

TRESOC and the Totnes Community Wind Farm: a case study

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About the Totnes Renewable Energy Society

Registered as an Industrial and Provident Society Nov 2007

To develop the profitable supply of energy from renewable resources for the benefit of the community resident in Totnes & Environs.

To ensure the democratic control of the renewable energy resources by the local community through the establishment of an extensive membership of the Society.

To ensure that the maximum value from these resources shall be retained within the local economy.

Currently 500 members in Totnes and surrounding parishes
£175,000 raised from 2010 and 2011 Share Issues
2014 Share Issue launching soon



The Totnes Community Wind Farm beginnings

2008 – Tresoc approached Infinergy to find the optimum site for wind energy production in the Totnes area

May 2010 – Tresoc signs co-operation agreement with Infinergy. Landowner signs option agreement and lease for development of the TCWF, work continues on feasibility study

October 2010 – Nearest local residents informed before announcement of project and Tresoc 2010 Share Issue. Consultation events programme begins with Community Introduction Day in local village hall.



The Totnes Community Wind Farm

a community developer partnership

2 x 2.3 MW wind turbines at Luscombe Cross, 2 miles south of Totnes

Infinergy bear the cost of preparing and submitting the planning application

TRESOC work to gain local support with option to take up to 49% equity stake in consented project

Estimated total installed cost £6.5m

Would generate enough electricity to meet demand of 2,500 homes



The Totnes Community Wind Farm TRESOC community engagement



Extensive 3 year communication activity by TRESOC members and supporters, as detailed in planning application

Majority of letters received by SHDC support TCWF

Sir Jonathan Porritt “...one of the most well-designed and well-supported (projects) we’ve ever seen”

The Totnes Community Wind Farm submitting the application

March 2011 - SHDC screening opinion. Full EIA not necessary. Bird & Bat Survey required before submission of application, carried out from April to Oct 2011.

April 2012 – SHDC Development Forum held to provide information to Members. Those opposed given equal time to address the meeting.

August 2012 - Planning application submitted

The Totnes Community Wind Farm deciding the application

Dec 2013 - Holding objection from Devon Highways on site access dealt with, SHDC requests further extension

Latest date for submission of comments set for 16th Jan 2013

14th Jan – SHDC informs Infinergy of objection from English Heritage on visual amenity grounds and of receipt of solicitor's letter, threatening legal action for breach of EU Habitats Directive, despite no objection from Natural England

Infinergy denied extension to address these concerns, Officers recommend refusal on grounds supplied by English Heritage and solicitors letter.

The Totnes Community Wind Farm


the decision – and the cost

13th February 2013 – Application refused by SHDC

August 2013 – Infinergy decides not to appeal the decision.

Cost to Infinergy iro £400,000

Cost to Tresoc iro £50,000 plus thousands of hours of Directors, members and supporters time, freely given



£25,000
PLEGGED BY A
TRESOC MEMBER
ON DAY ONE

HYDRO & SOLAR ROOFS

SHARE ISSUE 2014

COMMUNITY ENERGY, RAIN OR SHINE

PICTURED
TRESOC's 2011 PROJECT:
NHS Leatside Surgery
Solar PV
Electricity bills are
down by 20%

3rd May - 6th June

PICTURED
100kW Archimedes Screw
at Sowton - Project 5

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TRESOC revival - the 2014 Share Issue

75 solar roofs on South Devon Rural
Housing Association properties
50kW solar roof on local farm
12kW Torquay Museum solar roof

+ TRESOC shareholdings in
100kW operating hydro turbine at
Sowton
300kW consented hydro turbine at
Totnes Weir
Agreement to develop 100kW hydro
turbine at Staverton Leat

Total value £1,500,000

