



Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm CLG Minutes

Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm Community Liaison Group

Date: 24 June 2014

Venue: The Georgetown Hall, Bridge of Gaur

Present: Linda Entwistle (LE), George MacDonald (GM), William Miller (WM), Craig Wallace (CW), Ron Dekker (RD), Louise Hardwick (LH), Bob Benson (BB), Douglas Wynn (DW), Kirsty Leiper (KL)

1. Welcome and introductions

KL thanked all those present for attending and specifically thanked LE for assisting with the display of submission documents at the local surgery. CW explained that this was the only suitable location locally otherwise local residents would have to travel further afield to view the plans.

KL confirmed that following her recent emails regarding the application submission that it had been delivered the day prior. KL advised that the CLG members now had the details on how and where to view the application and where to submit representations.

2. Apologies

KL advised that she had received apologies from Alex Grosset.

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

KL advised that the minutes had been circulated and apologised for the delay. LH requested that the minutes are circulated in a more timely fashion moving forward and discussion ensued regarding the length of the minutes. It was agreed that the length and detail of the minutes would remain the same going forward but that KL would try to circulate as soon as possible.

4. Application submission update

KL advised that the application had been submitted earlier in the week and all CLG members were provided with a CD copy of the application and a Non-Technical Summary. CW provided an overview of the Volumes that comprise the Environmental Statement and the other supporting reports that accompanied the submission, and advised that a full copy had been sent to Alex Grosset of the community council.

CW explained that the submission documents or a CD is provided to a range of stakeholders agreed with ECDU. LH asked for a list of those who received the plans. CW agreed to provide this via email.



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CW explained that the application was being advertised locally and nationally and highlighted the dates and publications. CW also explained the timescales for submitting comments on the proposal. LH asked why the deadline was slightly longer than anticipated and CW explained that it was to accommodate public holidays.

CW also explained that the Scottish Government may continue to take representations that are submitted following this date. In addition should the developer be required to submit additional information by way of an addendum to the Environmental Statement they will be required to re-advertise and there would be a further opportunity for additional comments should this occur.

DW asked if there is a nominated case officer. CW explained that there is an individual who has been dealing with the proposals prior to submission, however, ECDU prefer that representations are made to the general post-box/email address.

5. Questions on the application

KL noted that there were bound to be questions on the application following the CLG members having time to review the submission. KL highlighted that she was aware that there was an interest in tourism, and that a meeting was currently being arranged with the RTTA to consider tourism matters and advised that she would also like to arrange a meeting with the CLG members, should they wish, the following week (22nd July).

GM asked if it would be easier for the CLG members to join the RTTA meeting. KL explained that since the RTTA were the representative body for tourism locally she wanted to make sure that everyone present had enough opportunity to get their questions answered. KL advised that should the CLG not wish to have a meeting specifically for tourism, LH as the RTTA member on the CLG could feedback to the CLG following the meeting. DW advised that he would still like to have a meeting on tourism within the CLG and others present agreed. KL advised that she would come back with further information and suggested dates.

KL asked the CLG if they had any questions at this point on the application. LH responded that her husband had viewed the application in the surgery and would like clarification on what type of lorry is classified as an LGV. It was mentioned that there were now two types of LGV's (light goods vehicles and large goods vehicles) and clarification on this matter would be beneficial. CW advised that he would confirm this.

DW asked how the transport assessment and documents compared to the request by Perth & Kinross Council to have deals in place prior to the application submission. CW explained that it is common for an application to be submitted without this information. DW noted that he did not think it was common for the council to request this and CW responded that if the project only had one proposed route this may have been possible. However, CW highlighted that the transport



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and access points had been discussed in detail with both councils and they were aware that it the commercially arrangements necessary would require to be further developed later in the process.

LE asked if the noise assessment had been undertaken. LH said that she had received an email from Adriaan Van Well who suggested that he was waiting on assessments to be completed regarding noise and that he would forward this information on.

CW confirmed that the study had been undertaken and was submitted alongside the application. RD asked if there was any feedback from the study. CW advised that there were no reported effects outwith construction. GM asked if there would be blasting, and CW said that if there was, it would be construction noise. GM asked if the public would be aware of any blasting, and CW said that this would be addressed through a Construction and Environmental Management Plan.

