

Shepreth Sustainable Energy Options Appraisal

Shepreth Parish Council has obtained funding from the UK Government's Great British Energy Community Fund to undertake a feasibility study for a local, low carbon energy project. The study is being conducted by community energy consultants, Scene, during 2025/26.

In a time of rising energy bills, international energy insecurity, and an ongoing climate crisis, the benefits of identifying cheap, local, and low carbon alternative sources of energy are increasingly clear. **Shepreth Parish Council** is working with **Sustainable Shepreth** to design a low carbon energy project to address these issues.

The project seeks to:

- 1) **Identify a solution to provide low carbon and low-cost energy to the parish**, with the aim of benefiting Shepreth residents and businesses through lower running costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2) **Generate energy locally and use energy communally**, including testing the viability of solar panels and wind turbines, ground-source heating from viable land parcels in Shepreth, and decentralised air-source heating systems.
- 3) **Deliver an energy system which benefits building owners, users and the local community**, including through community ownership of energy assets and revenue generation for local community investment and benefit.

Local Energy Opportunities

The study area covers the entirety of Shepreth Parish and identified suitable locations for several low carbon technology types. To reduce local energy costs and emissions, opportunities for local electrical energy generation were prioritised (e.g., ground-mounted solar PV or wind turbines).

Revenue generated from energy installations is intended to stimulate further community-led action, such as communal domestic energy efficiency upgrades. This will provide further energy bill savings for Shepreth residents and will simultaneously improve the comfort and condition of Shepreth's building stock. The study also sought to identify communal heat energy generation and supply solutions. Following the feasibility study's conclusion, the following development scenarios were recommended:

- **Community-owned ground-mounted solar arrays** on sites located east of Cambridge Road, to the south of Shepreth, as well as on a former water reservoir to the north of the village. Implementation of both recommended options would deliver energy savings of £83,210 and profit for community reinvestment of £2.2m over the developments' lifetime.
- **A programme to encourage and support decarbonisation of Shepreth's homes and businesses.** Community action, such as organising energy advice cafés, carbon and energy literacy events, and home energy assessments, could support the implementation of 258 heat pumps by 2050 (78% of Shepreth's homes), as well as delivering improvements to building energy efficiency through retrofit works and energy saving measures. This would lead to £22,389 in annual energy bill savings for Shepreth residents and reduce carbon emissions by 144 tonnes / year.

Get Involved

Following the conclusion of this feasibility study, we need your continued engagement and support progress community-led developments that can benefit residents, local businesses, and the wider community of Shepreth Parish. To find out more, ask questions, or get involved with the project, please contact the project team:

CLlr John Fisher, Shepreth Parish Council: john.fisher@sheprethparishcouncil.gov.uk

Elisabeth Spain, Sustainable Shepreth: sustainableshepreth@gmail.com

Ahmad Aldaker, Project Manager, Scene: ahmad.a@scene.community