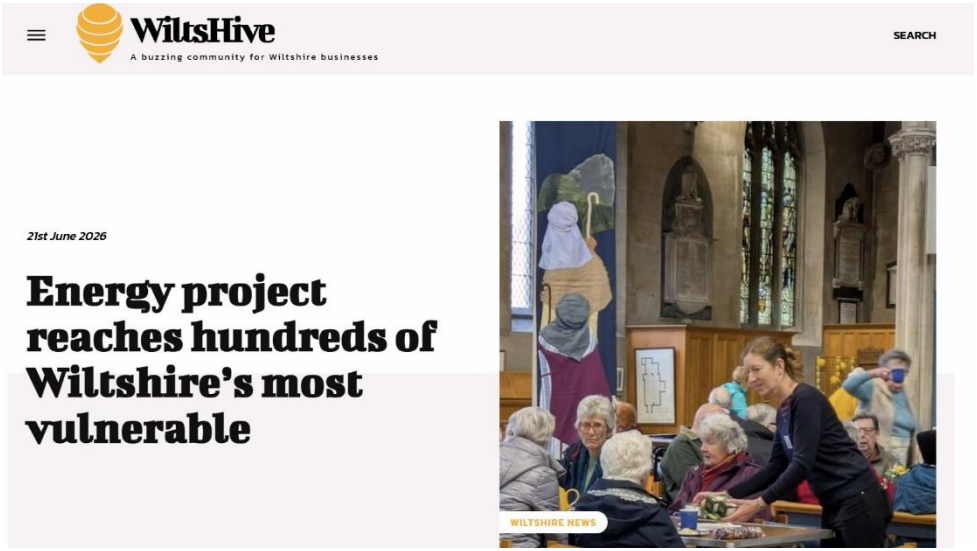
Julian also appeared on BBC Radio Wiltshire in November, talking to presenter Sue Davies about the Keeping Warm This Winter initiative, the Lower Moor Farm scheme, and the Community Fund.

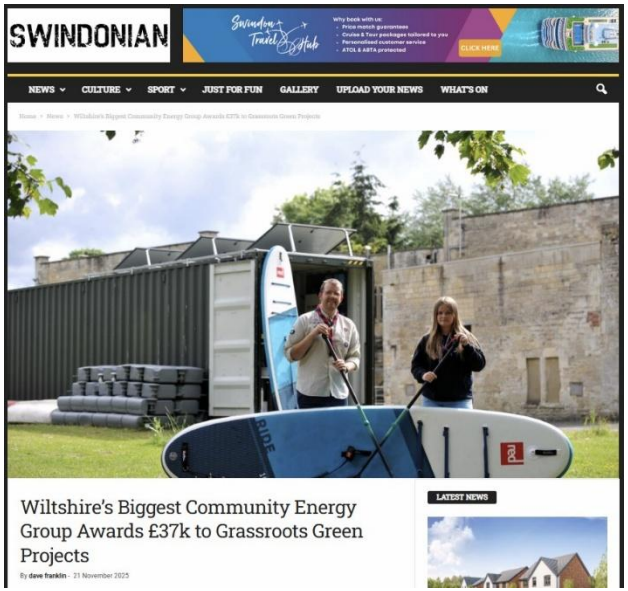


Print Media

Despite being in its fourth year, our Keeping Warm This Winter initiative generated further online coverage, with articles appearing on Business Biscuit and WiltsHive and across their associated social media channels, as well as being publicised by this year's primary partner, the Diocese of Bristol. The Community Fund's positive impact also featured in the press, with articles in The Swindonian, Business Biscuit, and Swindon Link, as well as pieces talking about its sponsorship of this year's Salisbury Transition City 'People in the Park' event.

Further to generating third party coverage, WWCE's external communications consultant has also continued to populate our own website and social media pages with regular content, as well as producing bi-annual newsletters and other written material for the chair.





