

# WIND POWER OPPORTUNITY

Bigbury, Ringmore, Kingston,  
Aveton Gifford and Churchstow





Understand it  
Embrace it



Up to 500 homes  
in **Bigbury,**  
**Ringmore,**  
**Kingston,**  
**Aveton Gifford**  
and **Churchstow**  
could benefit  
from Fan Club  
**discounts of 20**  
**- 50%** on energy  
bills.

## Proposed OCTOPUS ENERGY Rolliers Fan Club wind turbine in Bigbury

Within the next two years, subject to planning permission, Octopus Energy proposes to install a 1 MW wind turbine in Rolliers Field in the parish of Bigbury. The proposed turbine would be the focal point of an Octopus Fan Club.

The energy demand from Octopus Fan Club members in **Aveton Gifford, Ringmore, Bigbury, Kingston and Churchstow** would get priority at a significant **Octopus discount rate** before users outside our local grid could tap into the power produced. We hope that 500 local homes in the Fan Club would then be more able to transition away from oil fired systems, gas and coal because of the Fan Club discounts for members.

To maximise the financial benefits we would need to shift our use of energy to periods when the wind is blowing. The whole nation needs to do this if we are to halt the climate change that is happening now. Our Fan Club discounts makes this easier for us to do what is needed.

Octopus will also help Fan Club members with energy surveys to identify opportunities for grant aided installation of Octopus air source heat pumps and solar panels- which together make our homes climate resilient.

We now have a choice. Back it or Lose it.

The potential benefits to our communities are significant.

- If we **have the choice** to use both solar and wind-generated renewable energy, our community would be **less vulnerable** to future price shocks from oil/gas prices and shortages that are beyond our control.
- Members of the **Rolliers Fan Club** would benefit from **discounts of 20 - 50%** on energy bills, depending on the prevailing wind speeds when we use the energy. This would reduce the impact of the cost of living crisis and help families to move away from oil-fired heating systems. This reduces our carbon footprint.
- Octopus helps customers move towards **100% renewable energy** by adding **solar panels and air-source heat pumps** to their local wind energy supplies and accessing government **grants**.

### Innovative model

**Fan Clubs** are an Octopus model which encourages the local community to change their pattern of energy use to coincide with periods when it is being produced (i.e. by a

wind turbine). The National Grid infrastructure still needs massive investment to make it possible to meet Government targets to decarbonise electricity nationally by 2030. Our government is addressing this problem. However, Rolliers Fan Club would be a single 1MW turbine embedded in our **local grid** and would not need investment in additional infrastructure to make it happen.

Octopus describes Fan Clubs as '**community energy projects**'. because they are supported by local communities - members of the Fan Club. Our normal understanding of what a 'community energy project' involves is usually that the 'community' would have to raise ALL the funding to buy the turbine, engage with the National Grid to get a connection offer, undertake all the studies needed for the planning application, handle the public consultations, figure out the financials and how to sell the energy and bill customers. This is being undertaken by other community energy organisations in Devon. However, we may not have the local appetite to take on such an administrative challenge in Bigbury, Ringmore, Kingston, Aveton Gifford and Chrchstow. **Fan Clubs** are another way of benefiting from local renewable energy projects in a very short time-scale.

## Positives

The proposed Rolliers Fan Club turbine already has a **confirmed connection offer from National Grid Energy Distribution** (to the local grid) – subject to planning permission from SHDC. **No additional pylons** will be required to move the wind power to our homes. Rolliers Fan Club can go ahead as soon Octopus gets planning permission from SHDC.

The proposed field site allows the turbine to be **sensitively sited** so that it does not dominate the landscape in spite of its size because of: the high hedges along the narrow approach roads to Bigbury, the very few homes within line of sight and the lack of viewpoints of the site from public footpaths or other roads in the far distance.

The site is very 'windy' and will therefore be a reliable source of energy - worth the investment.

## How do you benefit?

Register an interest in the **Rolliers Fan Club** <https://octopus.energy/Rolliers-Development-Project/>  
You will be contacted once planning permission has been obtained. Membership is free but you have to be an Octopus customer. Octopus would facilitate any necessary transfer of energy accounts.

## What next?

There is a public consultation at the **Bigbury Memorial Hall in St Ann's Chapel on Tues 8th Oct** 10.00am to 7.00pm. Experts will also explain what additional offers are available from Octopus for installation of heat pumps, solar panels, grants and credit terms etc.

