



Planning Submitted to Restore Hydro Power to Town Mills, Staverton Leat

On the 10th October Staverton Hydro Community Benefit Society submitted a planning application to South Hams District Council to install a 100 kW Hydro Turbine on the Leat at Staverton. The RCEF funded Feasibility Study concluded that the scheme would be economically viable at a flow rate that was environmentally sensitive. In June SHCBS took out a loan of £55k, also with RCEF, to fund the development work needed for planning permission and financial closure. The studies included: A Wildlife Report; A structural survey of the leat; A Heritage Statement; A Flood Risk Assessment; Noise Impact Assessment; Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal; A tree/hedge survey; and, an Archaeology Study. The environmental sensitivity of the area is recognised in the studies, with the wildlife report concluding that the development and operation of the scheme would have a low environmental impact due to the design of the plant. Subject to planning approval, SHCBS intends to launch a share and/or bond offer in April/May next year, with construction starting in June/July. Residents of Staverton Parish and members of TRESOC will be given the first opportunity to invest in the scheme, to ensure local community ownership. For more information, please join Tresoc at its AGM at 7pm on 14th November @ the Seven Stars, Totnes. Guy Watson, founder of Riverford Organic is the guest speaker. Or, contact Tresoc via email, admin@tresoc.co.uk, call 01803 867431, or visit the website at www.tresoc.co.uk.