****OxFoE and climate action:**

**Towards Affordable and Accessible Retrofit**

***Note from a working group meeting on 31/6/21.*** *This followed the agreement at our last monthly meeting to develop work on retrofit.*

The meeting focused on ‘what can Oxford FoE and linked groups (LCEO also took part) do to accelerate work on retrofitting of existing buildings’.We agreed our aim of helping deliver **‘Affordable and Accessible’** retrofit (and desirable, and simple and not scary). People get excited about renovating their homes – how do we tap into that approach? Our recent report recommends a county-wide retrofit ‘task force’. How would this work? The Government Buildings and Heat strategy is further delayed – we should not wait for this. There are good resource documents to guide us (see below),

**We need a clear and ‘net-zero consistent’ approach to retrofit.** Action needs to happen at every level – national through county to community. We agreed on a set of actions.

1. **We look to bring together partners and stakeholders for a major event / forum** (see below) ideally in late September as a major event in the Great Big Green Week. The aims would be: to be clear on the problems, to set out ways to solve the problems, to start that work, and to develop a focal point for partnership working.
2. **We do the research now** on current national policy and city-level practice to feed into the event and a briefing for councillors and others.
3. **We design and run an online survey** to find out what people know / think about their energy use, what they might do etc. as the basis for a report / call to action. We work with all available networks to get responses.
4. **We talk with all the relevant local organisations** working on this with a view to their engagement in this and to identify the role for advocacy work and associated goals and targets.
5. **We consider talking with people who have done work to their homes** – could we do a video?
6. **We use the gathered information to produce a short report / call to action**
7. **Fuel poverty issues are a part of this work.** We need to build in fairness issues and maybe identify 1 or 2 neighbourhoods to work with.

**The event** would be:

* More than just a webinar – run over a working day or so
* Something on the lines of a ‘hackathon’ (an ‘event of any duration where people come together to solve problems’) including presentations, workshops, discussion and planning sessions.
* Designed around perhaps 3 or 4 questions / problems (e.g. ‘How do we solve……?’)
* The starting point of a local push to develop a retrofit ‘task force’ and for a national Retrofit Delivery Authority (as suggested by the Construction Leadership Council).

We need as a start to:

* Organise our working group – and get some work going on the research side
* Identify all the relevant local people and organisations
* Develop this plan into a document to help us talk with these organisations
* Start building interest and support.

Your help will be important!

**Info Resources**

There is a Word version of the very useful Construction Leadership Council ‘National Retrofit Strategy’ here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UTKagVm78Tk1VEX6sYaFMfcrXCsfAXE9/view?usp=sharing>

More info and pdf here: <https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/press-releases/national-retrofit-strategy-a-consultative-document/>

The Association for Decentralised Energy has a very relevant paper (which focuses more on Local Area Energy Plans): <https://www.theade.co.uk/resources/publications/getting-retrofit-for-net-zero-an-approach-for-existing-homes>

See also:

<https://eciu.net/blog/2021/decarbonising-homes-will-need-more-than-rules-and-bans>

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/homes-workplaces-and-public-buildings/retrofitting/>