



Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The drilling of our first bore hole was a success! This is an important step in our exploration of a ground source heat network for the village. The team from Ground Source Solutions drilled down to 198 meters. Ground Source Solution MD, Lee Hormwell commented:

*“The mudstone and water, although hard to drill, is absolutely excellent as a heat source. The ground heat is being constantly and naturally replenished by the water movement through the geology”.*

Following the drill, the borehole was left to settle and TownRock Energy- another part of the consultant team- were able to run a Thermal Response Test. TownRock is currently analysing the data collected. This data determines the thermal properties of the ground. Our lead consultants Scene will use this to create a model for Upper Heyford’s potential district heating scheme. The results will determine how many boreholes will be needed to heat the village. This will allow Scene to create a costing for the project and to set out a realistic heating tariff.



*Drilling contractor, Ground Source Solution Ltd setting up the site.*



*The drilling rig and shaker in position.*



*Town Rock Geothermal Engineer, Emmet Strachan, collecting data from the bore hole.*



*The geothermal probe consisting of two pipes with a U-bend at the bottom inserted into the hole.*

Because of the geology (sand, clay), the drillers were struggling with waterflush. This is where water is pushed down for drilling and lost to the surrounding subsurface or bedrock. Typically, water would be brought back up and reused. A new approach was required, where compressed air was used in place of water to progress the drill.

HUH will be continuing our meetings with Scene to discuss potential Governance structures, potential funding options and engaging with Oxfordshire County Council about the role they might play in the project.

- Thank you to our neighbours who attended our first focus group in January. Your engagement, questions and queries were immensely appreciated! We
- There will be a Village Zoom later in the Spring (date tbc) hosted by Scene to update us on the data retrieved and what this means for our district heating scheme.
- We are planning to hold a village hall meeting/workshop, with Scene in attendance. The date is yet tbc but we are hoping to hold this in Summer. This meeting will provide us with more information about the costs, tariffs and Governance options.

**Video:** Morning Live on BBC had a segment on Swaffham Prior's heat network. A must watch to see how their community heating scheme works in their village.



**Play Video** \_\_\_\_\_

We hope you will continue to support this project and, as ever, don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

Thank you. Charlie, Chris, Kelly, Andy & Derek.