



Statkraft

Energy Isles Shetland Wind Farm

Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting 03 February 2019

6.15pm, Cullivoe Hall, Yell

Minutes

1. Present & Apologies

DW opened the meeting at 6.15pm and welcomed all those in attendance, noting apologies.

Present:

Doug Wilson (DW) - Smithy House Associates Ltd
Derek Jamieson (DJ) – Energy Isles
Charlotte Healey (CH) – Statkraft
Sharon Powell (SP) – Energy Isles
Lisa Ward (LW) – Energy Isles
Laurence Odie (LO) – Yell Community Council
Robert Jamieson (RJ) - Yell Community Council
Annette Jamieson (AJ) - Yell Community Council
Andy Ross (AR) - Yell Community Council
Gordon Thomson (GT) – Unst Community Council
Graham Hughson (GH) – representative for the Development Councils and Community Groups
Andrew Nisbet (AN) – representative for the Development Councils and Community Groups

Apologies:

Fetlar Community Council

2. Action Points from the last minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the group and had been circulated to key stakeholders.

LW had contacted the schools around the proposed visit which had been requested by the pupils at the last exhibition. Meetings had been held between the Mid Yell Junior High School and the project team to discuss opportunities for Energy Isles Shetland to engage with the school, and it was agreed this will most likely happen in April. It was requested that LW should contact Baltasound Junior High School and to see if a similar visit would be useful.

There were two action points around Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) and Shetland Community Benefit Fund Ltd – both these points would be discussed later in the agenda.

3. Public Exhibition Tuesday 4 February 2020

The public consultation “drop-in” session will be held on the 4th of February 2020 and will show the details of the revised scheme and give people the opportunity to comment and ask questions

DW highlighted that leaflets detailing key points and the date and time of the consultation event had been sent to every household in the North Isles, approximately 850 houses, along with a freepost reply card to allow everyone the opportunity to attend if they wished and provide valuable feedback comments if they could not.

Posters had also been sent to key community venues for display.

The CLG noted and discussed the banner presentations: the decrease in turbine numbers from 29 to 23 and their associated infrastructure (including two borrow pits) and the decrease in height of 6 turbines from 200 m to 180 m. CH noted from the comments that the description of the site’s location did not include distance from Sellafirth and it would be useful to include this in future materials.

The changes to the design have reduced the adverse impacts to the Shetland National Scenic Area and the setting of Burgj Geos promontory fort. The removal of the turbines to the north and north-west has also reduced the impact on ornithology by allowing un-interrupted access from the lochans in the centre of the site to the coast. The revised scheme also reduces the volume of peat that will be disturbed.

4. Planning Update

CH explained in detail the design and project evolution and how feedback from the general public, and consultees including Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland had been accommodated in the updated design.

CH confirmed that feedback from the event and the posted reply cards will be read by Energy Isles Shetland, taken into account and included in the submission of Supplementary Environmental Information to the Energy Consents Unit in Spring.

It is expected that the consultation will be around 8 weeks.

5. Community and Economic Benefits

The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Community Benefit Fund had been circulated for comment and feedback. It was noted that this is a brief document which confirms Statkraft’s commitment to deliver £5,000 per MW in line with the Scottish Government guidance.

The MOU had been written in simple clean language and the group were asked for their thoughts. A small edit was suggested to reflect two people from each Community Council area instead of “Community Council representatives”.

The group discussed the level of the fund and the changes from 200MW to 160 MW.

DW agreed to clarify that and whether any advance payment could be made to help set up the group to look at the administration of the Community Benefit Fund. ACTION DW

Further to the changes above another draft would be re-issued. ACTION DW

The letter received from Shetland Community Benefit Fund Ltd enquiring about the community benefit proposals for the scheme was discussed. These discussions centred around the premise that

it was up to the CLG to decide how the fund is distributed, and the area of benefit that has always been discussed is within the North Isles.

This had been discussed at the individual community councils and SP noted to contact Fetlar to receive their thoughts. ACTION SP

It was agreed that the chairs from the 3 Community Councils should discuss. ACTION ALL CC members.

Further to the group discussion DW will draft a holding letter to send to SCBF and circulate before the next CLG meeting. This would be finalised at the next meeting.

The group discussed how the Community Benefit Fund had marginally dropped from £1 million per annum to £800,000. This sum is based on the revised scheme of approximately 160MW and based on the deliver £5,000 per MW in line with the Scottish Governments guidelines

It was noted that the general public do not realise the amount of money which will be received via the CBF.

6. Shared Ownership

Energy Isles is committed to providing Shared Ownership with an opportunity to invest in the project, with support from Local Energy Scotland's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).

The group were reminded that Community Benefit and Community ownership are separate, CARES can support members with shared ownership and how to progress with any feasibility work going forward.

Representatives from the Local Development Groups attended the CLG and they agreed to speak to Mark Brennan from CARES to update him on Statkraft's position. CH confirmed that an MOU on shared ownership would be sent to representatives from the Local Development Groups in the next few weeks.

GH noted that they were waiting on further information from Statkraft about the Community Ownership which was on hold therefore they had not submitted their grant application to CARES. CH clarified the timetable for agreeing shared ownership, with a formal and detailed offer not being made until the project had been consented.

7. AOB

The group discussed the Grid Connection and the uncertainty around VES LLP.

Questions were raised around the overhead lines and a representative from Savills Projects, Jim MacMillan, who is undertaking works for SSE on the lines, had been in touch with various groups and this should be followed up with him direct. ACTION ALL

The group raised a point with regards to question 2 on the comments cards for the exhibitions, which asks attendees if they think the changes to the scheme are an improvement or not. They pointed out that the answers to this question would give only quantitative data but no qualitative data to allow good interpretation, because a person may say "no" because they preferred the bigger scheme. This was accepted as an issue with the question and a discussion was had about how these kinds of questions could be avoided in future to ensure a fair and accurate response.

8. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting date would be confirmed as soon as possible; it is expected to be the week commencing 23 March

Meeting closed at 7.35pm