

Community renewable energy in the Pill area

Thursday 22 January 2026

Agenda

Item	Time	Length
Arrival and introduction	18:15	15 min
Progress to date	18:30	15 mins
Low Carbon Gordano introduction	18:45	10 min
Break	18:55	15 mins
Questions	19:10	15 min
Empowered feasibility overview	19:25	10 min
Breakout discussion	19:35	30 min
Feedback	20:05	10 min
Next steps	20:15	15 mins

Our aims

- Hear your voice
- Raise awareness community energy and how it could benefit Pill
- Find out if people in the wider Pill area would like to investigate a renewable energy project that is community-led and brings real local benefits
- Support the community to find out more about local potential
- Support to access funding for further investigation
- **We will only do this if you tell us you want it!**

What happens tonight

- Update on what we've been up to
- Information on community energy and its benefits
- Some technical information on the areas interest
- Questions and discussions about what you think, and what the next steps could be
- Feedback on:
 - If you want us to continue & if so, where should focus our efforts
 - Suggestions for further engagement
 - What role the community of Pill might want to play

Key:

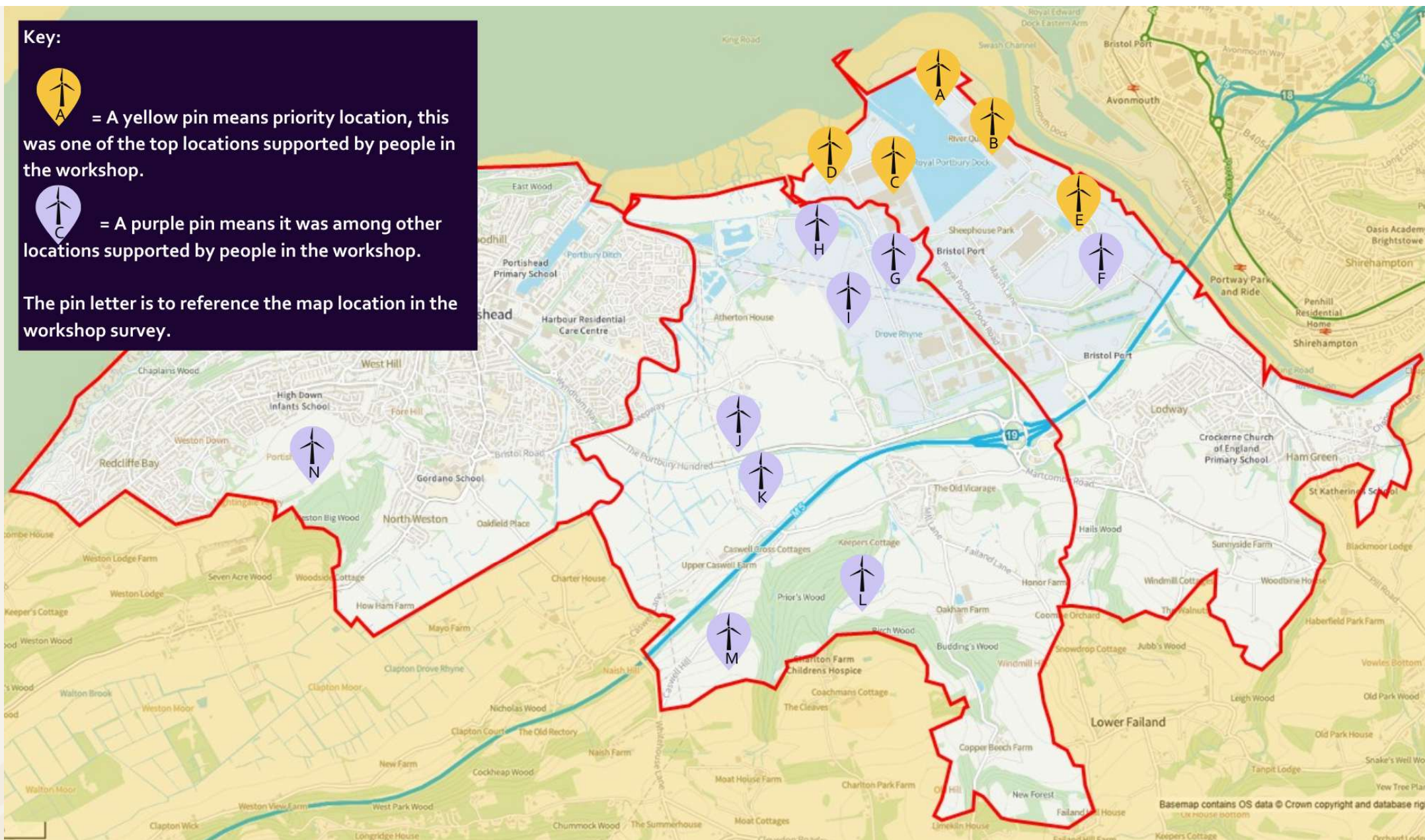


= A yellow pin means priority location, this was one of the top locations supported by people in the workshop.



