



**Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy
Annual Report 2019-20**

Annual Member Report

Note from the Chair

The year ending 31 March 20, had been a good year for our business, posting an operational profit (before interest) of £246k. I'd like to thank Communities for Renewables, (CfR), and Angela Wright, our Company Secretary for running our business in an efficient and co-ordinated manner. We are also grateful for support from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and others in ensuring our land management processes maximise benefit to wildlife.

The way forward for us all is to reduce carbon and to try to preserve the biodiversity essential to a healthy world. More and more people seem to understand this; hopefully this shared consciousness will emerge from the muddled disruption of the political world. Here in Wiltshire the county council, churches, many town and parish councils have set targets for carbon reduction. We want to work with them perhaps forming a Wiltshire Collective which can bring together buildings and people throughout the county to generate, store and even buy local energy in a way which will promote a much healthier world.

At the beginning of the pandemic crisis we donated everything left in our community fund (£4,000) to the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation Corona Virus appeal to help families in need. This year we are asking members at the AGM to donate £10,000 of group 'profits' to the fund for next year. Directors have also agreed in to add the £10,000 granted by the government to help small businesses. If you know of someone or some organisation which needs help to develop environmentally friendly projects please come to us for some help. Full details are on our website.

Lesley Bennett

Chair, Wiltshire Wildlife
Community Energy Limited



Annual Member Report

WWCE Group Financial Performance

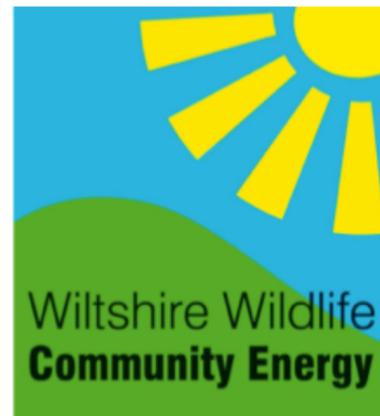
This has been the group's fourth full year of renewable generation. Operating results offer a slight improvement on last year.

- The combined group revenue was £728k (2019: £732k). The slight decrease from last year is attributable to reduced performance at Chelworth and the rooftop sites.
- Direct costs have reduced by £3k to £24k giving a gross profit of £704k (2019: £705k).
- Administrative expenses (including depreciation) have reduced by £11k to £458k (2019: £469k). Notable reductions have occurred in asset management fees for the full year and operations and maintenance charges.

As a result operating profit was £246k (2019: £236k) which is a £10k improvement from last year which reflects the smoother management of the sites following migration to a new asset manager, CfR, at the end of 2018.

At £157k (2019: £169k) bank interest payments have reduced as we continue to pay down the first loan at the Braydon site. At the same time interest payments to members increased substantially, due to paying a higher rate of interest - from £128k in last year's accounts to £170k in this year's accounts. Given these higher interest payments the overall loss for the group has increased from £65k to £83k and the cumulative losses for the group have continued to increase. This is in line with our long term plan. We plan for these losses to be eliminated in the period 2031 to 2035 - when capital and interest repayments on loans cease while FIT revenues continue to flow.

Since March 2020 the board and its asset manager have put in place measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and associated lockdown measures. We therefore do not expect our future financial prospects to be materially affected by these measures.

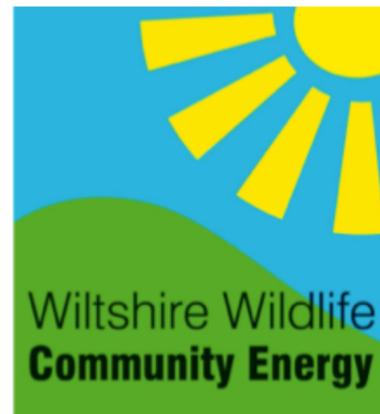


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WWCE Land Management

One of the core objectives within the goals of WWCE is to advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance and long-term protection of wildlife and its habitat. In the 12 months since the last AGM the main focus for land management has been the transfer of the Operations and Management contractor for the Braydon Manor site and working with our new Asset Management contractor Communities for Renewables (CfR) to 'on-board' both solar farm sites and review land management practices to ensure compliance with the land management and ecology plans.

At the Chelworth site, the annual ecology report provided some good news on the number of brown hairstreak butterfly eggs which were up on last year with good early signs of the effect of the recently introduced rotation cutting regime for the hedgerows. Single great crested newts were observed along with sightings of brimstone butterflies. A number of bird species have been recorded on the site most notable being Little Owl that has been recorded 5 times. Works included installation of a living and dead hedge adjacent to the war memorial end of the site and cutting back of nettles, thistles and encroaching vegetation from under the solar panels.



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Community Fund

This has been a very successful year in terms of grants awarded, so much so that there remains only a very small 'float'. Six grants have been awarded for projects to install solar panels on public buildings; to engage young people in outdoor activities through forest schools; to promote water conservation and 'rain gardens' through training workshops; to promote cycling and cycle stands; and to encourage children to explore their relationship with the environment through performing arts. Finally, a special grant was awarded to the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation towards their Coronavirus appeal to be used to support food banks. The total sum awarded during the year amounts to £18,871 and since the Fund was set up some £39,886 has been awarded including the 10% fee to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

These grant awards illustrate well the objectives of the Fund to support local communities, voluntary groups and local councils to take initiatives in wildlife conservation, climate change mitigation, reduction in carbon emissions (including local food, transport and waste projects), the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of environmental sustainability.

The Community Fund Panel is a sub committee of the Board comprising two members nominated by the Board, two members elected by the members and one nominee of the Wildlife Trust, who are also responsible for administration of the Fund.

All members of the Panel together with the staff of the Wildlife Trust have made much valued contributions during the year for which WWCE is most grateful. The Panel is also grateful for the support of those members who kindly donate their interest payments directly into the Fund

