Peer Power Dorset
Community energy network building

Dorchester, 7 Feb 2018

regen communities

power to change

LOTTERY FUNDED

Regen

Projects

Membership

Events

www.regensw.co.uk

@RegenSW

Agenda

18.00 **Welcome and introduction**

18.30 **Peer Power network building workshop**

Jodie Giles, senior project manager, Regen

19.30 **Renewable energy progress in Dorset**

Jobe Bryer, Regen

20.00 **Dorset Low Carbon Economy Programme**

Antony Littlechild, Dorset County Council

20.30 **Networking drinks**

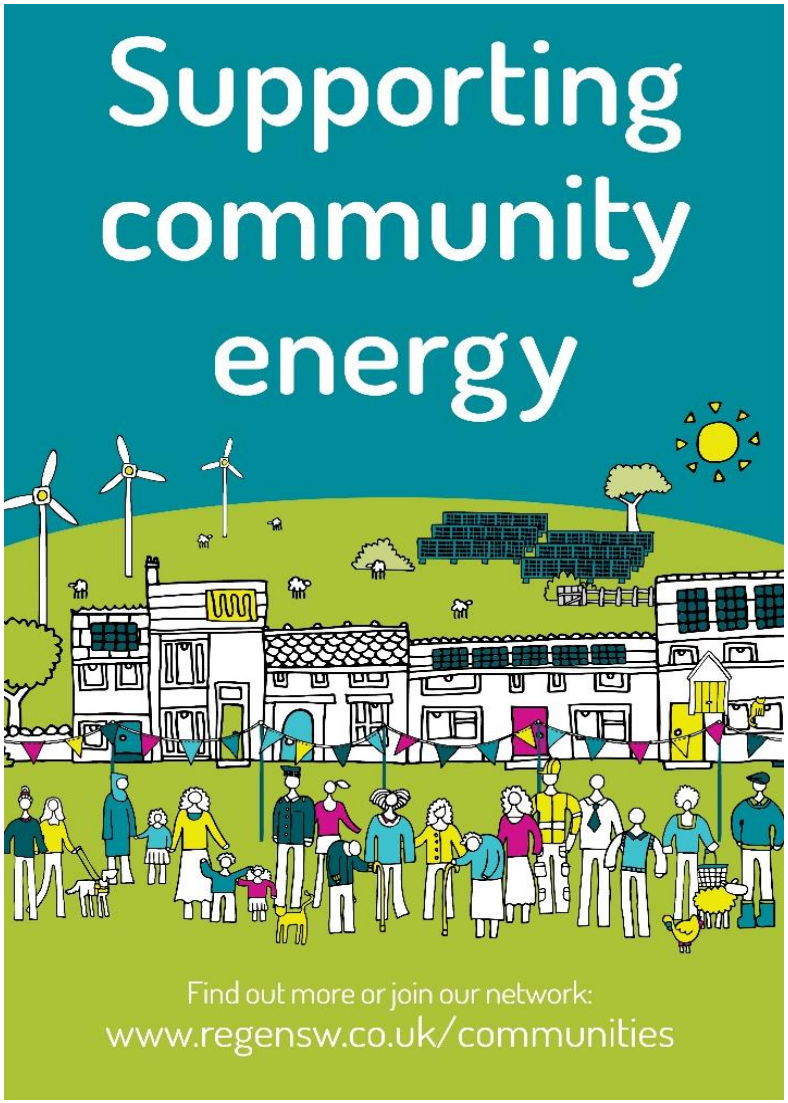
21.00 **Ends**

Peer Power in Dorset … what's it all about?

- support existing groups in Dorset and Devon
- establish a local community energy peer network
- inspire the setup of 8 new community energy groups
- to enable more community energy projects to happen
- increase number of projects, MW of renewable energy installed, and £s of investment raised by groups
- December 2016 - April 2018

Peer Power in Dorset – outputs

- Expert support- 81 hours (10 hours in Dorset)
- Travel bursaries £523 (£93 Dorset)
- 16 Events – 674 attendees
- (5 events in Dorset - 94 attendees)
- 30 newsletters
- Email and Facebook groups set up
- Support Wessex network
- Ends April 2018

