Community case studies: Thermal Imaging projects

Location: Mottisfont and Dunbridge
Ward: Mid Test

Purpose of Thermal Imaging Camera

Thermal imaging cameras are used to help identify areas of a building which are poorly insulated or draughty, resulting in more heat loss. This is especially noticeable in the winter when more energy is used to heat homes, resulting in high energy bills.

Project Overview

The thermal imaging camera was originally purchased by a resident in Mottisfont out of general interest to see if there were any cold spots within their house. It has been lent out 3 times to others within the area to try out.

Impact

One of the outcomes was that the camera picked up the temperature of inside door of a house and that it could get down to 6°C. As a result of finding this out, a thick curtain was made to hang in front of the door, which made the hall noticeably warmer on colder days. It also identified that loft insulation had not been fitted properly, resulting in cold patches. This was fixed as a result of being identified as another cold spot using the camera.

Feedback and lessons learned

Feedback from residents was positive and that the camera was fun and interesting to use. The camera was easy to use, and you are able to download images from it onto a computer for reference.

Some areas to be aware of include:

- The colours that the camera use, e.g. blue, don't always represent the temperature, so care needs to be taken in interpreting the results.
- Be aware that the camera finds it difficult to detect the temperature of windows e.g. to see if double glazing is effective.

Therefore, training or learning about the camera and its functions/results would be beneficial before use.

For more information follow how to use thermal imaging cameras: Thermal Imaging Cameras | Test Valley Borough Council which outlines information on how to use thermal imaging cameras.

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