## Local Support

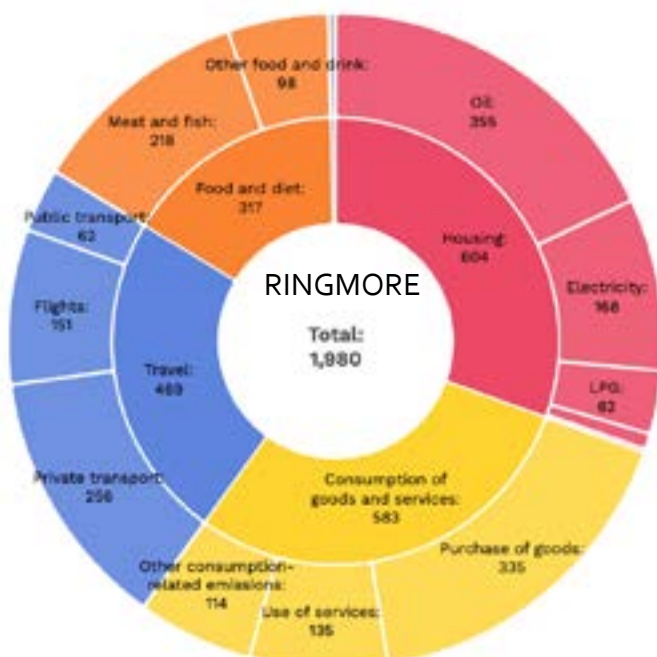
Many local people already buy their energy from Octopus and there are positive vibes here about the turbine. It is possible that planning application will go before the SHDC Development Management Committee in the spring of 2025. The more local support that can be voiced for this project - the more assurance we can offer that there is a demand for sensitively-sited onshore wind projects of an appropriate scale that prioritises local communities needs.

Louise Wainwright  
Chair Bigbury Net Zero  
[info@bigburynetzero.org](mailto:info@bigburynetzero.org)  
[www.bigburynetzero.org](http://www.bigburynetzero.org)

## Our parishes could move away from oil - with a Fan Club

These are our parish carbon footprints which show how reliant we are on fossil fuels (oil, mains gas, LPG, coal) which are causing our climate to change. The figures are the total tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions from each parish. Download the full reports for a full explanation.

The charts below show the reliance on fossil fuels - OIL, MAINS GAS, COAL and LPG



For more information download the full carbon footprint report for your parish here..

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/search>





"I hope people will come to the consultation and see the sensitive site plans which mean the turbine is NOT visible 'for miles around' We need every parish and council to switch to greener energy".

**Farhana Yamin**  
 Bigbury resident  
 Bigbury Net Zero Committee  
 Director & Coordinator  
 Climate Justice - Just Transition  
 Collaborative  
 Senior Adviser, SYSTEMIQ  
 Director, Impatience Ltd  
 Creative Director, Culture COP  
 Hon Fellow, Somerville College,  
 Oxford  
 Visiting Professor, University of  
 the Arts, London



"Seadream's activities reduce eco-anxiety, promote energy efficiency, celebrate our stunning coastline and biodiversity and promote renewable energy. We inform how eco and energy ambition builds community resilience, and this local wind turbine is a hugely exciting leap for our community"

**Dr Juliette Jackson**  
 Seadream Education CIC  
[www.seadreameducation.com/](http://www.seadreameducation.com/)

"A wind turbine, properly planned and located and benefiting the community is a great idea good luck. "

**Peter Brown**  
 Resident and renewable energy  
 champion Noss Mayo & Newton  
 Ferrers



“Wild About Loddiswell’s watch words are “Wildlife-Conservation-Sustainability-Community” and our main aim is to work with the community to enhance the biodiversity of the green spaces in and around Loddiswell. One of our other aims is to “provide information and encourage residents to live more sustainably”.

Climate and biodiversity are very much intertwined and if we all do not urgently address the current climate emergency, the biodiversity of the entire planet will suffer irreversibly. This is why Wild About Loddiswell supports the proposed Rolliers Fan Club that will generate renewable energy efficiently for the small communities in the locality of the wind turbine.

We understand that ecological surveys are being conducted and mitigation measures will be taken to protect bats and other wildlife as required.

**Liz Montague**  
Resident Loddiswell  
Chair, Wild About Loddiswell  
[www.wildaboutloddiswell.co.uk](http://www.wildaboutloddiswell.co.uk)



Totnes Renewable Energy Society (TRESOC) support the new onshore wind turbine development at Bigbury, linked to an Octopus Energy Fan Club.

TRESOC believe that more onshore wind should be developed in the South Hams and welcome any model that encourages this. The development of local wind resources is a way for communities to become more energy dependant and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. Ideally, these wind resources would be 100% community owned, however, few communities have the financial resources, skills and risk appetite needed to develop a turbine. To make small projects economically viable they need to be linked to some type of local supply model such as an Energy Local Club, which we are developing in Totnes, or an Octopus Energy Fan Club.

More clean and green renewable energy on the system in this area can only be a good thing and we hope the project is successfully developed.

Good luck with it all.