= A purple pin means it was among other locations supported by people in the workshop.

The pin letter is to reference the map location in the workshop survey.



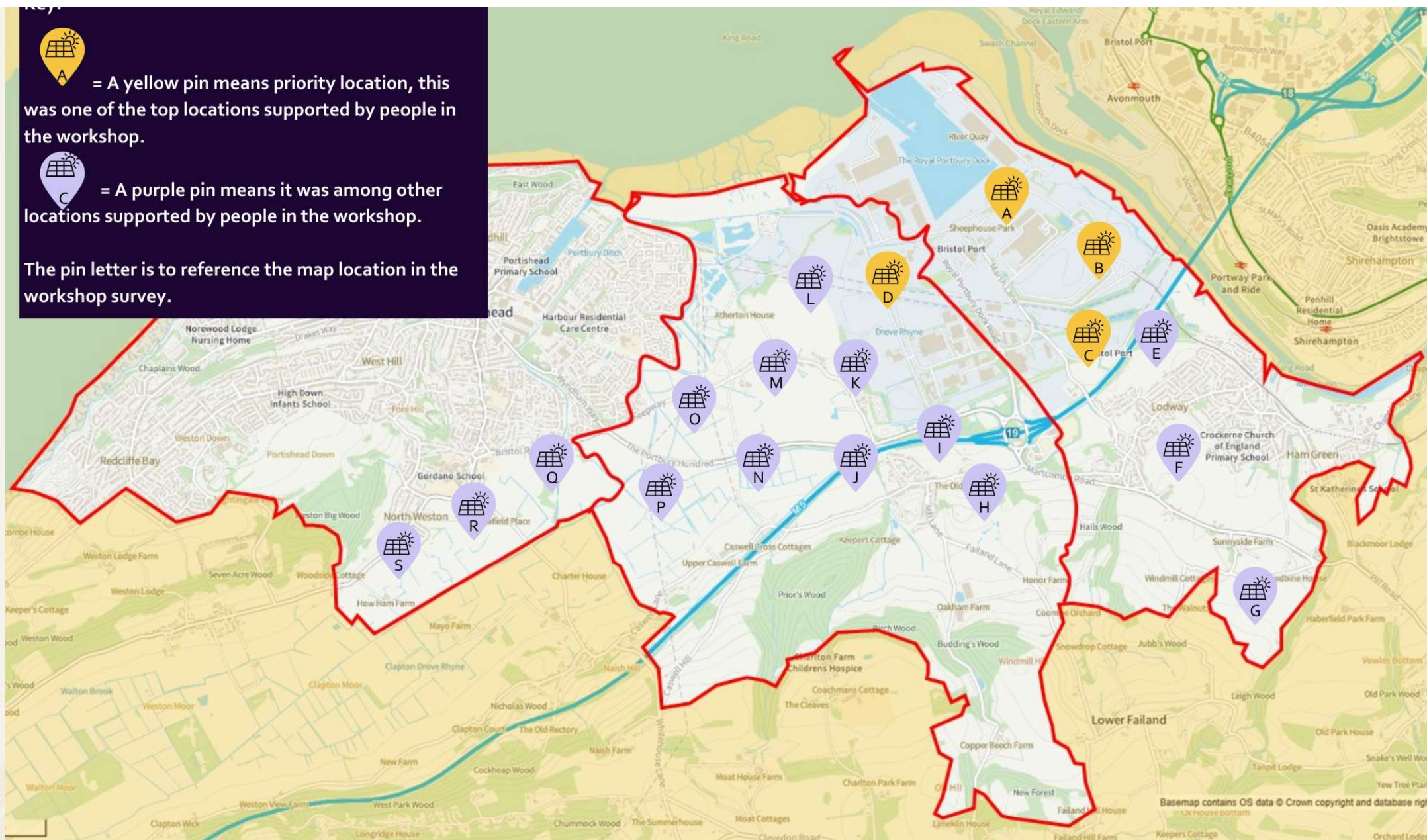


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What we have done so far



July

August

September

January



Community Renewable Energy in Pill, Portbury & Portishead survey

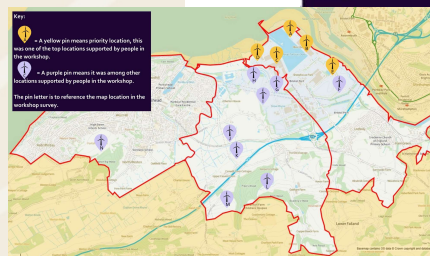
About this survey

Following our workshop held on 10th July looking at renewable energy in Pill, Portbury and Portishead we want **your** opinion on the findings.

Please complete a short 10-minute survey to share your thoughts.



