



## Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm CLG Minutes

### Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm Community Liaison Group

**Date:** 4 February 2014

**Venue:** The Georgetown Hall, Bridge of Gaur

**Present:** Alexander Grosset (AG), Linda Entwhistle (LE), George MacDonald (GM), Heather Rutherford (HR), Scott Meikle (SM), Stephanie Graham (SG), William Miller (WM), Gordon Brown (GB), Craig Wallace (CW) (Jones Lang La Salle), Kirsty Leiper (KL) (MHP Communications), Adrian Van Well (AW) (Talladh-a-Bheithe Estate)

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

AW thanked all those present for attending and provided a short overview of the proposals and the current timescales.

KL asked all of those present to introduce themselves for the purpose of the minutes.

#### 2. Apologies

KL outlined that a number of people from the local community had been invited to sit on the CLG and advised that she had not received any apologies prior to the meeting.

#### 3. Overview of the role and purpose of the CLG

KL advised that CLGs are commonplace in wind farm developments, and explained that these are useful forums in which to communicate information in addition to discussing opportunities for managing community benefit.

KL explained that there are a number of CLG groups which have ultimately formed community trusts and as such have ensured that their communities have benefitted directly from developments in their area.

KL explained that there are a number of trusts already in place in Scotland and noted a range of projects which have been successful because of this.

CW explained that the CLG would act as a conduit for information between the developer and the community and that this CLG would also explore examples of community benefit and identify how they envisaged benefitting from the Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm (TB). CW continued that this initial meeting was to plant seeds of thought with those present, so that in future the community



## Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm CLG Minutes

could come back with suggestions and ideas as to how they would like to benefit from the wind farm.

GM asked about the potential benefits from the wind farm for the community. CW responded that this needed to be shaped by the CLG and that TB would benefit from the community's input at this stage regarding this.

WM asked about the area of benefit and identified that other developments benefits including Griffin, stretched across almost five community council areas. KL explained that TB would welcome thoughts from those present as to how they would identify the community. KL also explained that developers would normally engage communities within a 5k radius of the site, however as TB was particularly remote, they were currently focussing on working with the immediate community in Rannoch.

LE asked what the estate got out of the wind farm. AW explained that it wouldn't be a lot if the project didn't go ahead. He also highlighted that the figures at this time were unclear. LE asked if all of the money would go abroad, and AW clarified that a lot of the funds would be reinvested in the estate. CW explained that there is the need for estates to diversify and reinvest and this project would help it to do so.

LE advised that she felt that a 25 year lifespan of a wind farm is a long time and that she had a number of concerns regarding the environment. CW explained the studies that were currently being undertaken and also explained the decommissioning process and the bond that would be in place. KL also explained that TB had to undergo rigorous environmental scrutiny prior to the plans being potentially approved.

HR asked about the road infrastructure and highlighted that there had to be investment in the roads prior to construction and that they had to be maintained throughout the development also. SG also queried the transport options. CW explained that TB were currently exploring transport options.

GM asked about wind farm subsidies and said that he was concerned about the money ending up elsewhere. KL explained that these needed to be considered alongside the subsidies for other forms of power. CW highlighted that subsidies were the nature of the electricity market and that benefits to developers were currently being squeezed. In addition CW explained that the exact subsidy was unknown until it was developed.

Moving the conversation back to the community benefit, GM highlighted that it could be a long time until the community see any benefit. KL explained that it was likely to be once the wind farm was generating electricity.



## Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm CLG Minutes

AG asked what experience the development team has and their experience of wind farm developments. CW explained his experience of developments in the area. AG also explained that the wind farm site only just falls within the Rannoch and Tummel Valley Community Council area, and questioned how TB would identify the community areas.

KL went on to explain the opportunities for the communities and discussed wider community trusts and projects. HR asked if there were examples that could be sent to members, and KL agreed to circulate information including the recently published Scottish Government Good Practise Guide.

CW explained the opportunities for the communities further, including potential community ownership. GM asked if there would be a minimum amount of benefit associated with a turbine. CW elaborated that there are many ways to explore community ownership and that currently there are not many large scale wind farms that have community ownership.

LE said that the community needed clarification on figures, and WM said that comparison figures were also needed, such as benefits from ownership and community benefit figures, clear projection figures to allow the community to consider the opportunities.

KL said that there were opportunities at further CLG meetings to have a range of presentations from different groups, including trusts that had been involved with community benefit, CARES who help communities invest in wind farms and also trusts that manage community benefit already. KL also noted that the Development Trust Association are particularly useful for helping community groups establish development trusts to manage wind farm funds. KL agreed to circulate further information and case studies regarding this.

GM highlighted that the community needed to go away and think about the options. KL advised that the purpose of the meeting was to plant seeds of thought with the community regarding how they would like to approach community benefit.

KL also asked about community plans, and if the community had an idea about projects they would like to support locally. AG said that some work had been done on this already and that there is a stakeholder group established to identify community aspirations. He explained that the problem is that there are a range of different communities locally and that the community council may not be directly contacted in all matters, but serves to coordinate and represent the overall views of the residents.

GM asked how far TB was from submitting an application. CW explained the timescales and highlighted that it would be in the near future.



## Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm CLG Minutes

### **4. Terms of reference**

KL circulated the terms of reference for the CLG. A number of minor amends were accepted by the group, and KL agreed to circulate a revised version, to include the new additions.

### **5. Scope of membership**

It was agreed that the new members present that evening would be added to the CLG. It was also agreed that those present would be the foundation members and would agree any new additions to the CLG.

### **6. Future meetings**

It was agreed to hold the meetings monthly, and that they would be held in the Georgetown Hall on the second Tuesday of every month.

The option of holding the meeting elsewhere was discussed, however it was agreed that the Georgetown Hall was the most appropriate location.

### **7. AOB**

There was further discussion regarding the job creation at the wind farm. CW explained that whilst the wind farm may not create a vast amount of local jobs, there will be wider economic benefits for the area. AW also explained that the reinvestment in the estate may allow them to employ more local people.

GM asked about the mode of transport for the equipment and turbines. CW explained that TB were exploring a number of methods including rail and by boat.