



Campaigning for Warm Homes

Recommendations for creating a more sustainable Casterton

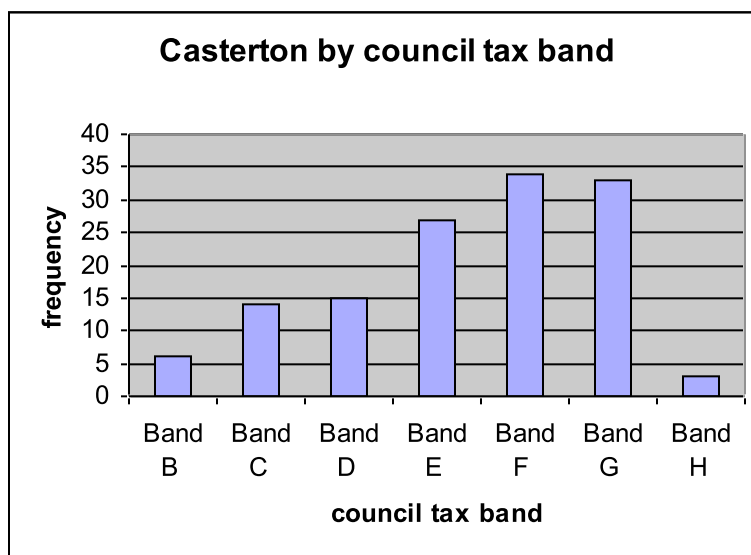
Background

NEA are pleased to have been approached by The Banks Group on behalf of Casterton Parish Council regarding the aspirations for energy savings and electricity generation of the Parish Council. From initial discussion, we understand the context to be as follows.

Casterton comprises circa 200 residents, a school serving 300 borders plus 150 day pupils and a caravan site comprising 30 static park homes, possibly soon doubling to 60 park homes.

Casterton Parish Council would like information on opportunities to reduce energy consumption in the village thereby saving carbon and fuel costs, and information on the potential of using distributed energy generation technologies in their area to help combat the impact of power cuts.

We understand that this needs to take into account the diverse array of lifestyles in the area. The latest information shows the following spread of council tax bands:



It is safe to assume that this generally reflects a large difference in incomes. Wider ward information shows that the dominant social grade is AB, and the least present is group E. Under the direction of the Council, we can choose to target a particular bracket, or to cover a wide spread as possible. In addition, it will be important to understand the needs of those in the park homes and at the school.

NEA has previously worked with a wide variety of residents, village halls, community groups and local authorities, and is currently spearheading practical and parliamentary work on park homes. In order to make successful recommendations to Casterton Parish Council and the community they serve, we recognize the need to draw on all this expertise.

NEA suggests investigating structural and lifestyle elements of the village. This will enable us to make recommendations on energy efficiency measures and options for renewable energy generation in Casterton. These recommendations will be based on the suitability of the properties and the needs of the residents.

Proposal

During the visit, we would undertake the following:

- a. surveys of one of each property type (min 4, max 6 homes)
- b. discussions with residents (ensuring this encompasses a variety of occupation types)
- c. walk around the school and boarding house with the caretaker
- d. walk around the park home site, including discussion with at least one resident and site owner
- e. discussion with political and community representatives to understand the political context and aspirations

The report would outline the following information:

- f. SAP ratings and commentary on energy usage for individual homes visited (anonymised)
- g. Commentary on the efficiency of the school's heating system and electricity demand
- h. Commentary on the energy performance of the park home site in terms of structural condition and type of fuel used

Recommendations would pertain to:

- i. energy efficiency measures for the homes, from no cost measures to low carbon technologies appropriate to housing type and occupation
- j. energy efficiency measures for the school, including suggestions of technical and education-based initiatives
- k. suggestions to improve the thermal performance and electricity demand of park homes

- l. options for renewable energy generation on a community scale, based on the information gathered
- m. signposts to grants for community and individual domestic energy efficiency and low carbon technology measures

The role of our partners

Banks will invest in the project, but will not influence the recommendations.

The Parish Council will use their local knowledge to arrange appropriate visits. NEA will assist in ensuring that a satisfactory spread of property and occupation type is included.

Budget and timescale

There is a set budget of £2,000 kindly offered by The Banks Group. This would comprise the following:

Travel, overnight accommodation and expenses for 1 surveyor and 1 officer:	£
300	
1 full day site visits for 1 surveyor and 1 officer:	
£1,000	
SAP reports:	£
250	
1 day report writing:	£
450	
Total:	£
2,000	

This proposal is to be tabled at the Parish Council meeting of 15/12/08.

Surveys and report to be completed by end January 2008.