**Bishop’s Castle and Fuel Poverty**

* West Midlands has the highest proportion of fuel poor households with Shropshire being one of the worst affected areas. **More than 23,000 households are in fuel poverty in Shropshire**, according to latest figures.
* Shropshire is an “**extreme” example of fuel poverty**
* **More than 17% of households in Shropshire are in fuel poverty**, meaning their energy costs are above average and their remaining disposable income after paying their bills puts them below the poverty line.

**Bishop’s Castle:**

* very small town - 1,800
* very remote/rural in S Shropshire Hills - nearest large towns 20 miles
* very limited public transport
* a low wage economy with high levels of in-work poverty
* **Food Bank now serves 80 people per week**
* a higher than average percentage of older people.
* high percentage of older and harder to heat houses
* high percentage living in privately rented or social housing

**Bishop’s Castle - no gas supply whatsoever - so**:

* not eligible for the new government replacement gas boiler scheme
* forced to heat with oil, solid fuel or electricity - expensive
* ground or air source not able to provide enough heat efficiently of our many older, poorly insulated houses

**‘Community Resource’ charity - Shropshire Oil Buying Club**

* Customers get a better price, oil companies can organise deliveries more efficiently, and fewer tanker journeys can help reduce the negative environmental impact.
* Savings achieved are typically between 4 and 5p per litre but can be more. Most members find they save their joining fee on their first order.
* Raises funds to give out as grants for emergency fuel and energy-saving improvements in people’s homes.

**Keep Shropshire Warm** - deliver funded first time central heating systems to eligible homes across Shropshire

*Connexus: Warmer Homes Project*, - housing association - insulation etc.