Social Media

Further to generating third party coverage, WWCE's external communications consultant has also continued to populate our own website and social media pages regularly, as well as producing bi-annual newsletters and other written material for the chair. WWCE's LinkedIn page now has more than 250 followers – that's almost a 40% increase on this time last year and our Facebook following is also steadily climbing, with content regularly cross-posted over both channels.

Meanwhile, our Chair's online presence is also growing which in turn raises valuable awareness of WWCE. Through the creation of longer-form articles, we've been able to boost his following on LinkedIn by 20% over the course of the year and increase the number of impressions achieved by his posts by some 182% compared to the 12 months prior. We are now working on creating a more structured social media strategy, incorporating a range of content in a variety of formats, as well as making tweaks to the website's galleries and crafting case studies to best showcase WWCE's achievements.

A recent post from Julian caught the attention of local journalists and other social media accounts. The piece was his best performing of the past year - engaged with 64 times and reaching 6,801 members in total.





Carbon Reduction Champion

Jessica Thimbleby

Role jointly shared with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to help both organisations achieve mutual aims of boosting nature's recovery by encouraging more wildlife and reducing carbon.

At WWCE:

- Deliver initiative to reduce carbon emissions by supporting greater energy efficiency in low-income households
- Awareness raising of WWCE and the Community Fund





You can follow us via WWCE's Facebook Page and LinkedIn

Carbon Reduction Champion

Keeping Warm This Winter 2025/26

Objectives

- Raise awareness and provide practical energy efficiency help and information to low income, vulnerable households in Wiltshire and Swindon
- Facilitate access to caseworker support and grants available for energy efficiency in homes
- Work with community groups to support their service users and communities



St Margaret's Centre – Stratton, Swindon



With SSEN at Swindon Community Fridge, Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Carbon Reduction Champion

Keeping Warm This Winter 2025/26

Impact

Pop-up ‘Energy Advice Cafes’ to answer questions and talk about and demonstrate simple, low-cost but effective ways to be warmer at home while reducing energy use.

This year the project focused on Swindon, working with the Diocese of Bristol and other faith groups as well as Swindon Borough Council.

We also ran cafes in Chippenham, Trowbridge and Melksham and partnered with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to run practical draught excluder making workshops and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

- Conversations with 460 people during 17 events which brings the total number of Wiltshire residents spoken to over the 4 years the project has been running to 1,413
- More conversations this year with working age people than pensioners for the first time
- Most frequent topics were efficient use of heating and hot water systems, draught-proofing and reducing damp, condensation and mould

Carbon Reduction Champion

Keeping Warm This Winter 2025/26

"Everyone seemed really impressed with the range of solutions on offer…. It was very interesting to present the session in different formats to different church audiences… Thank you for this brilliant opportunity to engage for carbon reduction"
Belinda Martin - Environment and Sustainability Parish Officer, Diocese of Bristol

"[It] was very helpful. Everyone enjoyed the time you spent with us and learnt a lot. They talked about putting things they learnt into place.... The information was clear and there were good resources to help people. Thank you"
Julie – St John's Parks & Walcot, Swindon


Accounts and finances
Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Financial performance
12 months to March 2026