Scan to take part



Pill, Portbury & Portishead Community Energy Workshop

10th July 2023



Community workshop

Workshop report & survey

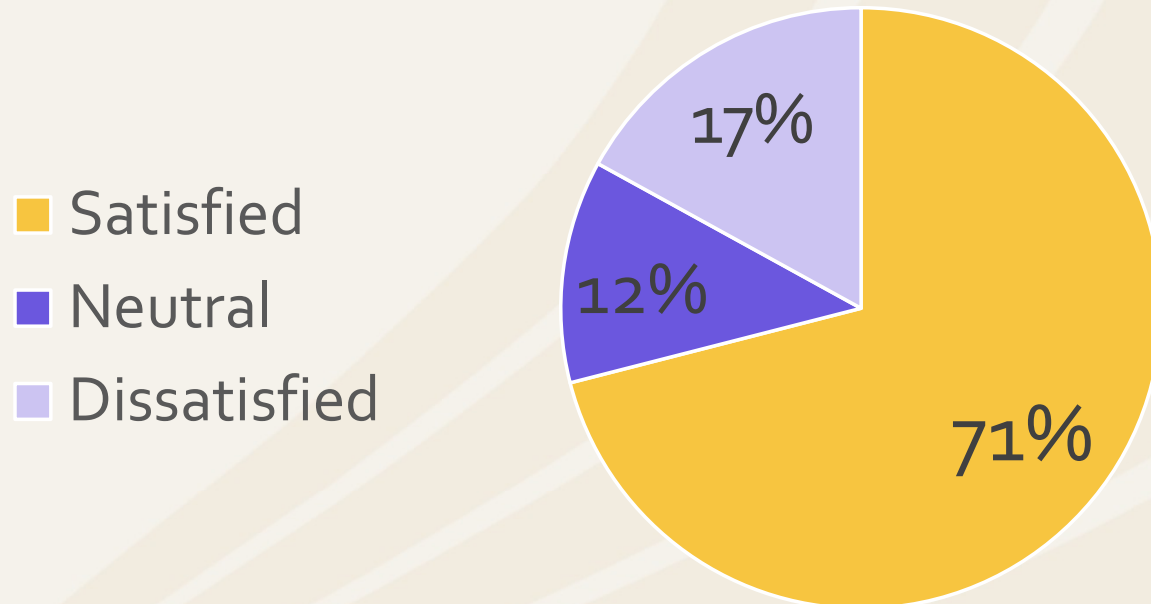
Engagement events

- Portishead Library
- Pill Resource Centre
- Community Café & Food Hub



What people told us - survey

Wind suggestions



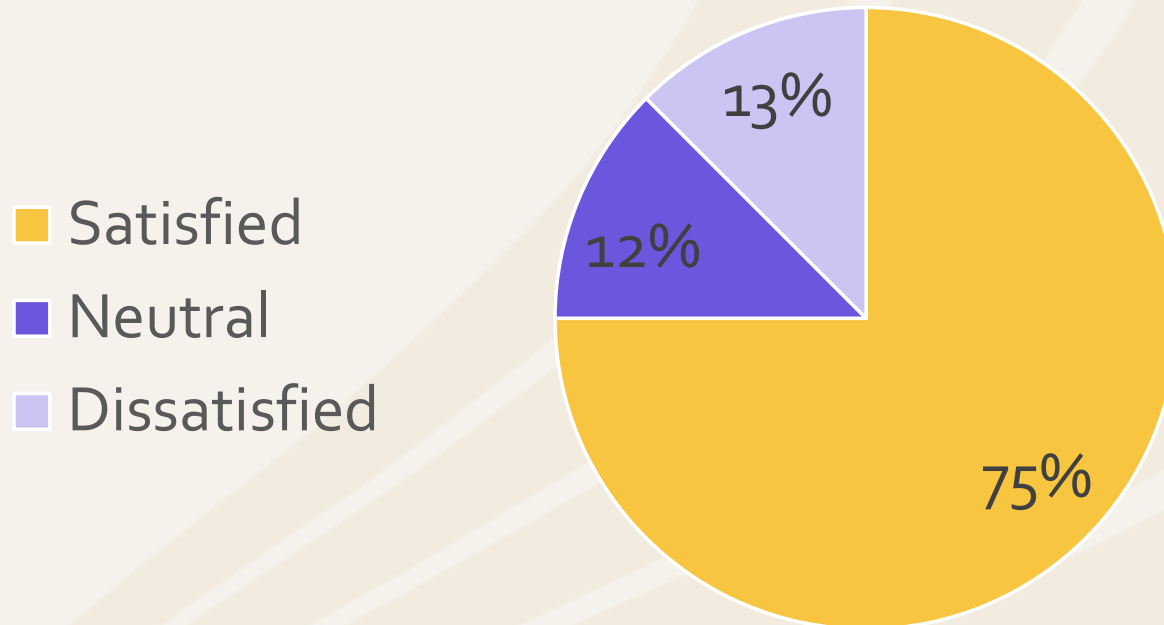
Comments

- Concerns about noise and impact this could have on residents
- Any hazards they have?
- Comparison to the Lawrence Weston Turbine
- Overall positivity towards them



