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WRCC seeks to ensure Warwickshire communities are thriving, vibrant and sustainable - places where people want to live and work.

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WRCC NEWS UPDATE

February 2016

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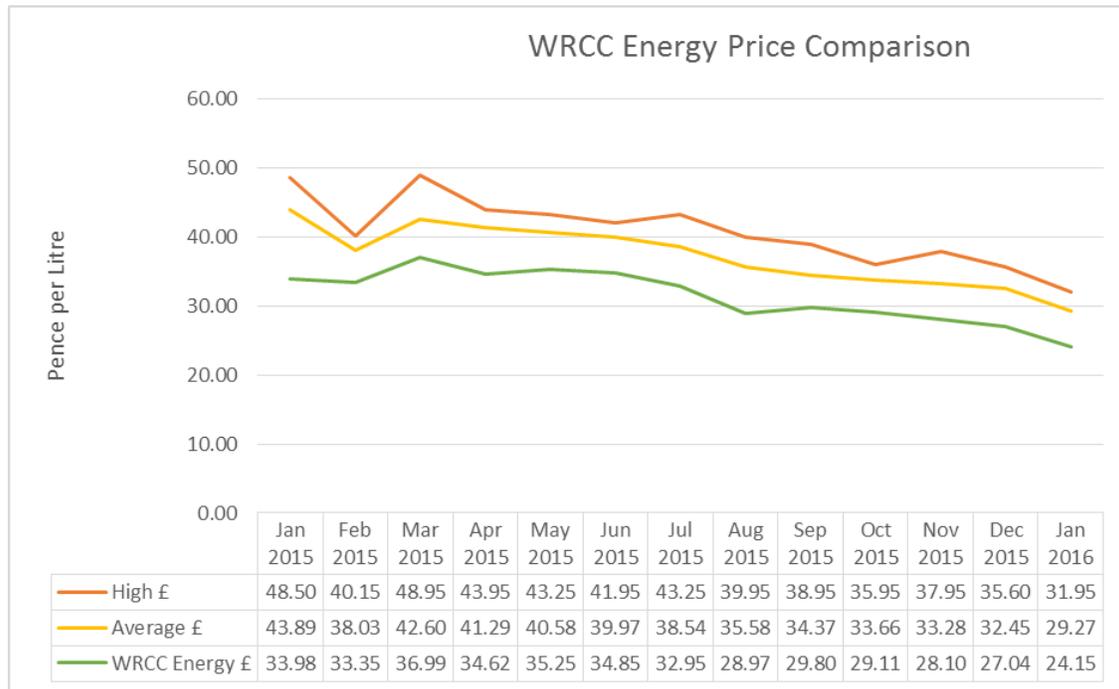


WRCC Energy - A look back at 2015

2015 really was a remarkable year for oil prices and this looks set to continue for 2016. Record oil prices have been hitting the headlines again this week after the price of oil has dropped below \$30 a barrel, the lowest since 2003 and

trend shows no sign of slowing.

In January 2016 WRCC Energy recorded the average cost of £146, less than half the price of 3 years earlier. This is fantastic news for oil buyers but even better news for WRCC Energy members as, despite the record low prices, our member prices have remained consistently 5ppl cheaper than the market average price. The chart below shows the prices we achieved over the last 12 months compared to the market average and market high prices.



At WRCC Energy we still regularly hear from members of the public who are not being treated fairly by suppliers. One elderly lady who lives in a rurally isolated part of Warwickshire telephoned to enquire about becoming a member. She thought she was getting a good deal from her existing supplier. Unfortunately her loyalty to the supplier was not being rewarded and in October 2015 she had actually paid over 20p per litre more than our members paid in the same month. Needless to say, she is now a WRCC Energy member and benefiting from the brilliant savings we make using our group buying power.



Managing your Community Building

Saturday 5 March 2016

9:30am to 1pm

Binley Woods Village Hall

Rugby Road, Binley Woods CV3 2AX

This event provides an opportunity for anyone involved in their local community building or village hall to come together, exchange thoughts and ideas and find out something new.

Presentations 10am to 1pm

- **Developing a funding strategy** Andrea Clark, WCAVA
How to make the most of funding opportunities and other resources.
- **Community Landfill Funding** Joe Newby, WREN
An overview and update on the current opportunities for funding in your area
- **Village SOS, strengthening your village resources** Chris Cowcher, ACRE
Linking like-minded people who already do what your community wants to do
- **Developing a community hub** Lizzie Price, WCC Communities
Developing a village community hub (engagement, capacity building, resources, training, funding, volunteers)
- **Insurance for halls**, Babbar Abbas, Aon UK Limited
Insurance products fit for community buildings
- **The Rural Crime Project**, Carol Cotterill, The Rural Crime Project
Buildings security and how the project is supporting Warwickshire communities
- **Audio visual equipment**, Brian Click, EES Audio Visual
Supply and installation specially for halls like yours
- **Solar energy**, Richard Williams, Aztec Solar Energy
Find out if solar power is right for your hall

To book a place at one of the presentations [visit our website.](#)



WRCC Housing

Two consultation events have taken place recently, one in Broom in December, and the other in Great Alne in January. Both events were well attended and once proposals have taken public comments into consideration the relevant Parish Council will be updated.



