

Feedback from Sustainable Homes event on 9th November 2019

Out of 50 completed feedback forms:

39 people lived in Pendeen/St Just area.

1 person owned a holiday home in the area.

Most people attending heard about the event from – word of mouth, Outreach magazine, posters and flyers.

Of 5 people who stated they had a disability none stated any difficulties in accessing the event.

41 people said they were better informed after attending the event and 4 people said they were not.

49 people said they were glad they attended the event and no-one said they were not glad they attended.

31 said they planned to act on something they had learnt or thought about more as a result of attending, 4 did not plan to take any action as they already did everything they could and 5 said they might in the future and 7 said maybe they would.

Of those who planned to take some form of action:

(some people mentioned more than one action)

13 people mentioned taking various water saving measures

9 were planning/considering alternative heating/hot water systems (retro-fitting)

3 planned to improve their home's insulation

3 planned to switch their energy supplier

3 planned to have an up to date EPC done

2 planned to go to the local Care and Repair café

1 planned to get a green energy survey

Other actions mentioned were about – using less energy and helping wildlife.

**Most people completing the forms made contributions in the box that asked-
“What actions would you like official bodies such as – The Town Council,
County Council or Government to take to help people make their homes
more environmentally friendly and sustainable? “**

The vast majority of these comments are about the cost of changing from fossil fuels to green energy heating and hot water systems, and of alterations to homes, such as double glazing and insulation. There is considerable concern that people on low incomes, who do not currently qualify for grants/subsidies because they are not on benefits, are at a disadvantage and cannot afford to make their homes more sustainable. This is seen as a matter for central and local government to make grants for insulation, double glazing and renewable energy systems available to a much wider group of people and homes. Several people called for a revision of Cornwall Council’s policy with regard to The HEAT Project and a widening of the eligibility criteria to include those on low incomes.

There is also concern expressed that all new builds should be obliged to be as sustainable as possible; that central and local planning policy and processes should be reviewed to enable sustainable alterations to existing homes and that heritage organisations need to consider their part in helping sustainability.

There is some concern expressed that central and local government should take more of a lead in encouraging change and supporting greener policies; that they should have more joined up policies that include community energy projects and self-supporting communities, better recycling, to include black plastics and food waste, regulations that support wildlife around/on new builds, e.g. swift and bat bricks/boxes, nesting boxes generally etc.

Many people mentioned the central role of education regarding sustainability and that schools should be at the forefront in this, hopefully spreading the knowledge to families and neighbourhoods.