What people told us - survey

Solar suggestions



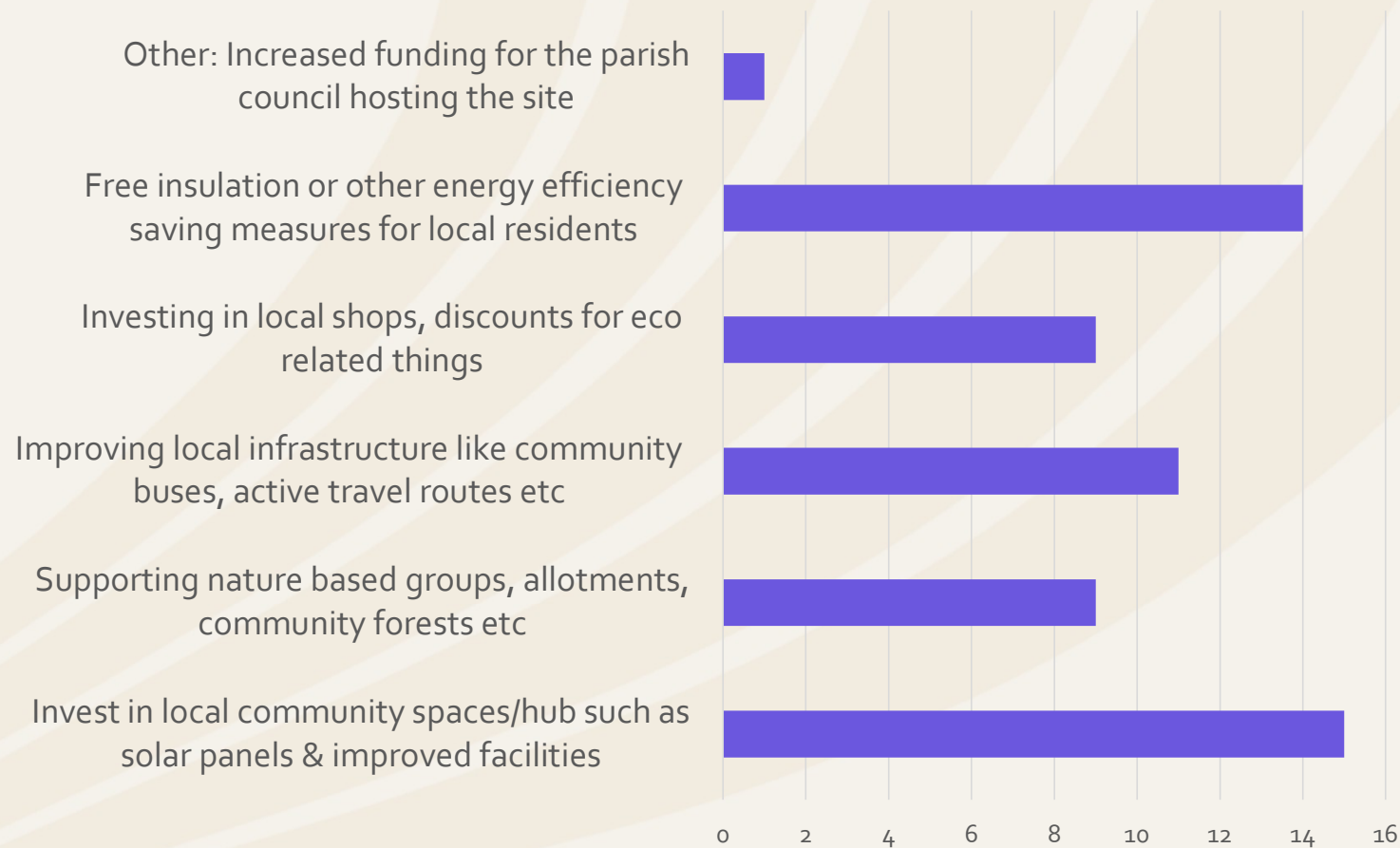
Comments

- Must be complimented by rooftop solar
- Preference for roofs first
- Not pretty but needed
- Not all locations within the Portbury boundary



