



# THE PUMP HOUSE KNOWLEDGE HUB

BUILDINGS • SUSTAINABILITY • ENGINEERING

## **Sustainability and the built environment – workshop series – summary of outcomes**

This was a series of seven workshops held over four days across the month of March at the Pump House Knowledge Hub. The Knowledge Hub is a collaboration between a Shrewsbury company EVORA EDGE and the University of Chester (University Centre Shrewsbury).

The workshops featured high quality speakers from both Shropshire and from across the UK sharing expertise and case studies. Facilitated discussions focused on practical actions to overcome the huge challenges of decarbonising existing buildings. Networking opportunities and discussions helped attendees to identify and capitalise on the potential business opportunities arising from the decarbonisation agenda. This included the formation of a 'green supplier list' from interested delegates for buyers to access.

### **Workshops**

We carried out extensive market research over the course of January to understand the challenges facing Shropshire when it comes to decarbonising buildings. This evidence helped inform the design of the workshops and choice of topics and speakers.

### **Seven workshops were created and delivered in a hybrid format.**

- 8 March
  - Sustainable retrofit – meet the buyer (AM)
  - Sustainable retrofit – win the contract (PM)
- 18 March
  - Net-zero carbon strategies for property and estate managers (AM)
- 23 March
  - Securing affordable warmth: heat networks as a solution (AM)
  - Securing affordable warmth: the business opportunities from heat networks (PM)
- 31 March
  - Sustainable retrofit in practice (AM)
  - Sustainable retrofit from the inside out (alternative materials and local skills training) (PM)

### **Outcomes**

125 tickets sold in total. Slightly more attending in-person than online

- 66 in-person tickets
- 59 online tickets

NB Live stream viewing figures were higher than number of online tickets sold (more than double for some events) indicating the link was being shared or people were using multiple devices.

### **Number of companies and organisations benefitting**

Below is the total list of companies and organisations who attended and/or spoke at the workshops. Many attended more than one workshop and non-attendance was low (less than 10%). In addition, suppliers for the event were sourced locally wherever possible including Yarrington, Jenny's Catering, Shropshire Printing and NOW signs.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Companies</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Speaker organisations</b>
1	Alumasc Roofing Systems	Construction Industry Training Board	Shropshire Council
2	Asset Surfacing	Connexus	Wrekin Housing Group
3	Balfour Beatty	Marches Energy Agency	Connexus
4	Cornovii Developments	Shropshire Council	Marches Energy Agency
5	CQS Solutions Ltd	Wrekin Housing Group	University Centre Shrewsbury
6	Faithful + Gould	Derwen College	Balfour Beatty
7	GeoSmart Information Limited	Folkestone and Hythe District Council	EVORA EDGE
8	Hankinson	Wrexham Glyndwr University	Amber Infrastructure Group
9	Metrorod Mid Wales and Shropshire	Cork University Hospital	Carbon Descent
10	Property Services Group	Sustainability West Midlands	Phil Jones??
11	R1 Construction	Cork College of Commerce	Net Zero Midlands Hub
12	SAVESTA CONSTRUCTION LTD.	Zero Carbon Shropshire	Telford & Wrekin Council
13	Seaton Beach Developments Ltd		Shrewsbury Colleges Group
14	SWG Construction		University of Birmingham
15	SWG Construction (Build & renovate) Ltd		Lime Green
16	Whitesales LTD		
17	Wrekin Drain Services Ltd		
18	Cox Mahon Ltd		
19	EVORA EDGE		
20	Fgb studio		
21	MEES SOLUTIONS LTD		
22	PS Partnerships & Consultancy Ltd		
23	Window Insulation Limited		
24	Plutinus		
25	J3 Building Futures		
26	Mid Wales Property		
27	Teach A Trade Limited		

## Feedback

Via anonymous feedback form

- Great to hear about the market size and opportunity. Procurement is key. Innovation required to make it a success
- Scale of the challenge and the opportunity it provides for contractors
- Valuable networking contacts. Need for forward planning for procurement and greater discussion of contract forms.

Via LinkedIn

- *"Really interesting event...some great presentations. Lots to think about."* Suzanne Johnston, PS Consultancy
- *"Very informative morning – thank you to presenters and organisers"* Daniel Thompson, Window Insulation
- *"Most enjoyable sessions - Very informative and reassuring to see such a positive approach to Retrofit in the area. Looking forward to more of the same."* Jason Morrissey, SWG
- *"I also very much enjoyed the session. Very useful to get insight from the buyers themselves and the hurdles that are faced, both through competence in industry and procurement."* Richard James, Faith & Gould

## Other outcomes

- Market research indicated 'buyers' had poor knowledge of local suppliers and contractors when going out to tender for retrofit contracts. A 'green supplier list' was developed as part of the first retrofit workshop and is now being refined and shared among all attendees, local buyers and training organisations. We will discuss with the council how this can be built on for the longer term as a resource.
- Slides requested to be shared with the Marches Growth Hub.
- Connexus housing committed to hosting similar sessions with local contractors to improve communication during the procurement process
- Collaborations between businesses and organisations on areas such as green finance, heat networks, training and retrofit have all begun as part of the networking elements of each day. (Evidence can be supplied if required)
- Project manager of the workshops, Vicki Ayton, asked to speak at an event on local procurement processes as a result of some of the discussions held at the workshops. The hope is that a pilot to trial different methods of procurement might be set up in the area.
- Event summaries circulated among all attendees and on social media.
- The insights from both the events and the market research provide valuable evidence for better decision making in the local area. Scoping work has begun on using this as the basis of an additional workshop event on 'leadership in sustainability in Shropshire'. This would be focused on facilitated action learning to help unlock barriers to decarbonisation locally. There was also interest expressed in a dedicated event on green finance. Shropshire council has asked the Knowledge Hub to help deliver workshops to schools on decarbonising their estates.
- Slides and high-quality videos can also be used as resources able to be circulated locally and further afield.