

March 2020

Dear Chris

On 2nd March Braunston Parish Council passed a resolution in support of the Local Electricity Bill. The original Bill fell when the previous parliament was dissolved. We are aware that it will be reintroduced into the current parliament, possibly as early as this month, and that it is hoped that your colleague, Peter Aldous, will do this supported by a cross-party group of MPs.

Our support for the Bill is based on the potential benefits it could bring to local economies and industries. In relation to onshore wind and solar PV, in October 2019, the International Energy Agency reported 'These technologies are winning the race as the cheapest sources of new generation with two-thirds of the global population living in countries where PV or wind are cheaper than coal and gas power plants.'

Daventry District has many large warehouse buildings where businesses could benefit from adding solar PV and wind turbines. Whilst Braunston Parish Council does not have significant opportunities to generate power, we feel that by supporting the Local Electricity Bill, we are helping to unlock the potential for this economic benefit in the district and more widely in the country. If made law, the Bill would enable electricity generators to become local suppliers and set local costs of electricity. It would also require Ofgem to ensure that the cost of a local supply licence and any related costs are proportionate to the size of a generator's business and the regulations that a generator must adhere to are as simple and straightforward as possible

The government has recognised the need to lift the block on onshore wind farms to enable their contribution to the large increase in renewable energy required to meet the climate emergency targets agreed for 2030 and 2050, in particular to replace the fossil fuels used in road transport and home heating. Local generation of electricity as proposed in the Bill would contribute to achieving the targets.

We urge you to support the Local Electricity Bill when it is brought to parliament.