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10 December 2020

Dear All,

You may remember that in a recent letter I mentioned the Somerset County Council Climate Emergency Fund which will help local parish councils start to implement measures that fulfill the ambitions of ‘A Climate Resilient Somerset’. (<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/>).

This £1 million fund will support local parish councils’ green initiatives. Individual bids are welcomed for between £5,000 and £75,000 and must be in by January 13th. The funding is bound to be oversubscribed, so competitive, but ‘nothing ventured nothing gained’. At our December meeting Westbury PC discussed what we might bid for. Top ideas are solar panels for the village hall and community shop. We would also propose a storage battery for the hall which would allow us to use all the solar power produced, rather than feed it into the grid. Two further suggestions from the community have been a poly tunnel for our new tree group’s tree nursery at Court House Farm and provision of compost bins and training in compost making for every villager interested in gardening more organically.

 I have been advised that we can submit a portmanteau bid as all together our wish list comes in at under £75,000. There’s a fair bit of work to get a decent application together, but there is still time for more suggestions from the community. And anyone who has bid writing skills would be a welcome addition to our team.

Let me have your thoughts and ideas.

Keep strong and keep safe.

 Sue Isherwood, Chair Westbury-sub-Mendip Parish Council sueisherwood9@gmail.com 01749 870457