What people told us - survey

Community benefit

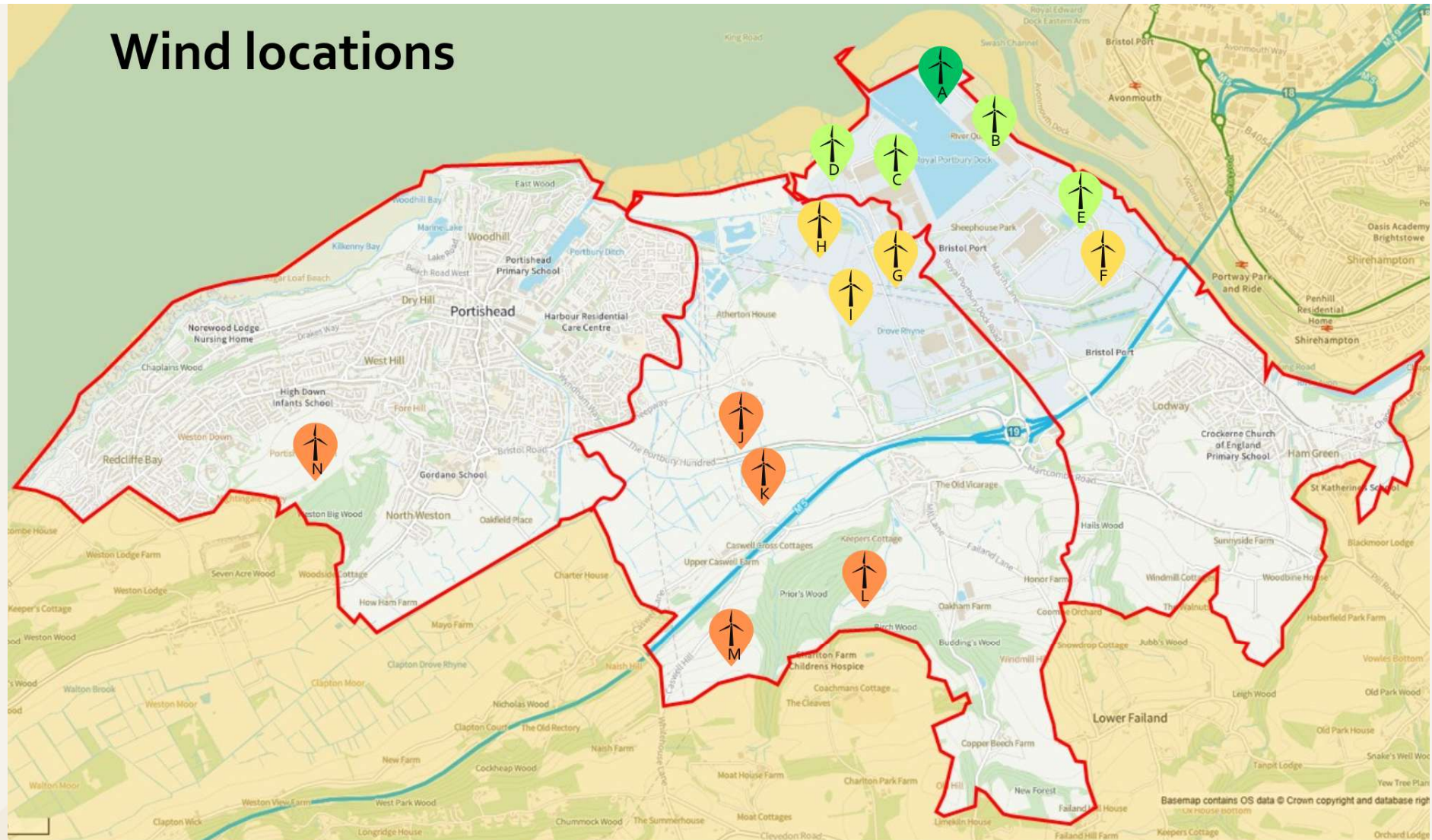




What people told us overall

- Around **170 people** spoken to in person
- **24 responses** to the survey
- Majority of people **in support** of seeing something locally and like the idea of it **benefitting the local community**
- Some **not in support of renewable energy**, a **handful very anti** who didn't want to engage
- Mostly in support of something being developed around **Avonmouth Docks**
- More **votes for wind than solar (110 vs 78)**
- Quite a few people with **no strong opinion on locations**, trust they're placed where is suitable but would prefer them to be located **closer to other renewables or more industrial land**

