ILKETSHALL ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022

Thermal Imaging Camera Project

Helping You Keep Your Warmth In

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, which is made up of all the Local Authorities in Suffolk, has purchased several thermal imaging cameras which they are loaning out to community groups to carry out surveys in their areas for free.

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council has secured a camera for:

20 December 2022 – 9 January 2023

Our aim in running the project is to raise awareness about insulation, and if possible, help you to improve the energy efficiency of your house. This could mean a reduction in fuel bills, better health and also a reduction in the total amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere, which is important for stopping climate change.

What is thermal imaging?
Thermal imaging works by detecting the infra-red radiation emitted by a building and using it to determine the temperature of the surface of walls, windows, doors, roof etc. Objects at different temperatures emit varying amounts of infra-red and the infra-red camera translates these differences into an image with different colours representing cool (blue/purple) to hot (white/red) temperatures.

Infra-red radiation cannot pass through glass and so the camera cannot see through your windows, doors or walls. This means that a thermal imaging survey will not invade your privacy; what we see in the images is only the outside surface of the house. Glass actually reflects infra-red radiation, so any shapes you may see in pictures of the windows will be due to reflections from outside.

A thermal image of the outside surface of your house is useful because it can show areas which maybe conducting heat from the inside to the outside of the house. Ideally insulation, either in a cavity inside the walls or in a layer in the loft, should minimise the heat loss through the walls or loft. However, if there are gaps in the insulation, or places where it has been bridged by a conducting structure, then a hotter pattern will be seenon the outside surface. Similarly for windows and doors; the image will show if there is a poor seal around them that is letting warm air escape, or if they are poorly insulated (e.g. single glazed windows).

What can you learn from a thermal imaging survey?
If your house is relatively new, already has insulated cavity walls and double glazing, and feels warm – you might not learn much, except to get an even warmer glow after confirming your house is well insulated! However, the images may still pick up faults in the insulation, where it has been bridged, etc.

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If your house is older and seems difficult to keep warm - you might learn more precisely where the heat is escaping and get some ideas about what remedial work could usefully be undertaken.

A thermal imaging survey might:

- identify places which might have draughts
- detect whether cavity wall insulation is patchy or missing
- detect areas with less loft insulation (although roofs are tricky to image with the camera)
- assist in Planning Applications, particularly for 'listed' properties in order to identify existing heat loss issues that could be remedied.

[Note: most of the above is taken from a template provided by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.]

If you would like to be included in the survey please contact Rod Apps via the Parish Council email address: isaparishcouncil@gmail.com. In your email, please provide your name and address, contact telephone number, and identify any dates between 20 December and 9 January that you will be available for a survey to be undertaken. [Or, alternatively, dates when you will ***not*** be available.]

I will need an e-mail address to be able to send the images to. If you don't have an e-mail address, or are not connected to the internet, perhaps the best way forward would be to get a friend or a relative to offer the use of their e-mail address. I will need to get access to all sides of properties, so I ***do*** need to have someone at home – I don't want to be creating concern by clambering around people's gardens when unaccompanied! For best results, the surveys need to be undertaken in daylight and when the temperature in the rooms in the property are at least 10 degrees higher than outside (which also fits with someone being at home).

Obviously, I hope that I will have the time to undertake surveys of the homes of everyone who wants to be involved – but please do recognise that my work and other commitments over the period may make that difficult. A further constraint is the weather – the surveys are best conducted when it is not raining and not too windy. I will also be trying to group properties together, so that I'm not constantly criss-crossing the village (and raising carbon emissions as a consequence!). In addition, not every day in the period 20 December – 9 January will be feasible - I gather that there is some sort of celebration due on 25 December . . . . !

Rod Apps
Parish Clerk

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