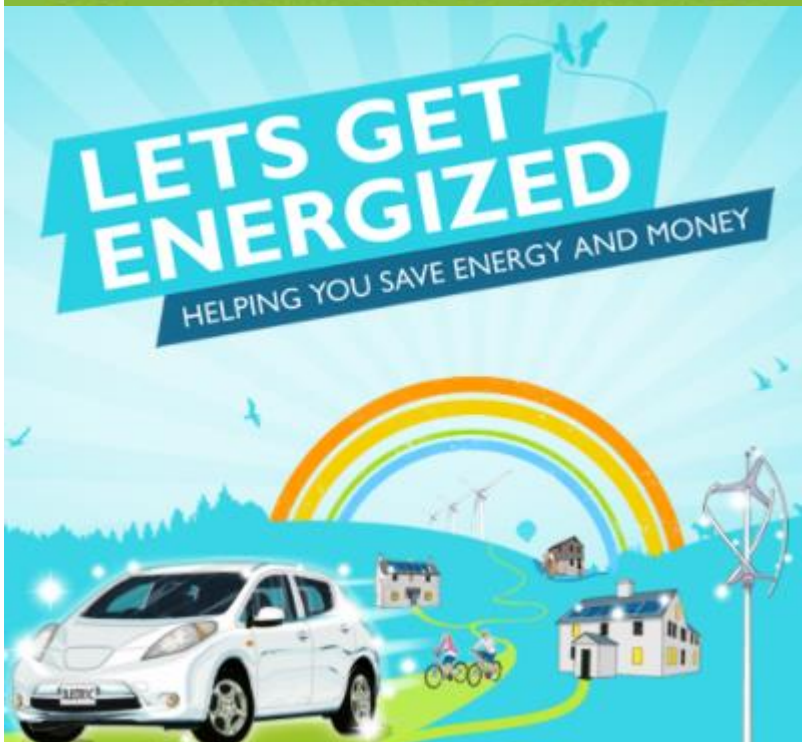


Who is taking collective action …

DORSET COMMUNITY ENERGY

Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan

SUSTAINABLE DORSET



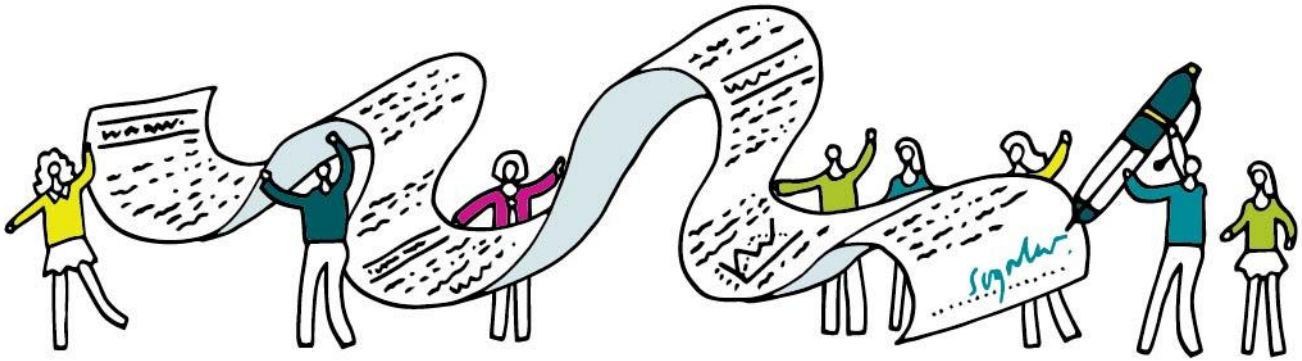
Peer Power events delivered

March 2017	Dorset Renewables Grand Tour
April 2017	Smart Energy Marketplace
June 2017	Powering Dorset Together
28 Sep 2017	Dorset Community Energy Feast
9 Nov 2017	Arts and Energy Event
16 Nov 2017	Entrepreneurial Women in Renewables
28 Nov 2017	Renewable Futures/Green Energy Awards

