The Story

GA Pet Foods is a large manufacturer of pet foods on the edge of the village of Bretherton. GA has ambitious plans to decarbonise and reach net zero and wants to do this in partnership with the local community. GA and Bretherton Parish Council are exploring the potential for GA and residents to go on a journey to change the way we heat and power our homes and businesses, from our current reliance on expensive fossil fuels to the use of locally generated electrical power from low and stable cost wind and solar. GA are exploring the potential to install a single large wind turbine and a field of solar panels to generate green electricity for GA’s factory and the parish of Bretherton.

Challenges & Risks

GA is proposing that 5% of the wind and solar electricity generated will be supplied to the community via a cable which runs directly to the electricity substations which provide power to Bretherton. The electricity will be supplied to local households via an ‘Energy Local Club’ at a significantly discounted rate. This amount of energy represents over twice the electrical energy consumed by Bretherton homes each year, which leaves scope for usage to increase over time as households shift to electricity for heating and transport.

Lessons Learned

Defining the details of the partnership has been key, and early community consultation is very important to ensure people feel they have all the information to make an educated decision as to whether they want the community to be part of the partnership, and support the proposals put forward.