

# Tackley Green Streets 2010

## Newsletter number 4: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010

### Progress on tariffs and switching to British Gas

The experience of those people who have already switched has been positive on the whole. For some households switching should result in a 10% saving on their electricity costs.

For all those of you who haven't yet made the switch to British Gas here is what to do

1. Use an energy comparison site to work out your best option. [www.uswitch.com](http://www.uswitch.com) is a good one and is accredited by the government watchdog Consumer Focus\*.
2. If that analysis gives you an attractive British Gas option, then the next stage is to do the change over. There are two main ways of doing this.
  - Go to the British Gas website and follow the links [www.britishgas.co.uk](http://www.britishgas.co.uk)
  - Ring 0800 107 0187 to go to a dedicated site

If you have problems with either of these routes then you can speak to Craig Breen (our Green Streets' man). He is coming to the village on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> in the village hall or you will be able to contact him by phone after this date (details to be confirmed).

3. For some of you the British Gas options may be more expensive than your current tariff or you may not be able to change contracts just at the moment. In this case you need to speak to Craig and he will do his best to sort something out for you. He is trying to find ways of ensuring that you can stay in Green Streets (he hopes you can still have the audit and receive an energy monitor if not the Smart Meter)
4. Please feedback to us – positive or negative – so that we can let British Gas know and try and do something about it.

### Key information you need to have ready to switch over

- The person making the switch must be the same person who is named on your existing contract.
- Name of current supplier and name of contract/tariff you are on.
- Energy used – can be expressed in either money or kW units
- Current meter readings
- Bank details if selecting direct debit option

### Experiences so far

- Savings of 10% have been achieved in some cases.
- The website works well once you know what tariff you are after
- Ditto for the phone-line
- The most common suitable tariffs are Websaver, Standard Dual Tariff and the Green tariff
- Craig is very helpful but best used for the less straight forward cases. If you can find a cheaper tariff and are happy using the website or phone line then he cannot add any further advice.
- A few people have found the paperwork sent to them by British Gas confusing or ambiguous.

## What next?

**Energy audits:** We are still waiting for confirmation as to when these will be taking place. It has to be once all of our tariffs have actually been switched over to British Gas and that takes about a month from signing up.

**Smart Meters:** Hopefully these will come at the same time as the energy audits but we are awaiting guidance.

**Energy Day:** Date for diaries **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

If you have any queries over the next couple of weeks please direct these to Barbara Vaughan either at the shop or on 01869 331609 or talk to one of the other Green Street Team.

## Thank you and best wishes from the Green Streets Team

\*Consumer Focus is the statutory organisation campaigning for a fair deal for consumers in England.  
[www.consumerfocus.org.uk](http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk)