

Sustainable Swanage partnership with “Solar Streets”

Despite lockdown, a lot has been happening on the environmental front in Purbeck. In March Sustainable Swanage, which is supported by Swanage Town Council, Dorset Coast Forum and other local organisations, highlighted a partnership initiative with Solar Streets, promoting the installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels by households and businesses in Swanage and the surrounding villages.

Even though many people are keen to install solar panels, cost is often a barrier. Sustainable Swanage looked for a way of making it more affordable, and came across the Solar Streets initiative in Frome, where lots of houses had panels installed at a discounted price. The company that did the installation was IDDEA. IDDEA offers a reduced price because it can bulk buy panels when it does a lot of installations in one area.

The partnership means that for every installation of PV panels in Swanage, IDDEA will contribute to a Swanage Sustainable Community Fund – £50 for residential and £100 for commercial – that will be used to fund local environmental projects. However, if you are interested, make sure you research whether solar is right for your property, and get quotes from other installers too.

Swanage Town Council agreed to support Sustainable Swanage in encouraging residents to inform themselves about the opportunity that IDDEA are offering as well as other options and suppliers for installing solar panels. The council is not directly marketing the scheme or promoting the supplier. Any queries and questions about it should be forwarded to IDDEA or the Green Group, which promotes the Solar Streets scheme.

You can find information about the scheme and a recording of the launch on www.SolarStreets.co.uk/Swanage.

Planning permission is not generally needed to install PV needed unless you live in a conservation area or listed building. It is not recommended for stone or concrete roofs.

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