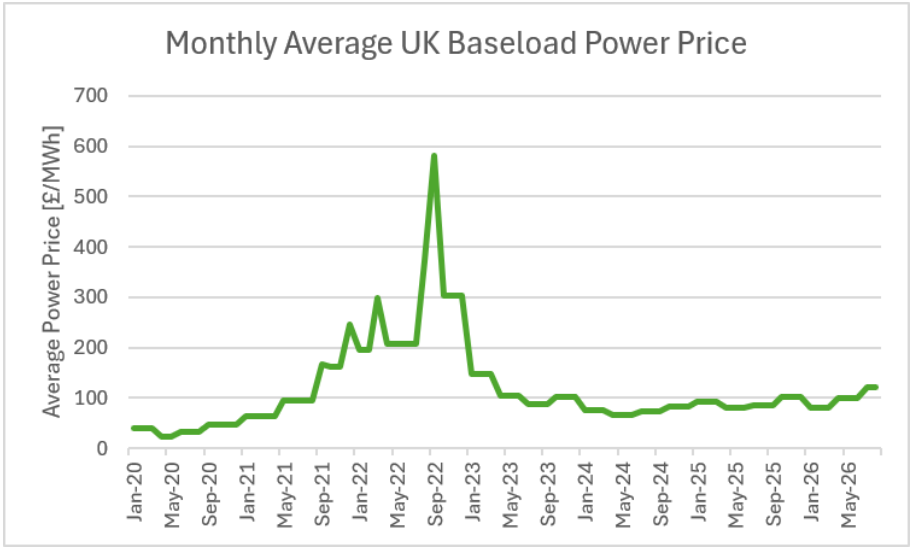
	Last Year 31 March 25 (£k)	Current Year 31 March 26 (£k)	Comments (current vs last)	Next Year 31 March 27 (£k estimate)
Revenue	1,806	**1,809**	Braydon power price down. Generation up 8%. Chelworth power price up. Silverwood online.	**1,110**
COS & Admin	692	**727**	Includes £90,000 donation to community fund and Lower Moors.	**733**
Revenue net of opex	1,114	**1,082**		**377**
Financing costs	348	**333**	4.3% decrease due to reducing capital balances.	**309**
Profit before Tax	768	**755**	Decrease of £13k on the previous financial year	**68**
Members Interest	7% / 5.5%*	**7% / 5.5%***	Full interest payable due to strong financial performance.	**7% / 5.5%***

***7% member interest is applicable to investments in the Braydon and Chelworth share offers. The 5.5% member interest is applicable to investments in the Solar for Silverwood School share offer.**

Future Financial Estimates

Our future financial projections show;

- Reducing future electricity sales revenue, but 95% protected by FiT minimum price until end of FiT term (2036).
- We still project full repayment of the Triodos loans (within loan terms) and member capital by 2042.



- To date, we have repaid £1.23 (29%) of the initial £4.2m at the full £1 per share value, with a further £190k of redemptions proposed for the current year.
- Surpluses of c. £1.2m generated in the short term to further the group's objective of less carbon, more wildlife in Wiltshire.


Future Strategy
Julian Barlow, Chair

Our aims and objectives for 2026/27

Julian Barlow

- Maintain our maximum return rates for investors. Moved from 2% to max 7% in 5 years.
- Work with Silverwood School to facilitate the delivery of its first Community Fund-backed project. Bee hives and honey making comes to the campus.
- Deliver the second instalment of £50,000 to our partners at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to enable the completion of the Lower Moor Farm project.
- Launch our new strategic fund in Wiltshire and create a framework for evaluating applications.
- Develop our Carbon Reduction Champion's community outreach programme for the 26/27 winter season.
- Maintain our commitment to donating £40,000 to our Community Fund, supporting smaller nature and climate-friendly projects.
- Continue with our long-term mission of promoting the delivery of the right solar, in the right places, for the benefit of the wider community.


Member share withdrawal rule amendment
Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Member share withdrawal rule amendment

Tom Cosgrove

- An agreed position was reached with the FCA on the proposed amendment to rule 22 (withdrawal of member share capital) in January 2026 with some minor tweaks made to the original proposed amendment approved by the members at the 2024 AGM.
- Accordingly, please find a re-cap on what and why we are changing the rules and a comparison between the previously approved amendment and tweaked version as agreed with the FCA on the next slide.

Member share withdrawal rule amendment

Tom Cosgrove

What are we changing?

- Amendment to Rule 22 which governs the withdrawal of member share capital.

Why are we changing it?

