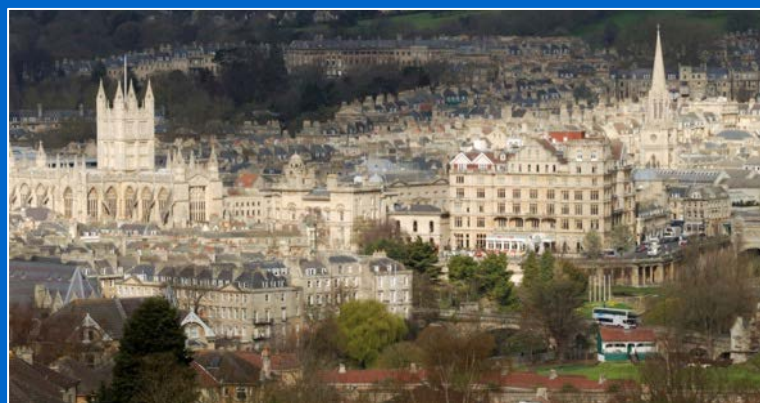




**Bath & West  
Community Energy**  
Generating local energy

# Wind Energy for our Communities



Peter Capener – MD, Bath & West Community Energy

**February 2021**

# Bath & West Community Energy

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**Established 2010 by ...**



Transition Community  
Corsham

Working towards a sustainable Corsham Community Area

**To deliver**

**Clean Local Energy, Community Owned for the  
Common Good**

**A Community Benefit Society**

**One member one vote**

**Asset lock**

**Not for profit**



# Since 2010, BWCE has ...

Raised £20 million - community fundraising and debt from ethical bank, Triodos

Currently just under 1,000 members & bondholders

Installed 12.35MW – enough to power 4,000 homes



Donated over £200,000 through our Community Fund



Currently developing new solar projects, testing EV charging network and running pilots to reduce peak electricity demand