**Dr Sally Murrall-Smith PhD**  
Totnes Renewable Energy Society  
Managing Director  
[www.tresoc.co.uk](http://www.tresoc.co.uk)



“How exciting to see this innovation allowing direct community participation in the financial benefits of clean energy!

**Nigel Topping**  
Resident Totnes  
UN High Level Climate Action Champion, COP26



“Kingsbridge Climate Action is a community focussed group tackling the Climate and Nature Emergency in positive and engaging ways, identifying deliverable solutions, organising change-promoting events, supporting the District and Town Council and working with neighbouring parish groups and others, on Climate (and Nature) addressing actions in and around Kingsbridge.

We see the Rolliers Fan Club as an excellent way to increase local generation and availability of renewable energy with direct local benefits.

**Paul Vann**  
Resident Loddiswell  
Chair Kingsbridge Climate Action  
[www.kingsbridgeclimateaction](http://www.kingsbridgeclimateaction)

## Time to redefine our priorities?

South Hams District Council will debate HM Government proposed amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework. Our government wants to “accelerate and streamline deployment of onshore wind” to reach zero carbon electricity by 2030. The decisions of SHDC will send a clear message to community groups working hard to respond to the climate emergency.

Extract from:

### HM Government Consultation on National Planning Policy Framework (Aug 24)



“We are proposing amendments to direct decision makers to give **significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable** and low carbon energy generation, and proposals’ contribution to meeting a net zero future.

In doing so, this aims to **increase the likelihood of local planning authorities granting permission to renewable energy schemes** and contribute to reaching zero carbon electricity generation by 2030.

Further amendments seek to set a stronger expectation that authorities **pro-actively identify sites for renewable and low carbon development** when producing plans, where it is likely that in allocating a site, it would help secure development.

“We are proposing to set the threshold at which onshore wind projects are determined as Nationally Significant at 100MW; potentially allowing projects that fall beneath these thresholds to move through the **local planning system**, given they are less complex and geographically spread out, they could result in **faster consenting, and at lower cost.**”



## Can we make a plan that works?

SHDC declared a Climate & Biodiversity Emergency and has set targets to reduce carbon emissions by 12% per annum. Parish and Town Councils in TQ7 have also declared a Climate Emergency.

Without the unambiguous support of SHDC for sensitively sited, community-based projects such as the Rolliers Fan Club - we have very few opportunities to make any meaningful impact on our district and parish carbon footprints. The full support of SHDC for this planning application is essential.

## Extract from: **South Devon AONB Position Statement on Renewable Energy 2011**

We all value the beauty of the landscape that we live in. However, there is nothing at all 'beautiful' about climate change. Our generation owes it to the next generations to be pragmatic, be intelligent and support investment in renewable energy in our rural parishes. The Rolliers Fan Club is sensitively sited, not 'industrial' in scale, provides very significant financial benefits to the local community, has no extra transmission infrastructure associated with it and reduces our district carbon footprint. We have a unique opportunity to make a choice. Let's choose wisely.

The AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 includes policy Plan/P6:

"The development of sensitively sited, small scale or innovative renewable energy installations will be supported, having regard to their appropriateness in an AONB location, sites designated for their nature conservation importance and the AONB Partnership's position statement on renewable energy."

The AONB Partnership Committee recognises that some renewable energy developments can bring valuable benefits to the economy, communities, employment and land management of the area".

"The AONB Partnership Committee **advocates:**

- the development of small sensitively sited renewable energy installations where the impacts are **local in scale**, provide a demonstrable **net environmental gain** and where the **energy is used close to the site of the generating** installations. These will operate at an individual farm, household or **community scale**, have **minimal** transport or **transmission impacts** and be **unobtrusive** in the landscape;
- the development of community-owned renewable energy schemes;
- that particular attention is paid to the cumulative impact of schemes to avoid obtrusive impacts associated with small scale but widespread development;"

"In respect of **large scale energy production**, the AONB Partnership Committee considers:

- that renewable energy installations operating at an **industrial scale**, and which will have an intrusive impact on undeveloped and tranquil landscape by virtue of their size, transmission infrastructure, traffic generation, noise or other characteristic, are likely to be incompatible with the purposes of AONB designation;
- that such developments should follow a sequential test by being located outside the AONB and that a choice of site within the AONB should be rigorously justified;
- that particular care should be taken in maintaining the setting and skylines of the AONB and the views into and out of the AONB, including proposals located outside the AONB boundary but which impact on the AONB itself;
- that any planning permissions for renewable energy developments should include a requirement that infrastructure and plant should be decommissioned and removed from site when energy generation ceases".

### **Disclaimer**

Bigbury Net Zero has presented information herein to the best of its knowledge and accepts no liability for any inaccuracies. Readers are invited to view the Octopus website for accurate updates and attend the public consultation on **8th October in St Ann's Chapel.**  
<https://octopus.energy/Rolliers-Development-Project/>