Wind locations



> 20 votes



11 - 20 votes

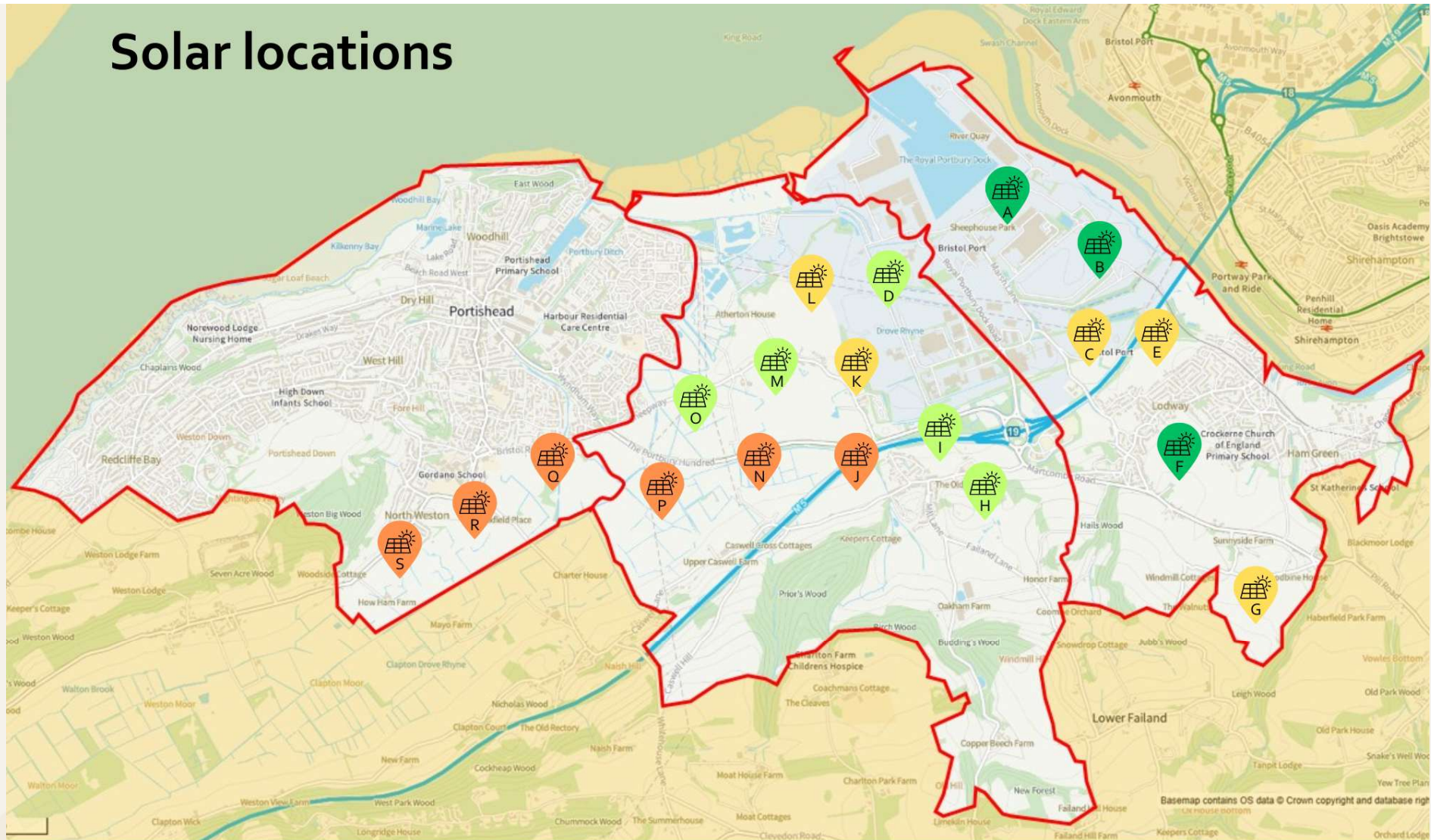


6 - 10 votes



< 5 votes

Solar locations



> 10 votes



6 - 10 votes



4 - 5 votes



< 3 votes

Community Benefit Funds

Low Carbon **Gordano**



About Us

- Formed in 2011
- Structured as an Industrial Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community, operating under Co-op rules
- ~450 members with about **£3mn** in invested capital

Existing Projects

- Moorhouse - **1.83MWp** installed capacity, operating since Apr 2015



Existing Projects

- Ham Lane – **915kWp** installed capacity, operating since Nov 2015



Existing Projects

- Churchill Academy – **194.9kWp** operating since Dec 2018
- Helios House – **98.9kWp** operating since Feb 2019
- Northleaze School – **49kWp** operating since Dec 2015
- Church House (Long Ashton) – **9.9kWp** operating since Dec 2015
- Clevedon YMCA – **5.4kWp** operating since Feb 2016

Impact So Far...

- Total generation
 - **29GWh**
- Total CO2 savings
 - **15.2kt**
- Total Community Benefit Fund contribution
 - **£190,770**



Megawatt Community Energy Fund Grant



CBF Funds

- Our model – aggregated, split into 90% local, 10% international, distributed annually
- Can do it per project *if* you're certain of sufficient local projects that need funding

Why have a CBF?

- Because it was the correct thing for a community energy organisation to do with surplus funds. I don't think we ever really considered *not* setting one up, though we are currently looking at rebalancing some of the allocation.

How much is enough?

- Initially, it was determined by a straight percentage (1%) of the total cost of the projects. That set our baseline. Then we increased that in line with RPI (alongside our FiT income and interest payments to members) over time.
- The recent proposals to change FiT increases so they're linked to CPI rather than RPI will alter the rate of increase going forward.

How much is “your” enough?

- This year, £19,300 which is added to BEC’s CBF for a total fund of ~£45k
- Going forward, we’re reducing the CBF contribution to £10k and using the remainder to make school roof projects more financially viable.

How to distribute it?