# A different way of doing business ...

## Who Owns?

Community enterprise

## Who Controls?

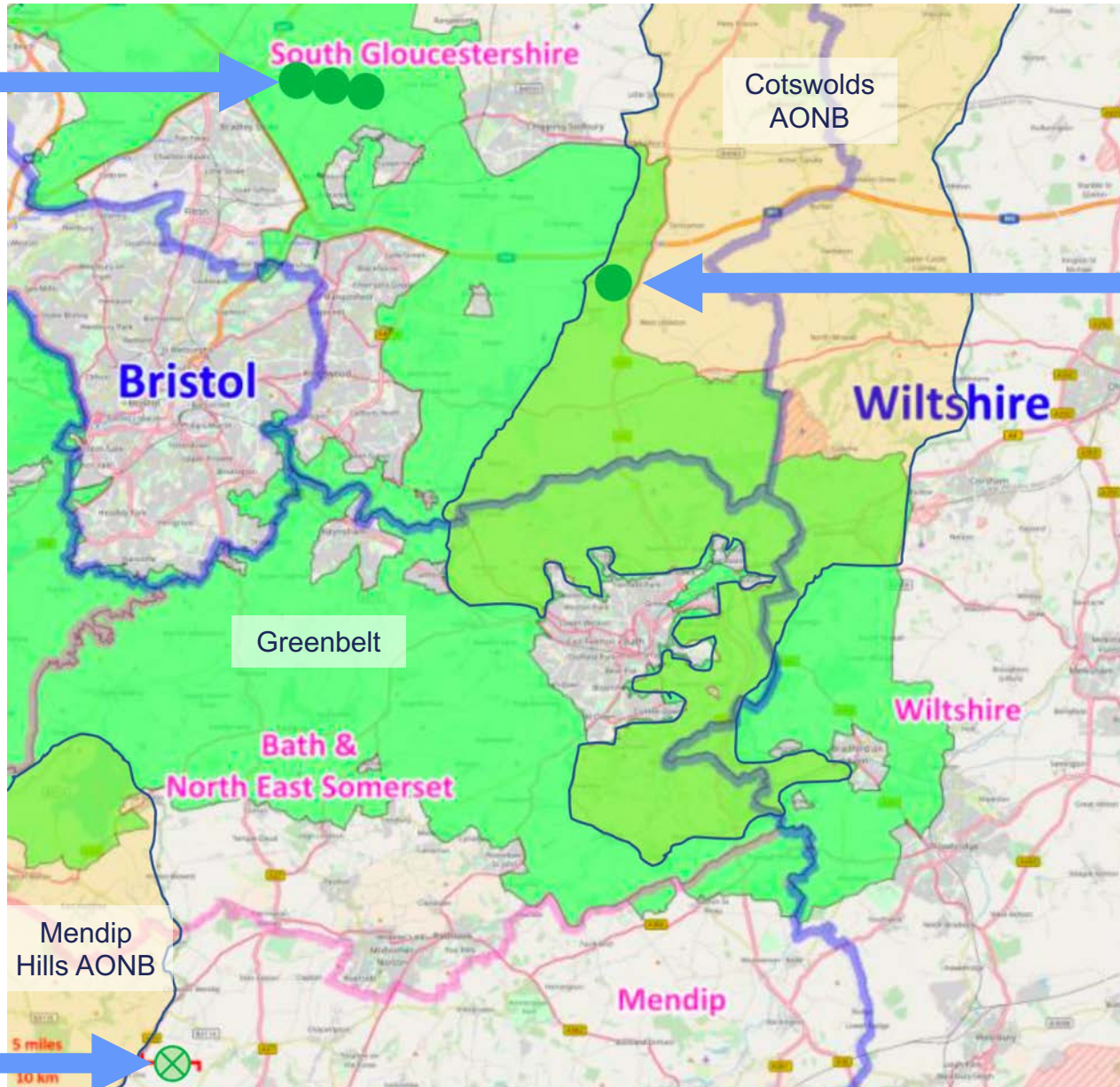
Members

## Who Benefits?

Community



# So What About Wind ...

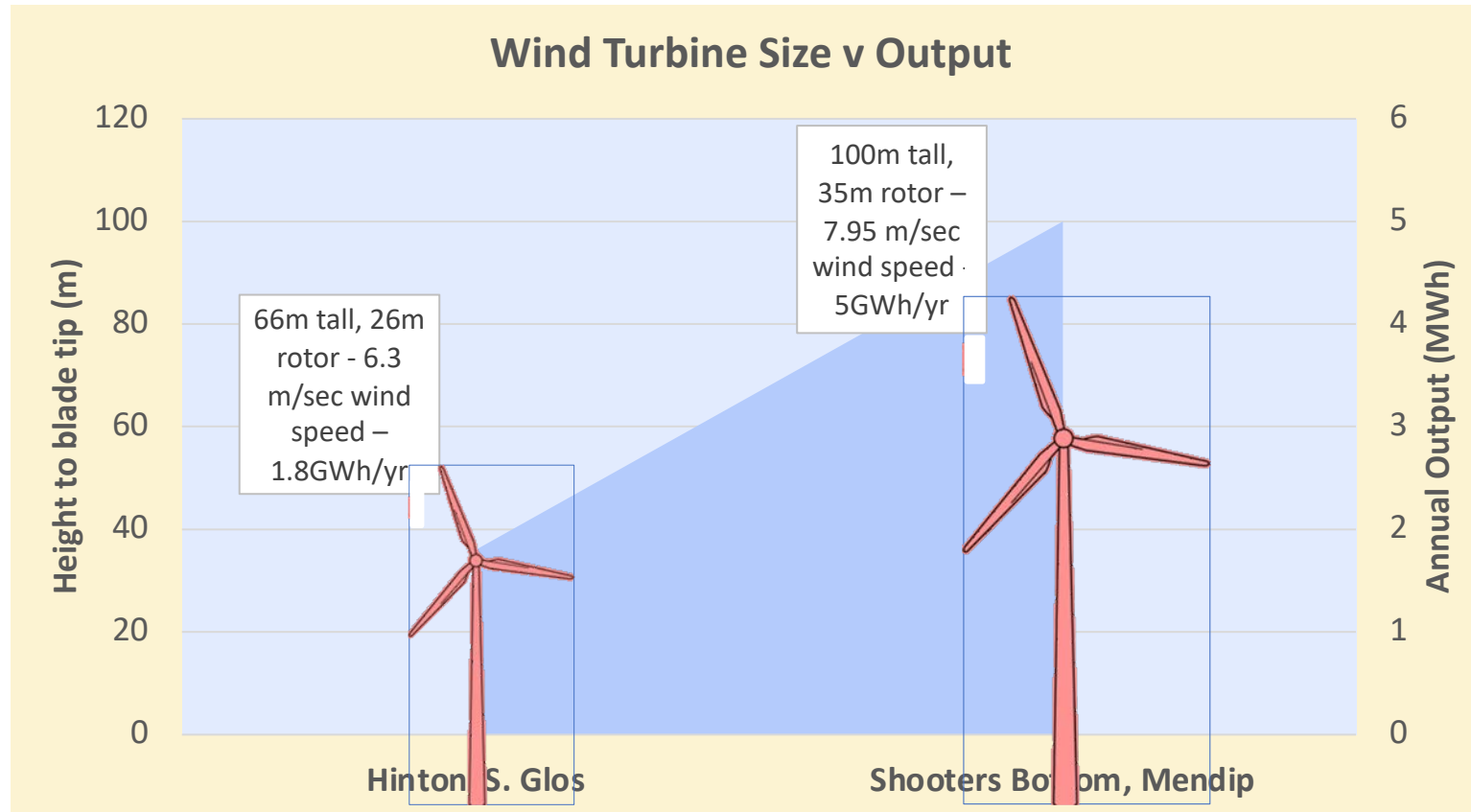


Highly constrained area with AONB and Greenbelt

But examples of large wind turbines developed locally in or close to both



# Wind Turbine Size and Electricity Output



Power increases by cube of wind speed or square of rotor radius

So small differences in turbine size have a big impact on output

Do we want lots more, slightly smaller turbines, or fewer, larger turbines?

# Developing Community Schemes



1

- Identifying potential sites from within the community

2

- Agreeing lease and annual rent with landowner

3

- Building community consent/support

4

- Securing grid connection offer from grid operator

5

- Finalising business model

6

- Securing planning permission from B&NES Council

7

- Raising community finance

8

- Building, commissioning and operating

# Can You Help Us?



- B&NES Local Plan Update – Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Deadline
- Lobby Wiltshire Council & South Glos for stronger policies in their Local Plan
- QUESTION: Do I want/can I accept wind turbines in my local community? If not, what are my concerns?
- If you want to support wind energy ...
  - Is your community outside the highest impact areas?
  - Talk to local family, friends, neighbours, do they feel the same as you?
  - Carry out surveys, do local people want solar and wind in their community?
  - Can you help address concerns with information, local events/meetings?
  - What does your neighbourhood plan say?
  - If you're in an area with little potential for wind, can you help those that are?

**Bath & West Community Energy**  
Generating local energy

Briefing  
Revised January 2021  
1

## Let's talk about ON-SHORE WIND

Development of on-shore wind is an important part of BWCE's proposed portfolio, but still faces exceptionally rigorous planning requirements. These have stopped almost all onshore wind developments in England over the past 5 years. There are three ways that you can help:

- **Help stimulate discussion of onshore wind: make the most of every opportunity to talk to people you know about it. Keep it simple, avoid statistics, and stress two main points: it's cheap, and it's popular.**
- **Take part in the current council Local Plan consultations, and contribute to Neighbourhood Plans, if there is one being developed in your area.**
- **Lobby your MP once there is further information on changes to national Planning Policy on energy development later in 2021.**

This briefing provides further information to help you. The first part provides key information about onshore wind as a basis for discussion. The second part covers the planning system, and how you can contribute to local planning policies and processes.

Please click on the links for more information. If you are reading a paper copy, please see the BWCE website. For more in-depth information, see the following resources:

- **'Common Concerns about Wind Power'**, the *Centre for Sustainable Energy*, 2nd edition 2017. 132 pages. Excellent in-depth analysis of peer reviewed sources.
- **'Switching on: How renewables will power the UK'**, *Friends of the Earth*. 2017. 12 pages. A slightly easier read, but with good references, mainly government sources.
- **'Rising to the Climate Crisis'**, *Town and Country Planning Association* 2018.
- **'Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency'**, *Centre for Sustainable Energy* 2020.



# Summary

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- Onshore wind turbines are critical to the successful transition to net zero carbon and a liveable planet for our children and grandchildren
- Community ownership offers an approach that places local communities in control, builds community resilience and generates local benefit
- Can you help us build a movement that can drive the development of local wind turbines for local communities in this area?
- If so – get in touch, we would like to hear from you.

## **Putting people at the heart of the energy transition**

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