



# Saffron Walden Community Energy



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# The Littlebury Energy Project

- What does it take to decarbonize a community?
- Initiated by a consortium of
  - Littlebury PC
  - UDC
  - Essex CC
  - Community Energy South
  - Saffron Walden Community Energy
- Phase 1: Information gathering in 2022
- Funding of £5K from Uttlesford DC + significant voluntary input



# LEP Phase 1

Following advice from Community Energy South:

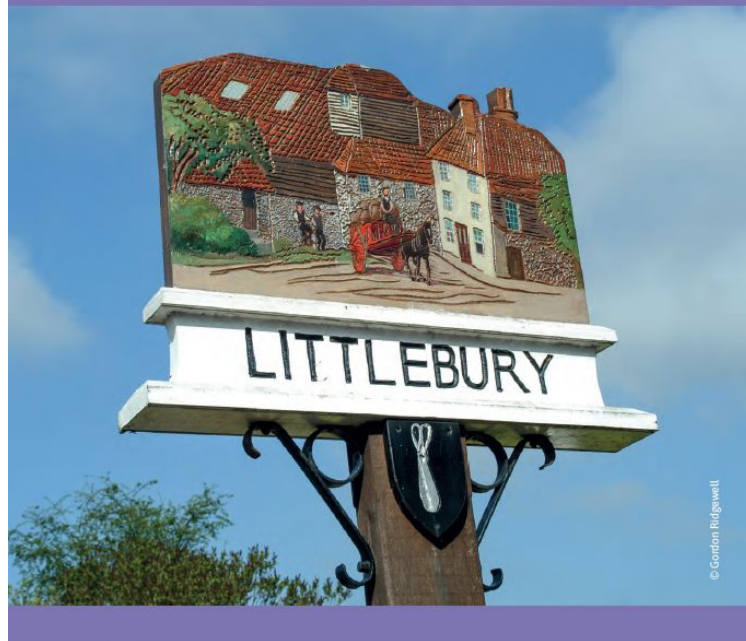
- A questionnaire to the whole village
- Finding on-line data on village energy use
- Conducting home energy surveys
- A village open day



# LEP I - Outcomes

- Barriers to decarbonisation: Cost, engagement, regulation & lack of expertise
- A report on the village energy use and routes to decarbonisation
- Evidence of enough interest to take what we learned and turn into concrete action.

## LITTLEBURY – PLANNING FOR DECARBONISATION





## LEP Phase 2 – 2023/24

- £34K funding from Uttlesford DC's Zero Carbon Communities Grant
- Have established a Working Group in the village.
- Employed a Project Worker (6 days/month)
- Training up two people to do energy and retrofit assessments
- Aim to spread this model to other villages



## LEP II - Thermal Imaging Service

- Purchased two thermal cameras
- Have run our first village training session
- Started a free camera loan scheme
- Working Group members will do surveys for those not confident in camera use
- First step on journey towards more thermally efficient home



# LEP II - Work in Progress...

- Collect more detailed data on overall village energy use
- Set up a one-stop-shop for information; case studies, grants, trusted installers
- Organising small scale group purchases, e.g. insulation
- Detailed discussions with planning authority regarding listed buildings
- Investigate community scale renewables

**Littlebury Energy Project**

Household Energy Consumption

V2 September 2023

Current energy consumption

Address: 52 South Road, Saffron Walden

Number of bedrooms: 4

Property type Bungalow/House/Flat: 1930s semi detached + extended

Property size internal area m2 (approx): 186 m2

Insulation level: 1 - 2022 standard, 2 - 2003-2022, 3 - 1985-2003, 4 - pre 1985

Domestic electricity

Do you use electricity for heating your home? Yes - ASHP

If so, what type of heating do you have? Storage heaters: No, Underfloor heating: Partial, Radiant/convector/portable heaters: No

Total kWh imported from grid: 4517

If you have dual rate or smart meter enter off peak usage: Electricity off peak rate kWh: 4517, Peak rate usage kWh: 3075

If you have PV (solar energy) panels how much do they produce: PV Self generated kWh: 841

If you have PV (solar energy) panels how much do you export to the grid: PV Exported kWh: 2234

Total electricity consumption kWh: 6751

If you have an electric car roughly how much do you use charging at home each year? kWh: , Annual mileage:

