



Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm CLG Minutes

Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm Community Liaison Group

Date: 8 April 2014

Venue: The Georgetown Hall, Bridge of Gaur

Present: Alexander Grosset (AG), Linda Entwistle (LE), George MacDonald (GM), Craig Wallace (CW), Ron Dekker (RD), Louise Hardwick (LH), Kirsty Leiper (KL)

1. Welcome and introductions

KL thanked all those present for attending and advised that the agenda had been compiled based upon questions or feedback from other group members following the previous meeting.

2. Apologies

KL advised that she had received apologies from William Millar, Peter Clint, Bob Benson and Douglas Wynn. KL also advised that Gordon Brown would not be participating in the CLG going forward.

3. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting/approval of minutes

KL circulated the minutes to those present and advised that they were different to the version provided by email and included recent feedback from LE. KL highlighted the areas in which the minutes were different from previously and it was agreed that these were acceptable.

AG highlighted that he did not agree with the title of section 4 and it was agreed to amend this to read Community Council proposed democratic liaison.

It was agreed that once these changes were made, KL would finalise the minutes and recirculate to CLG members, she would also provide copies to RD for display in the village store.

4. Foundation Scotland – Taking Stock Report

KL advised that the agenda encompassed points made by email from CLG members. KL circulated copies of a recent press article concerning Foundation Scotland's Taking Stock Report and advised that BB had requested that it was raised with CLG members. KL advised that BB felt the article is similar to what he would have contributed if present at the meeting.



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KL talked through the article and highlighted that it noted that wind farms in Scotland can deliver a range of community benefits and refers to the Foundation Scotland report.

KL circulated copies of the report for CLG members to digest in their own time. KL highlighted that the report made a few interesting points, including that the core purpose of community benefit funds are to deliver social and economic benefits to the area where the development is located.

KL explained that the report detailed that community benefit funds remain voluntary, with an expectation of £5,000 per MW. KL also explained that the report outlined that the annual current value of community benefits from onshore wind farms is in excess of £6.92m and that this doesn't include other types of community benefit, including local business support, sponsorship or supply chain.

5. Scottish Government – Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments

KL outlined that DW had emailed to ask if the developers would implement the Scottish Government's 2013 'Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit' in full, including the recommended minimum of £5,000 per installed MW per annum.

KL advised that she had interpreted this question as referring to the five principles in the guidance. CW advised that the developers would commit to this in full.

6. Defining the community

KL outlined that DW had asked that if component access is eventually taken via Dalwhinnie and Loch Ericht, what the developers would expect to be the approximate percentage share of Community Benefit spending between the Dalwhinnie area and Rannoch.

CW advised that this would be up for discussion throughout the consideration of the application. KL advised that in previous situations she had seen communities benefit for a set number of years, due to hosting the access, and then cease involvement in the trust.

However, KL noted that the community needed to be defined at this initial stage.



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7. Feedback from CLG members

AG advised that the community had undertaken an exercise last year which helped to outline key priorities for the area. AG advised that this was run by the Rannoch Stakeholder Group and that RD's wife was instrumental in undertaking the survey.

AG explained that the community didn't get as far as drafting a community plan, but that it covered a range of subjects including transport and the medical centre. CW requested, that out of interest, he would like to see the results from the survey. RD agreed to circulate this to the CLG.

RD also explained that the purpose of the survey and meeting was to find out the priorities from other local projects and address them together. RD highlighted that there was talk of investment in the path networks, a visitor centre and the Clan Trail.

RD explained that there had not been much activity of late, but that the group had managed to secure council funding for a community development officer which would help matters.

GM explained that there were also discussions regarding an interpretation centre for the glen. RD highlighted that there would be the need to create a community plan further down the line. GM also highlighted that it was clear there were a number of projects which required attention by the council.

GM highlighted that he felt people were not interested in the community benefit related to the project and would rather, at this stage, receive further information regarding the plans. GM highlighted that he had heard the application had been reduced in size.

CW highlighted that there is always the possibility that turbines will be dropped during the planning process.

GM highlighted that the real feedback is that people want details about the application. GM added that he had heard the application would go to the Scottish Government. AG suggested that it may be that someone had only realised the size of the plans. CW commented that the application was always likely to go to the Scottish Government because of its size.

