

Scheme to Provide Thermal Imaging Cameras in Swindon

Members of the Build a Greener Swindon Committee have noted that Wiltshire County Council and North Somerset Council have introduced schemes that provide for the loan of thermal imaging cameras through their library services to residents.

The use of these cameras will help householders to identify where heat loss is occurring in their homes so that they can take steps to reduce heat loss and therefore, their heating costs.

Rather than reinvent the wheel, the Chair of Build a Greener Swindon (BGS), has approached Wiltshire County Council who have indicated that they are happy to provide information on their scheme to enable an early implementation in Swindon. This is particularly important because winter is already upon us so any delay reduces the benefit that can be derived by householders. The implementation of this scheme may be done through Swindon Borough Council and/or Parish Councils depending on resources available and timing.

The Wiltshire Scheme:

Details of the Wiltshire Scheme are provided in this link:

[Thermal imaging cameras available to borrow from libraries to check for house heat loss - Wiltshire Council](#)

The advantages of adopting the Wiltshire Scheme include:

1. Wiltshire (and North Somerset) have already conducted a review of available equipment and now have experience in their operation
2. Speed of setting up the scheme with documentation and videos already available
3. Availability of videos and instructions on using the cameras

[Thermal cameras instruction video](#)

(North Somerset Council)

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/14129/Thermal-imaging-camera-user-guide/default/Thermal_imaging_camera_user_guide20241001.odt?m=1727951303293

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/14130/Thermal-imaging-camera-top-tips/default/Thermal_imaging_camera_tips20241001.odt?m=1727951408573

4. Wiltshire have also drafted guidance on how to access advice on improving insulation with links to the Warm and Safe Wiltshire - Centre for Sustainable

Energy and the Energy Saving Trust in this document:

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/14132/Thermal-imaging-camera-What-s-next-guide/default/Thermal_imaging_camera_what_next20241001.odt?m=1727951622317

When I spoke to a member of staff at Trowbridge Library, they advised that library card holders could borrow the cameras for up to 7 days but generally returned them earlier and they had a waiting list of over 100 applications.

Wiltshire have a dozen cameras available through their libraries (of two types) and the service is provided free, but a loan agreement needs to be signed by the borrower.

The costs of the cameras are around £250 for one that links to a smartphone and around £450 for one that is a stand-alone unit, so costs of participating for parishes (and/or SBC) are relatively low.

Next Steps

A Teams meeting is being set up with relevant councillors and officers in Wiltshire CC, to include officer from SBC to learn more about the operation of the Wiltshire scheme.

Following this, some proposals will be drafted for consideration by interested parties – principally SBC and Parishes.