- WWCE's revenues are received through generation of electricity by fixed life assets. If the solar assets get to the end of their life and member capital is not repaid, the Society will have no way of returning that capital.
- COOPs UK Community Shares Handbook states that a Society has a responsibility to manage its capital prudently, making provision for withdrawals.
- Where a Society cannot control the timing of withdrawals, interest charges can vary from the business plan and jeopardise the ability of the Society to repay member capital.

Member share withdrawal rule amendment

Tom Cosgrove

Previously rule change (as approved by the members at 2024 AGM)

22. Class A shares may be withdrawn by Members upon making a request for withdrawal to the Society (though the Directors retain sole discretion to return money paid for them). Share withdrawal requests received by the Society in any 12-month period from 1st August – 31st July will be considered together by the Directors annually in advance of the AGM. The Directors will determine funds available for withdrawals to be applied as follows:

(i) Where there are sufficient funds to approve all requests, all requests will be approved.

(ii) If there are not sufficient funds to approve all requests, the Directors will allocate the funds available to members applying for withdrawal so that those Members are repaid an equal percentage of their capital.

(iii) Where the applications for withdrawal are less than the amount of capital the Directors determine should be repaid, the Directors will firstly approve all requests for withdrawal. The remaining balance will be repaid to all Members so that they are repaid an equal percentage of their capital, subject to Members retaining a minimum Class A shareholding of £1.

(iv) A Member shall not be entitled to withdraw Class A shares which would leave them with less than the minimum Class A shareholding of £1, unless they intend to terminate their membership of the Society;

Member share withdrawal rule amendment

Tom Cosgrove

Amended rule change (as agreed with the FCA) – Changes have been highlighted for reference

22. Class A shares may be withdrawn by Members upon making a request for withdrawal to the Society (though the Directors retain sole discretion to return money paid for them). Share withdrawal requests received by the Society in any 12-month period from 1st August – 31st July (a Redemption Period) will be considered together by the Directors annually in advance of the AGM. The Directors will determine the funds available for withdrawals following the Redemption Period and in advance of the AGM. The withdrawals will to be applied as follows:

    (i) Where there are sufficient funds to approve all requests, all requests will be approved.

    (ii) If there are not sufficient funds to approve all requests, the Directors will allocate the funds available to Members applying for withdrawal so that those Members are repaid an equal percentage of their capital. The outstanding member capital requested for withdrawal following partial repayment will not be automatically carried forward for consideration in the next period. Where members wish to re-apply in respect of capital that was not redeemed, they can do so in the next Redemption Period. Where a request for withdrawal is partially approved, membership of the Society will not be terminated in respect of share capital that is not redeemed.

    (iii) Where the applications for withdrawal are less than the amount of capital the Directors determine should be repaid, the Directors will firstly approve all requests for withdrawal. The remaining balance will be repaid to all Members so that they are repaid an equal percentage of their capital, so long as Members who have not requested withdrawal of all of their capital retain a minimum shareholding of £1.

    (iv) In respect of applications for withdrawal that are approved in full, a member's membership of the Society will be terminated from the date of the notice or application for the withdrawal of share capital.

Formal AGM Business

Julian Barlow

This brings us to the formal business of the AGM including payment of member interest, community fund contribution, rule amendment approval and director re-elections.



Formal AGM Business

Julian Barlow

1. 7% interest will be paid to Braydon and Chelworth share offer members for the year to 31st March 2026, to be paid by end of November 2026.
2. 5.5% interest will be paid to Silverwood shareholders for the year to 31st March 2026, to be paid by end of November 2026.
3. Proposal to make a contribution of £40k to the community fund.

Voting

4. Amendment to rule 22
5. Election and re-election of directors:
    1. Sylvia Wyatt is standing for re-election by the members
    2. Lucy Normington is standing for re-election by the members
    3. Rob Gillies is standing for re-election by the members

Any questions?

Thank you for attending

For further information on any of the topics discussed, please contact:

info@wwce.org

01209 705423