

## Winter 2022-23

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/07/14/warm-banks-to-be-set-up-this-winter-but-what-are-they-16998804/>

I appreciate that we are currently in the middle of a heatwave, however it is only around 4 months until winter will be upon us – this year accompanied by heating price increases, the like of which, none of us have ever experienced, and a cost-of-living crisis that, one way or another, will have an impact on every resident in the PC area.

In the light of the the reported warnings of energy shortages , and vastly increased fuel costs this winter, I believe that is essential that our community – which has a higher than average % of older residents, starts to consider & plan for having one or more ‘meeting places’ (halls, larger houses) which could be heated for a number of people to sit and keep warm, rather than struggling to heat all our individual homes – possibly with a small contribution to the heating, coffee, etc. I would also hope that the “good neighbour” approach that helped so many during Covid lock-downs can be reinstated to look out for our older residents

We should at least ask Wiltshire Council to provide some assistance – hopefully they will have some form of “strategic plan”, but in my view there is an urgent need to get all interested local groups – ie churches, TNR, hall management committee’s etc., together to develop a strategy, look at funding etc. With a lot of other important issues to deal with, I consider that this is the time to start acting. I understand that groups in Gillingham, Shaftesbury & the Donheads are already beginning to get organised in preparation – I would hope that Tisbury will follow their example!

Jerry Mason

Paris Councillor