Establish local peer-to-peer network - Spring 2018

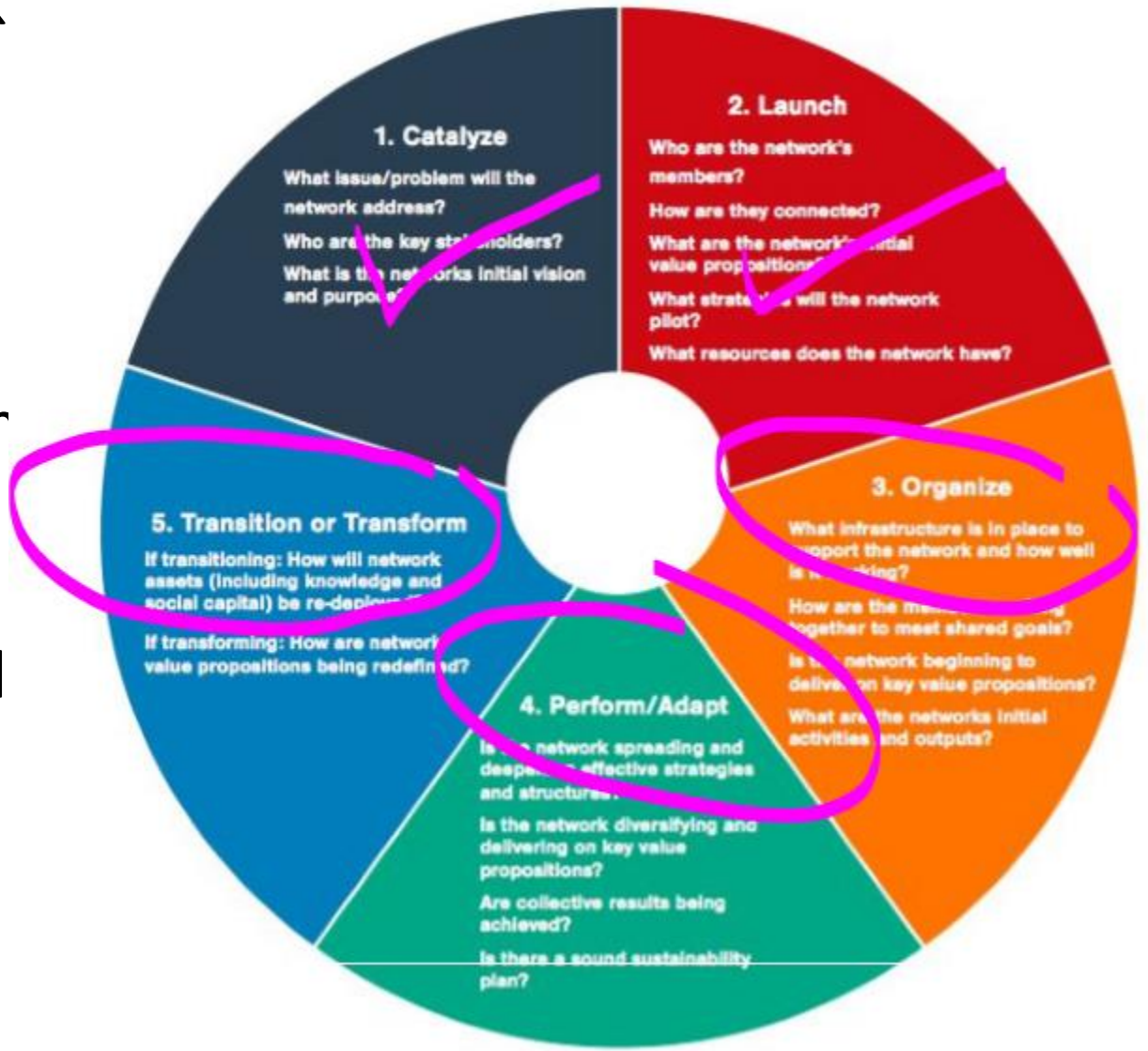
Initially you said …

You wanted to meet quarterly, midweek evenings were best
You wanted an email group and facebook page
You wanted to learn about energy in Neighbourhood Plans



Healthy networks …

- Creates strong link between people
- Encourages diversity
- Ensures there are many paths between any two people / organisations
- Includes more and less active people / organisations



Network roles

Clearly defined roles:

- Make use of skills and time people have
- Allow networks to grow and be self sustaining
- Good for knowledge transfer
- Enable new ideas to emerge

Roles are made up of the activities and tasks people or organisations carry out so that their network can thrive, eg:

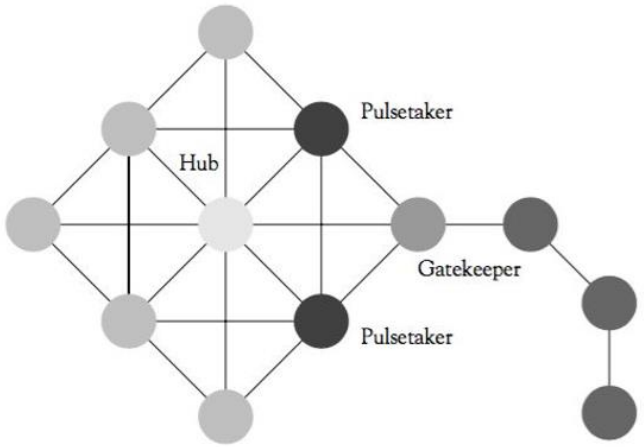
Facilitators

Connectors

Guardians

Funders

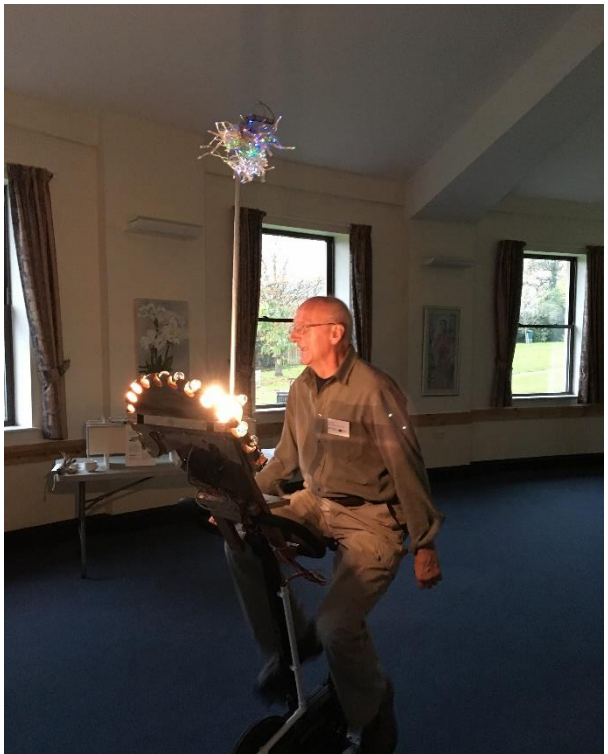
Impact measurers



Power and decision making

- Passing on/revolving roles can help distribute power more evenly
- Hierarchy v piracy – is decision making top down or democratic?
- Decision making – different methods good for different situations

By authority
Minority control
Majority control
Consensus



Events and communication

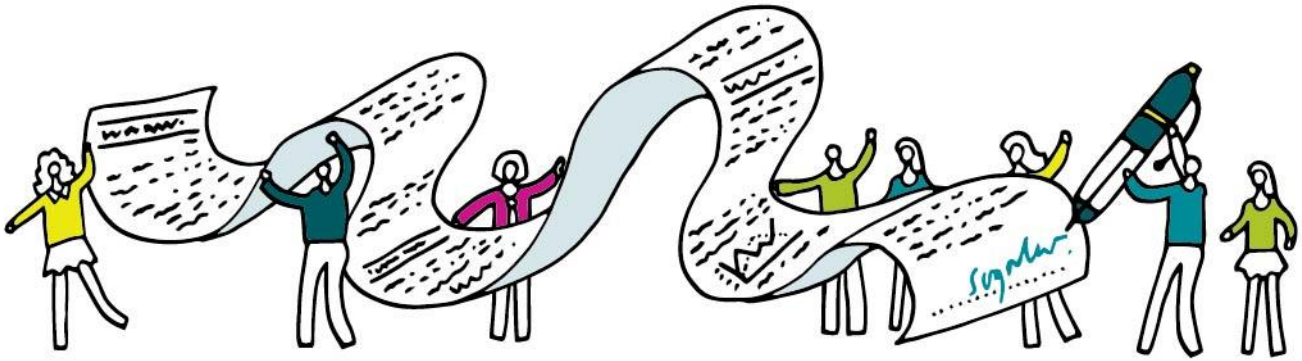
- Online email group – for info sharing/repository
- Public facing - Facebook, messaging, video conference, Sustainable Dorset website?
- Regular events

Evaluation and impact

Nine reasons to evaluate your network:

1. To justify spending resources on network management by determining ROI
2. To identify areas for improvement or gaps and focus efforts and resources
3. To track progress and inform strategy and vision for the future
4. To apply for funding for network activities
5. To link business outcomes with network activities
6. To enable ongoing learning and opportunities for collaboration
7. To recognise and celebrate success and identify strengths
8. To assess network weaving efforts in creating network strength/sustainability
9. To provide an overview of network functioning, spot trends and adapt

So what next?

- Wessex Community Energy Network
- A network for those interested in local energy?
- A facilitator team?

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