



HARBURY ENERGY INITIATIVE



PRESS RELEASE

Could Harbury Village Hall be one of the ‘greenest’ in England?

A grant from Postcode Local Trust could just have made this true.

Thanks to a generous grant to Harbury Village Hall from the People's Postcode Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery, on Friday October 5th commercial solar energy specialists Sure Power installed a 19kW Sola X battery and Blue Green Energy Optimiser system in the hall. Working with local low carbon group Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI) the village hall committee seek to be as green as possible, reducing their carbon footprint and at the same time their running costs. This latest grant allows them to complement existing efficiency measures and become possibly the greenest retrofitted village hall in Warwickshire, if not in England. Energy efficiency was not a matter of concern when the hall was built in the 1960s and considerable effort has been needed to bring it up to 21st Century standards.

The Sola X battery will capture and store surplus energy generated by the 36 photovoltaic (PV) panels on the hall roof. Together with improved insulation, air source heat pump, low energy infra-red heaters and other measures this new installation will make the hall a beacon of sustainability in a rural community. There can be very few village halls so well appointed and so up to date with 'green' technology.

“The decision to add a battery system to make even more efficient use of the already very successful photovoltaic installation at the village hall was a “no-brainer” for the hall committee. A win for both the hall and the environment. Grateful thanks are due to the players of People's Postcode Lottery and to the installers SurePower for their advice and efficiency.” - **Geoff Thorpe, Chair Harbury Village Hall**

Battery technology has been advancing rapidly in recent years largely driven by the need to transition to electric cars. Harbury is already making this transition with its electric car club launched in May 2015 with commercial company E-Car Club. These cars have since the end of 2015 been used to provide free volunteer transport for those in need in the local region under the banner of Harbury e-Wheels.

Batteries installed in homes with PV panels are able to collect energy in the day for use at peak energy demand periods in the evenings. If the sun doesn't shine they can also recharge at a cheaper rate at night when demand is low, saving the homeowner considerable money as time passes. The batteries will also have an increasing role to play nationally in balancing energy demand with more innovations in the energy market to come.

“ We are delighted with the support of the People Postcode Lottery, who have made this and other community projects come to life. It has enabled HEI to continue its mission to bring energy efficiency to the residents of Harbury and their community buildings with this really exciting project. As a result of bringing the topic of battery technology to the village through a talk in February this year we have encouraged a number of home owners to have domestic battery installations of their own.” - **Bob Sherman, Chair Harbury Energy Initiative; Chair Harbury e-Wheels.**

“We are delighted to be working again with Harbury Energy Initiative on this generously funded energy saving project in the wonderfully appointed village hall. Working with forward thinking communities such as Harbury is an important element in our strategy. We feel sure that this installation will serve the village hall well into the future, keeping their costs down and their energy efficiency up” — **Mark Graham, Sales Director Sure Power**

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Harbury Energy Initiative is a village volunteer low carbon group, aiming to cut carbon emissions locally by finding ways for the people and community buildings to save energy and thus save money. www.harburyenergy.co.uk

Postcode Local Trust is a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery. Harbury Village Hall received an award of £15,495 for the project. For details of the trust please see www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk

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