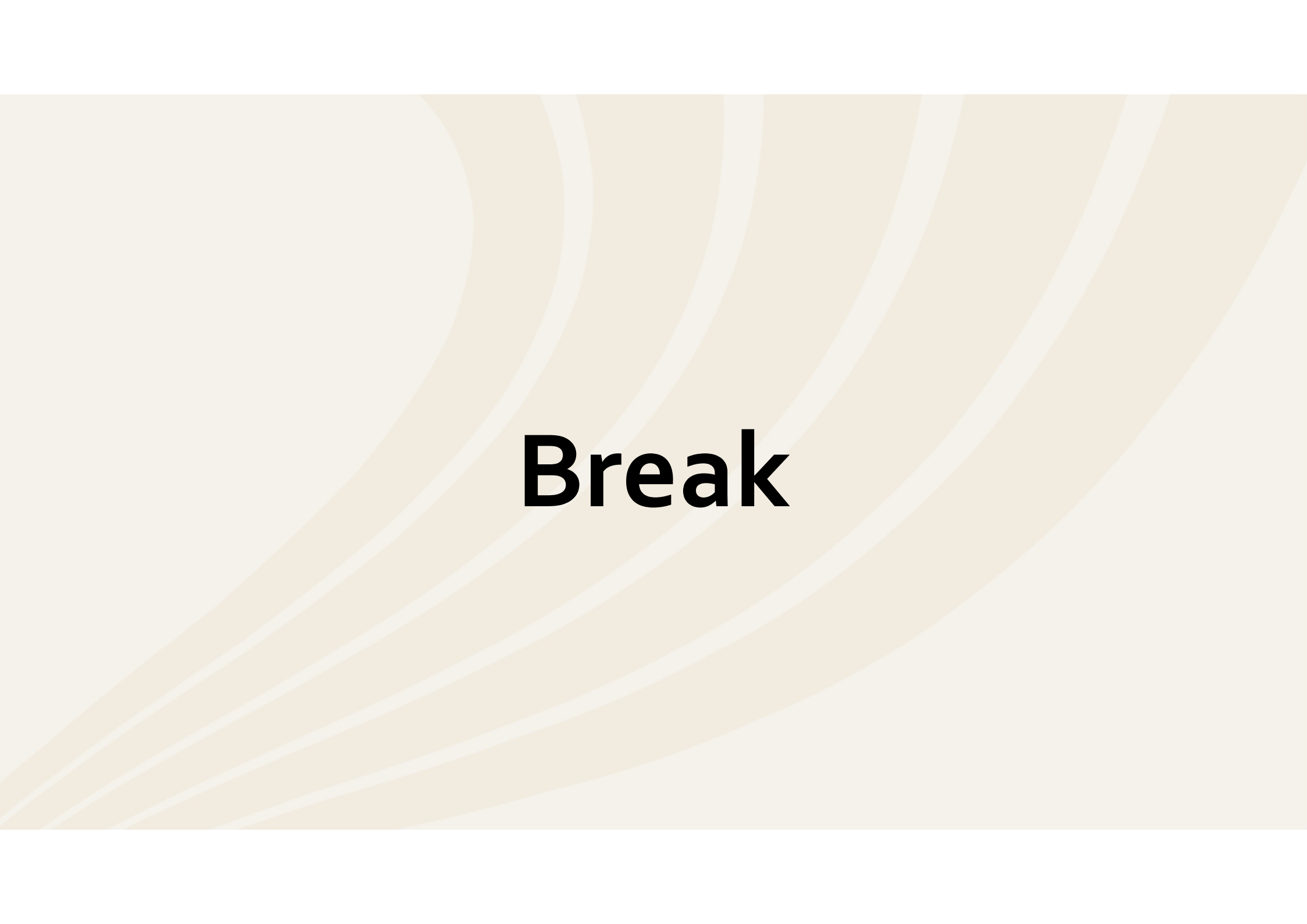
- Originally self-managed via Transition Portishead
- Now, we use Quartet Community Foundation for a managed fund – but there are other local Community Foundations such as [Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation](#)
- Applications Apr-Jun
- CBF funding panel meets in July to discuss the scored and categorised proposals and allocate the funds.

What have we learned?

- You need to tell as many people as you can about the fund – our first few years were very undersubscribed
- If you're trying for geographical ringfencing, you need to put particular effort into encouraging applications from that specific area, otherwise you'll either not spend all the money each year due to lack of projects, or have to be flexible with your ringfencing rules (preferential allocation rather than absolute reservation)

What have we funded?