6. Feedback from the community

KL highlighted that BB had suggested a discussion on the recent community meetings. BB explained that the first community meeting had heard from DW and Nan Johnston from Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council. He explained that whilst there were mixed feelings regarding the plans even those who didn't support the proposals held an interest in the associated community benefit should they be consented.

BB highlighted that a second meeting had taken place with regards to community benefit and that members of the public had heard from Foundation Scotland and Local Energy Scotland. BB highlighted that it had encouraged further interest in the application and that as a result of the meeting the community was looking to establish a working group to identify projects locally that could benefit from the wind farm and other models of funding. BB highlighted that they were looking to establish a local development trust.

LE said that she thought the meeting went well. KL highlighted that it was positive to see the community constructively considering the potential community benefit. KL highlighted that one of the core objectives of the CLG following the application submission was to discuss the community benefit. CW explained that there are lots of different models of community benefit but that community ownership had not been seen to any great extent in the UK on larger scale developments.

WM said that it was raised at the meeting that the group leading on the development trust needed to see if it was the highest figure that the developer would offer. CW explained that the developer was offering a range of benefit, including the £5,000 per MW and the CLG needed to explore what involvement the community would like to have in potential ownership models.



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DW asked if the commitment to Community Benefit payments will be transferred to another operator should this position arise. CW responded that this will happen and KL highlighted that this was also noted in the application.

DW asked if there were examples elsewhere with regards to funds being transferred, and CW said that there were a range of examples – some positive but others not so positive as evidenced by some of the frustrations at Aberfeldy.

BB highlighted that the community needed examples of schemes of a similar size having community buy in and also needed further information on the community buy in. CW highlighted that they had previously discussed having people present from other community turbine projects and KL agreed to undertake further research on the subject.

WM asked if the community could use the £5,000 per MW and reinvest this as a stake in the wind farm or buy a turbine. DW noted that it would be cleaner to have a minority share in the wind farm. BB agreed that a minority share would be simpler. WM asked if the community council could take their community benefit as a loan to get their buy in. CW said that these are items that need to be explored further with the developer.

LE asked if the forum had been set up and LH said that Alex Grosset was collecting names of those interested. WM suggested that the community employ someone to liaise with the developer regarding the legalities of the buy in option. BB responded that they needed to identify the level of community interest first. CW suggested that employing advisors at this stage may be premature as the interest in the different options needed to be measured, however there were grants available through LES to allow preliminary exploration of approaches.

DW said that the community needed ideas before making up their minds. BB said that is why the community needs its own committee to identify the level of community interest in the options.

KL said that should the committee be formed, the developer will need to look at how the CLG and the group interact, as the main purpose of the CLG moving forward would be to discuss the community benefit in further detail. LH said that they should know by the next CLG who will constitute the membership of this proposed group.

CW asked what the CLG wanted to see for the next meeting and DW said that they needed to see viable models and examples from elsewhere. BB said that the community needs to look at Foundation Scotland. RD said that he heard the benefit could be split between 40 communities, and LH said that there might be the potential for Dalwhinnie to benefit as it is being used for transport. CW said that the CLG need to decide this and WM said that the Van Well family wanted the money to go to the immediately surrounding communities.



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LH said that there was a lot of items which were to be discussed at the next meeting and it was agreed to keep the next meeting as a focus on tourism, and get a written update from Alex Grossett on the committee when he is able.

7. Future meetings

WM said that he is still slightly concerned at the number of people who are unable to access the CLG minutes. LH highlighted that she is circulating them via email, and KL said that they were available in the country store. RD said that people rarely pick them up from the store. KL highlighted that there was a new website and there is the potential for them to be included on there. WM highlighted that not everyone has access to a computer and he would like to see them in the local press. A discussion ensued regarding the lack of space and timeframes to be able to print them in the local press / newsletters. KL highlighted that it might simpler for details of the CLG members to be included in the next newsletter and on the website, which will encourage people to contact them should they require the minutes or have questions for the group. It was agreed that the details would be published and that a draft would be circulated first.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place 22nd July and would focus on tourism.