RD said that he hadn't heard anything about the size of the application locally.

LE asked if someone could come to the CLG from an external organisation to advise on how the community should approach community benefit. AG explained that he had been in touch with Jennifer Ramsay from CARES. CW also said that it could be easily arranged for Foundation



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Scotland or the Development Trusts Association Scotland to attend and discuss their experience of engaging with developers and wind farm funds.

AG noted that he was also going to speak to the Highland Perthshire Community Partnership who are involved in the Griffin fund.

KL suggested that, since CARES can help communities to undertake surveys regarding community plans and engage developers, it may be sensible to invite them to attend in the first instance.

LE highlighted that it might be more appropriate to have CARES attend a wider community meeting rather than a CLG. AG suggested that this might take place mid-May. KL advised that the exhibitions were likely to take place either w/c 12 May or w/c 19 May and that such a meeting might be better taking place following the exhibition, when more information would be available.

KL highlighted that if the CLG members were knocking on doors to promote such a meeting, it would be appreciated if they could encourage people to attend the exhibitions also. To ensure that they were able to view the plans and discuss the proposals in detail.

KL highlighted that she would also investigate keeping the exhibition open later, until 8.30pm, to ensure that people had ample opportunity to attend.

It was agreed that should it be necessary, the next CLG meeting would take place on the 6th May, allowing for a preview of exhibition materials ahead of the public events.

5. Project update

CW provided a brief project update. He highlighted that the project had in principle agreed access at the station or Dalwhinnie. He outlined that there was a preference for the blades to come in through Dalwhinnie and the other parts from Rannoch.

CW provided a brief overview of recent conversations with Network Rail. He advised that as a result this allowed the developer to pick up conversations with landowners regarding the railway rights.

AG explained that he understood this to be a complicated process and highlighted that previously there were ownership issues regarding the railway station and bridge which resulted in the station being painted but not the bridge.

There was a general conversation regarding community investment in the wind farm and CW explained that the developer was looking at all options with regards to community benefit.



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LH highlighted that the impacted community was actually a small population and that any community benefit monies were likely to go further afield.

LE explained that it would be up to the trust as to how these funds were divided up.

LH explained that there were concerns regarding noise, and personally she felt that the noise impact from the proposals could have a detrimental impact upon her business. She asked if there would be specific compensation for businesses impacted by the plans.

GM also highlighted that there would be a wider impact from people seeing the proposals. RD also questioned how big a voice you give to holiday homeowners.

CW explained that with regards to noise it is quite a unique project, which is anticipated to have minimal noise impact, so low that the developers have not been asked to undertake a noise assessment.

LE explained that if the wind is going in the right direction she felt that local residents would hear the noise. GM highlighted that he had stopped at Griffin Wind Farm and heard the noise from there.

KL advised that CW would look into trying to offer some quantitative assurances regarding noise. CW also explained that the Scottish Government and Perth and Kinross Council have a responsibility to ensure that the noise levels are appropriate and would have asked for a noise assessment if there were any concerns.

LH highlighted that she felt the noise was dependent upon the geography of the land. CW confirmed that he would look into this and come back to the next CLG with any further information. LH highlighted that she understood Lord Pearson was also concerned about the noise.

RD confirmed that any assurances on the noise would be helpful.

GM asked about the impact on bird life. CW explained that there was a collision risk assessment model for the plans and that this also looked at bird flight lines and species present. CW confirmed that Logan Steel was looking at the birds. GM highlighted that he felt more people in the glen would know about the birds present on site. GM explained that he had concerns regarding birds. CW responded that when the bird surveys were ready he would welcome GMs feedback and views.



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9. Future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would potentially take place on Tuesday 6th to ensure an update prior to the exhibition.

10. AOB

KL asked AG for an update on the community council activity. AG explained that he felt the community needed to set up a democratically elected group – effectively a sub group.

LE highlighted that they can elect members of the community to this group.

LH highlighted that she was interested in gathering further email addresses for the community monthly newsletter. LH requested email addresses from KL and KL advised that she would need to seek permission prior to providing any details.

It was agreed that a sign-up sheet would be provided in the country store for people to leave their details to find out more information about the project and also to subscribe to the community newsletter.