

Supporting paper to Agenda item 20.09.15

Proposal: That Elmswell Parish Council backs the Local Electricity Bill by seeking the agreement of Jo Churchill MP to support Parliamentary colleagues sponsoring the Bill and confirms this with the campaign organisers, Power for People.

This initiative is driven by the organisation, 'Power for People' who have forwarded the following text:

I write to update you on the campaign for the Local Electricity Bill. On 10th June it was successfully reintroduced into Parliament following a rousing ten minute speech to the House of Commons by the Bill's lead sponsor, Peter Aldous MP. The Bill's reintroduction was unopposed and so there was no vote – an ideal result for the campaign

The impact of Covid-19 means that building local economic strength and resilience is critical. The Bill, if made law, would greatly help with this by empowering local energy suppliers and thus ensuring more of the money we all pay for our electricity circulates in the local economy: investment, local skilled jobs, fuel poverty relief and much more. At the same time, it would create the urgently needed decarbonisation of our energy system by unlocking the huge potential for more community-scale renewable energy generation.

The Bill is co-sponsored by a cross-party group of MPs including Rosie Duffield MP (Labour), Wera Hobhouse MP (Liberal Democrat), Caroline Lucas MP (Green), John McNally MP (SNP Environment Spokesperson), Dame Diana Johnson (Labour), Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru), Sir Barry Sheerman MP (Labour and Co-operative Party), Sir Graham Brady MP (Conservative), David Johnston (Conservative), John Penrose MP (Conservative) and Selaine Saxby (Conservative).

So far, 187 MPs, 264 Parish, Town and Community Councils and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have pledged to support the Bill. It would be great if your Council joined them as this will encourage more Parliamentary and, ultimately, government support.

Peter Dow

16.09.2020