Total domestic electricity consumption kWh: 6751

Space heating

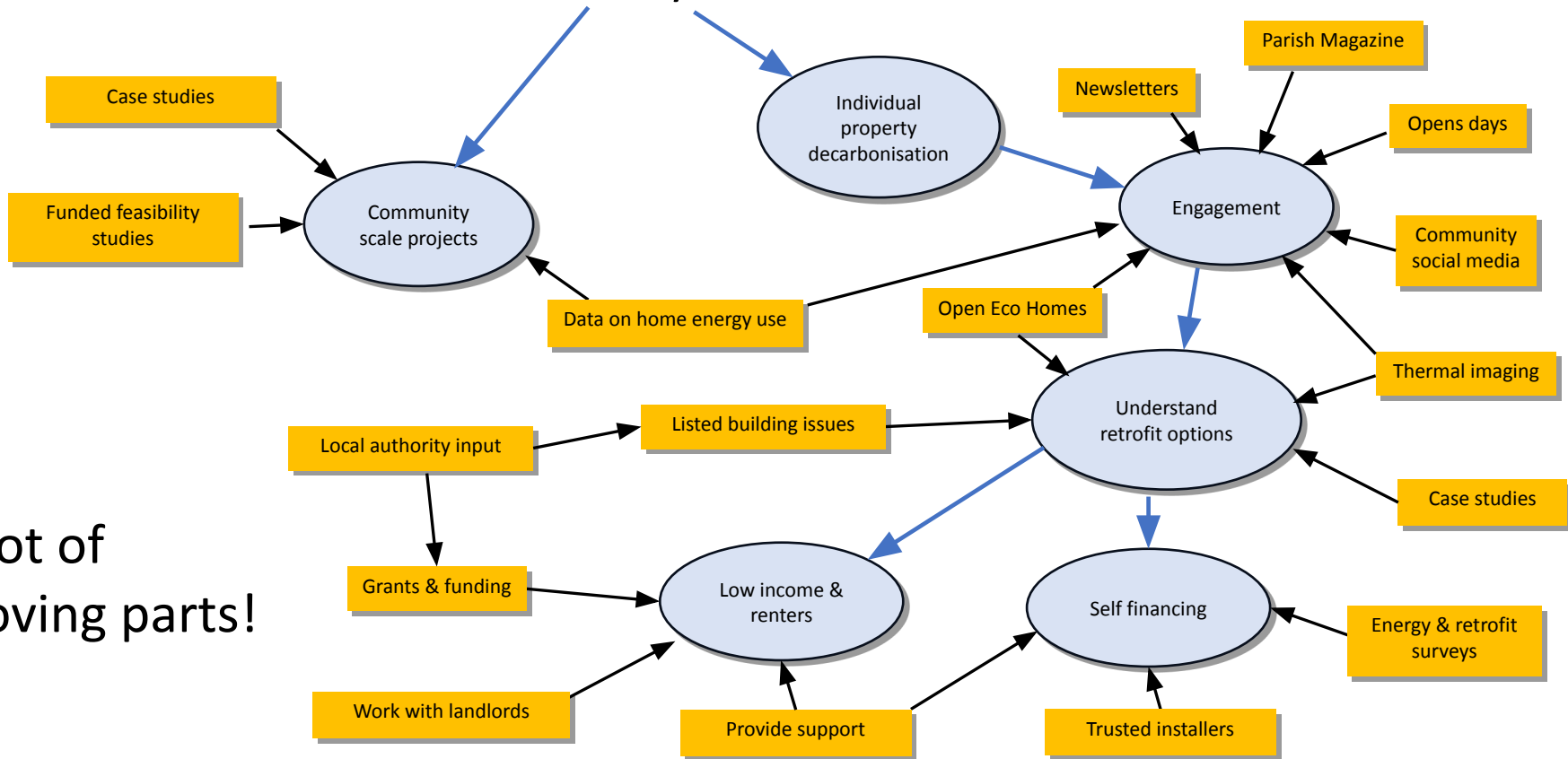
Litres of oil per year: 0, Oil 10.35kWh/litre: 0

Bottled gas Kg LPG per year: 0, LPG 14.02kWh/kg: 0

Tank gas Litres LPG per year: 0, LPG Propane 7.08kWh/litre: 0

Tonnes of Wood per year: 0.1, 4.1kWh/kg: 0.41

## Community Decarbonisation



A lot of  
moving parts!



## Beyond Littlebury...

- A number of other villages are starting down the same path
- Aiming to build a cluster of villages in Uttlesford as part of the CommuniPower Project (Community Energy South/Essex CC)



# Getting Groups Started

- Need a core **group** of people
- Enthusiasm & common sense more important than technical or scientific know-how
- What issues “resonate” with your group and in the community?
- Funding helps...
- Getting people’s time paid for – even better...
- But only if it aligns with your aims



## Challenges to Progress

- Burnout
- Can feel very slow – we're in this for the long haul. "Pedalo effect"!
- Managing a group of volunteers
- Reaching all parts of the community

But...

- All background work helps prepare for opportunities. "Shovel ready".



# Shovel Ready Projects

- Be ready for new funding streams...