Two planning applications for rural affordable homes are currently with Stratford District Council's Planning Department for consideration – Wootton Wawen and Long Compton. Both of these proposals have come about through local people having an input, starting with a housing needs survey, and will provide much needed accommodation in each village.

Further details about how your community can influence and benefit from rural affordable housing can be [found on our website](#).

WRCC Community Cars

A Big Thank You for all the time and effort WRCC Community

Cars volunteers have given over the last 12 months.

Last year they helped to deliver over 7100 passenger journeys (up 41% on the year before) to a wide variety of different destinations that most of our customers would have struggled to attend.



Their care and attention helped reduce a lot of the stress and worry from what, for many, would have been a very stressful time for our customers.

Some of the schedules we gave the drivers last year were challenging, however the feedback from the customers was always very complimentary so well done to everyone involved.

If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a volunteer (car driver or office volunteer), please call Gareth Jones on 01789 472616 for more information.

WRCC Back & 4th

Community Transport has been kept busy during the last year delivering 942 journeys for 104 different voluntary and community groups. In addition to this our two weekly Shoppa-Hoppa services have taken 314 people to do their grocery shopping.



These journeys are all undertaken by our 22 dedicated volunteer drivers who have travelled to destinations across a wide area including Weston-super-Mare, Tilbury, South Wales and Blackpool. Groups have been to theatres, museums, stately homes and garden centres as well as regular school

swimming lessons, older people's lunch clubs and church services.

Each morning our team of drivers and passenger assistants take 70 children and adults to their schools and day care facilities using our accessible vehicles and they are returned home at the end of the day. Two of our vehicles travel round Stratford District five days a week providing a dial-a-ride service called UBUS for local residents.

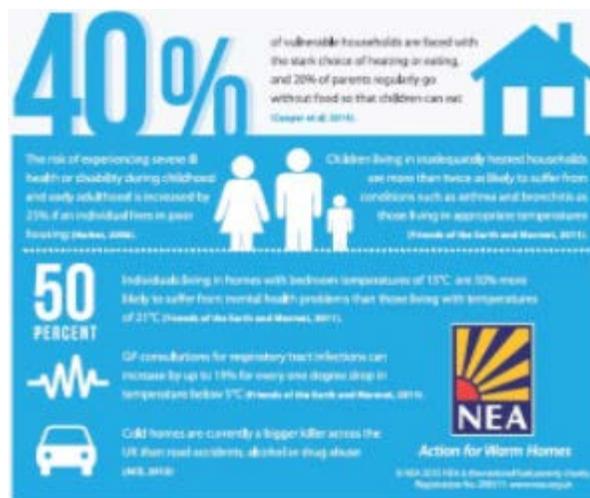
We now have ten minibuses and in total over a twelve month period our vehicles have travelled 133,784 miles and used 5,934 gallons of diesel.

For more information about any of services or to find out how to become part of our volunteer team please call the office on 01789 471595.

“Cold homes are a bigger killer across the UK than road accidents, alcohol or drug abuse”

(ACE 2015)

Shocking, isn't it? There are a hundred different ways that society aims to reduce road traffic accidents or prevent substance abuse, but if you can't afford to heat your own home, there often seems little support available.



Consumers are told to switch energy suppliers to save money, but this is confusing for many and we've all heard examples where loyalty to a supplier is only rewarded with dramatically higher prices!

Living in a cold home can lead to a whole host of health problems and yet a significant proportion of vulnerable households are having to make choices between eating and heating.

Homes in rural communities are often very expensive to keep sufficiently

warm: a larger proportion of properties are not connected to the mains gas network and a higher percentage are of solid wall construction and therefore harder to insulate properly. Despite this, it's not always easy to pinpoint the people who are struggling.

WRCC Supports the [NEA Warm Homes Campaign](#) and hopes that Fuel Poverty Awareness Day on 26th February will improve the understanding of the issues.

Now that the weather has turned cold, if you suspect that someone might be struggling to heat their home, PLEASE don't ignore it. Ask them about their heating, offer to help them switch or put them in touch with agencies that can help.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ROADSHOW SOUTH MIDLANDS

An event for Town & Parish Councils in
Oxfordshire, Warwickshire & Northamptonshire

Do **you** want to influence housing &
business development in your town,
village or community?

A **Neighbourhood Plan** creates an opportunity for
communities to influence how their locality
changes in the future.

Register to attend:

Contact Sue Hunt:

sue.hunt@communityfirstoxon.org
or 01865 883488

Or

Register on EventBrite

<http://bit.ly/CFO-NP>

CHESTERTON
COMMUNITY CENTRE
(NEAR BICESTER)

10 am - 2.30 pm

Wednesday 16th March

Entry: £5 (including lunch)

Find out more on the CFO website:
<http://bit.ly/NPR-16>

Organised by:
communityfirst
oxfordshire

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