

# Town MP's lesson in being energy efficient

By SAMANTHA COLYER



Home inspector Mel Bury with MP John Redwood, who is holding the energy report for the Conservative offices in Rose Street. W072866c. Picture by Clare Pattison.

THE Wokingham MP's offices could save energy and hundreds of pounds a year, according to a recent assessment.

Mel Bury, from Three Counties Local Home Inspectors, examined the Conservative offices in Rose Street on Monday and presented MP John Redwood with an Energy Performance Certificate.

The inspection was to raise awareness of Home Information Packs (HIPs), which will become a legal requirement for properties with four or more bedrooms from August 1.

The inspection found that £308 a year could be saved if the property had a new boiler, and savings of £16 a year could be made if all the building's light bulbs were energy saving.

Mr Bury, of De Vitre Green, said: "I did an Energy Performance Certificate on their building and presented them with the report, just to raise awareness that we start work soon, if the Government doesn't do another U-turn of course."

The town's home inspectors and energy assessors were due to start work on June 1, but the Government postponed the introduction of the packs for two months.

Mr Bury said: "It's not just counting up the number of energy efficient light bulbs in the house. It's quite a thorough inspection.

"It was a fairly standard assessment on a typical domestic property.

"There were no specific problems apart from the fact the boiler was 17 years old.

"They have got 70 per cent energy saving light bulbs, which is very, very good."

Two weeks ago Mr Redwood blasted HIPs in the House of Commons as an extra tax for sellers, and said he does not agree with them being compulsory.

But Mr Redwood said he supports making homes energy efficient.

He added: "Energy performance reviews can make sense for owners of properties who are not about to sell.

"Many people might discover that they could make significant savings on their energy bills if they invited in an expert to help them work out what makes sense for their property."

