

Frome Town Council pledges to give £7,000 to community repair shop¹

FROME Town Council has pledged £7,000 towards opening a share and repair shop in the town centre.

Energy and Recycling officer Anna Francis wants to move into an empty shop on The Bridge. The idea, already well-established in Germany, is to offer families a wide range of re-cycled items from tools to gardening equipment to camping gear.

According to Ms Francis the average electric drill is used for 15 minutes during its lifetime and produces around 45kg of carbon in its production, so sharing tools helps to reduce carbon and waste.

The town council, who recently topped a region-wide award for its greenness, will part-fund the start-up shop and a pay for someone to manage it for six months. It is hoped it will eventually be run by volunteers and be self-funding.

The £7,000 will come out of the energy and recycling budget. Extra money will be secured from the Heart of Wessex local action group. Apprentices will be provided by the Frome-based Edventure, and Sustainable Frome, which has 500 members, will provide the volunteers for the shop.

The shop has been empty for almost a year and will be free of rent and rates. The plan is to also offer regular repair sessions in partnership with Men's Sheds and promote and host skill shares such as food growing, cooking with left-overs and DIY.

In conjunction with this, the energy team on the council is preparing a business plan to set up as re-use centre at a unit near the Marston Trading Estate recycling centre.

Ms Francis said: "It will be a practical demonstration of partnership working and an opportunity to mobilise the community to work towards our ambitions of becoming a One Planet Community."

¹ Frome Standard

<http://www.fromestandard.co.uk/Frome-Town-Council-pledges-7-000-community-repair/story-25760537-detail/story.html>