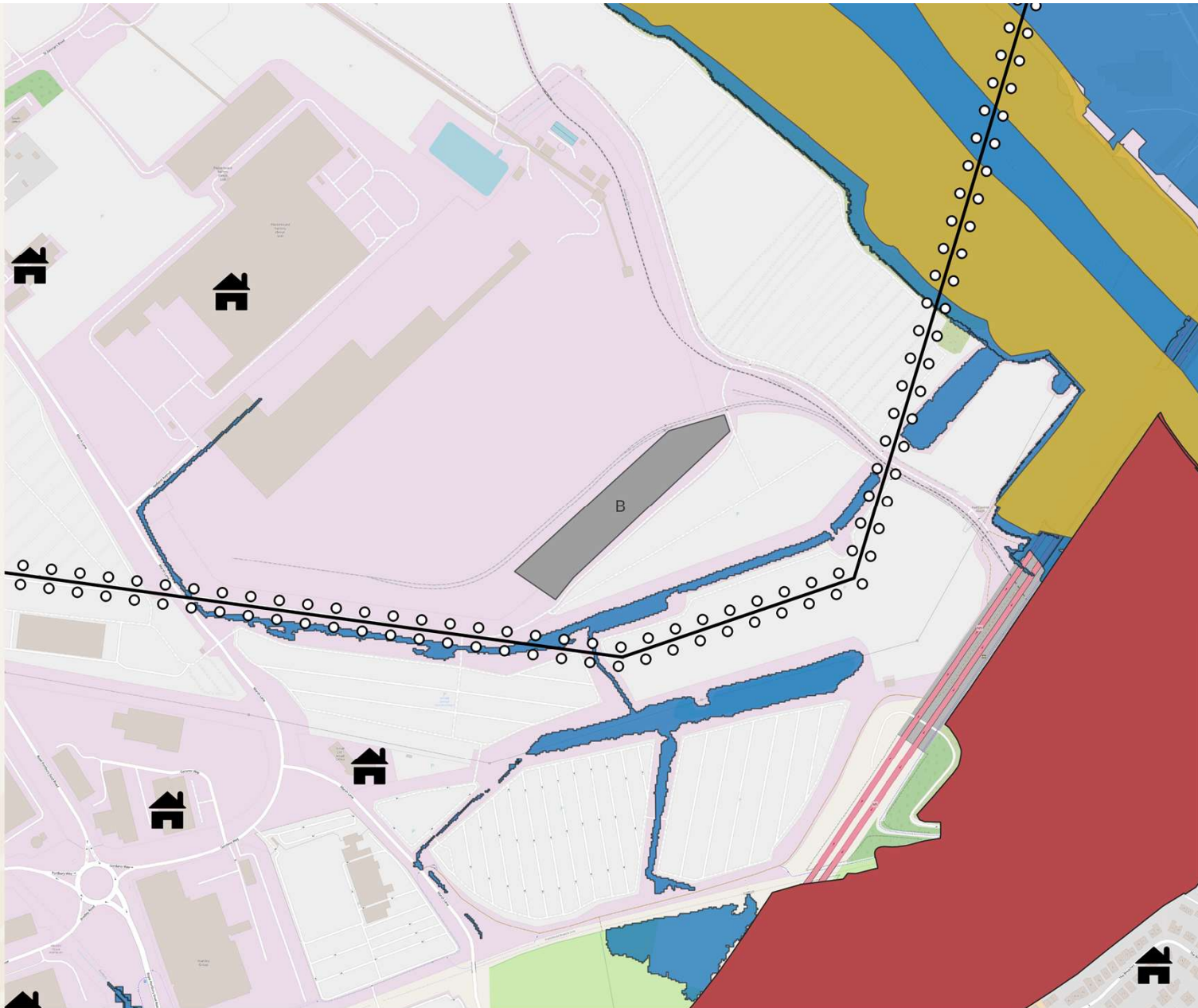
- LED lighting
- Boiler replacements
- Insulation
- Rooftop Solar PV
- Hydropower feasibility studies
- Electric mobility
- Local food production
- Advisory and Communications services



Break

Questions

[illegible]



Legend

 Solar Site B

 Greenbelt

 Important
Bird
Areas

 Flood Zone 3

 Overhead
Lines

 Postcodes



0 100 200 m



Group discussion

1. Pros and cons of the areas on the map for wind and solar projects
 2. If the docks aren't an option, what are your opinions on other areas?
 3. General thoughts on community-led energy projects in the area
- Facilitators are there to help and take anonymous notes & share key points
- Afterwards, individuals will be invited to tell us where they would like us to focus our efforts, via the big map*

Next steps

1. Would you like us to continue looking at options for a community-led energy project in the Pill area?
2. What role do you think people in the Pill area would want to play?
3. Suggestions for next steps (engagement, contacts etc)

What happens next?



If there is interest within the community

Speak to more people to find out if they would like a community-led energy project and where they would like us to focus.



Look at 2-3 areas in more detail to find out if they would be technically feasible e.g. landownership, grid connection.



Community meets to decide if they want to pursue a community energy project and choose an area to focus on. Plan next steps.



Apply to the Community Energy Fund for funding to engage more people and find out more technical information.

February

March

Onwards





We're a charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

cse.org.uk