

## Truespeed

In many areas of the Parish broadband speeds are notoriously slow. Some have taken the opportunity to increase their speeds on their own initiative (at a price). There is a company, 'Truespeed', which along with two other companies, 'Airband' and 'Wessex Internet', have been selected to roll-out full fibre broadband networks on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme, backed by Government funding. It is not clear when CDS will be covering West Hatch, the timescale for Somerset is currently 'by 2024' but no firm dates exist and there is no great confidence that West Hatch will be included.

Truespeed are offering a variety of packages for communities where a sufficient number of residents have registered their interest to make it viable for them to install a fibre network in the area more rapidly.

If you have poor broadband speeds and are interested in upgrading you may wish to investigate the Truespeed offer and register an interest

at <https://www.truespeed.com/> . If sufficient residents register we may be able to work towards having a fibre network installed in the near future. Could you let us know at [keith.read44@gmail.com](mailto:keith.read44@gmail.com) if you have registered.

## Climate Emergency Community Fund

The Parish Council has received bids for funding from the Somerset County Council 'Climate Emergency Community Fund'. The bids are briefly outlined below. Any comments from parishioners either in support or against the proposals would be very welcome - further details are available from the Chairman, Keith Read at [keith.read44@gmail.com](mailto:keith.read44@gmail.com). Time is short and an early response would be helpful.

## West Hatch Village Hall Solar panels

The Village Hall Committee is looking for a Grant of £5700 to cover installation of 14 solar panels with storage batteries (on the basis that a lot of usage will come from evening use). Anticipated energy cost savings will be £342 pa with additional estimated export payments (for exporting to the grid) of £115 pa on the panels estimated production of 4,123 kWh pa.

## RSPCA

The RSPCA West Hatch is looking for a grant of £21,000 in order to act as a community hub which will host opportunities for members of the local community to develop the knowledge and skills required so that they can implement climate mitigation strategies on their own land and/or elsewhere within the Parish. The project proposes to host talks and practical workshops which broaden people's understanding of the impact of Climate change for the Parish whilst also ensuring they develop the practical skills needed to make a tangible difference. Training sessions will be delivered by suitably experienced/qualified individuals allowing for the opportunity to work in partnership with local tradespeople and other charities/organisations. Additionally the project will provide opportunities for implementation of the communities' new skills and knowledge through hedge-laying, tree planting and wildflower meadow development on site at RSPCA West Hatch and beyond. This will be achieved through the implementation of an events calendar which incorporates planning, training, implementation and ongoing habitat

maintenance. Activities will be adapted to suit the demographics, interests and priorities of the local community by providing a range of practical activities that ensure there is something accessible for everyone.

A minimum number of 25% of the Parish (approx. 30 households) would need to sign up in the first instance in order to make the project viable.