

The Nant y Moch Wind Farm

Community Liaison Group

Ninth Meeting

25th January 2011 at 7.00pm

Neuadd Goffa Talybont

Minutes

Chair: Hazel Lloyd Lurban Ceredigion's Association of Voluntary Organisations

Active Members:

Gerwyn Jones	Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council
Andy Rowland	Ecodyfi Manager
Anwen Haynes	Llancynfelin Community Council
Wynne Jones	Pentir Pumlumon Development Officer
Richard Owen	Trefeurig Community Council
Harry Tolland	Ysgybor y Coed Community Council
Madeline Cowley	Project Manager, SSE Renewables

Observers:

Vanessa Garwood	Regeneration Manager, Powys County Council
Eluned Lewis	Community Liaison Officer, SSE Renewables

Secretariat: Eluned Lewis Community Liaison Officer, SSE Renewables

Apologies:

Monica Boehringer	Forestry Commission Wales
Eirlys Lloyd	Ceredigion County Council
Lowri Jones	Regeneration Officer, Powys County Council
Michael Phillips	Dulas

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Hazel Lloyd Lurban welcomed everyone including Richard Owen from Trefeurig Community Council who was attending instead of Kari Walker to the ninth meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG). A round the table introduction took place.

2. Apologies' received:

The above apologies were noted. Representatives were reminded that if they are unable to attend they should inform the Alternate Active Member in order to ensure that the organisation is represented at the meeting and involved in any decision making which takes place.

3. Declarations of Interest:

Hazel Lloyd Lurban asked if there were any declarations of interest, of which there were none. It was noted that if any arise during the course of the meeting they would be noted.

4. Agree the minutes of the last meeting – Active Member discussion:

Hazel Lloyd Lurban asked members to look over the minutes of the last meeting page by page before confirming them as accurate. Wynne Jones proposed the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting and Andy Rowland seconded them. All agreed with this.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Project Update:

Madeline Cowley gave an update on where the project was currently, explaining that the timescale for the planning submission to the Infrastructure Planning Committee (IPC) was the end of February 2011, with a decision then expected by mid 2012. She explained the draft Environmental Statement and the draft Consultation Report had been submitted in draft to the Infrastructure Planning Commission. She reported that these documents have also been sent to Ceredigion County Council, Powys County Council, The Countryside Council for Wales and Snowdonia National Park who are Statutory Consultees with a meeting scheduled with them shortly to discuss any issues they raise prior to the full submission. Wynne Jones asked if there had been any consultation with Welsh Water and Madeline Cowley replied they were a consultee. Eluned Lewis added that Welsh Water had responded in writing to the consultation and that these were in the correspondence file and recorded in the Consultation Report.

7. Update on the Community Engagement Plan:

Eluned Lewis gave an update on the Community Engagement Plan, reporting that the Project Launch Event had been held on the 29th of November and that 110 people had attended. She added that as an additional measure two open office drop in sessions were held on the 9th and 16th of December at the SSE Renewables office at Y Plas, Machynlleth for anyone was not able to attend the Launch Event. Wynne Jones stated that he felt the visual representations of the potential wind farm at the Launch Event were poor as they did not demonstrate the size of the turbines by providing views from within the wind farm. Madeline Cowley explained that the view points used are those which have been consulted on for the Environmental Statement. Eluned Lewis reported that she had received a comment about the quality of the printing having an effect on the photomontages shown at the Launch Event, adding that there were all now on the website. She also added that also at the Launch event there was a computer model which was able to generate a 3d view of what the wind farm would look like from anywhere within a 30km radius of the site and also a 3d fly through of the proposed wind farm playing on a television screen.

8. Statement of Community Involvement:

Eluned Lewis handed out copies of the Statement of Community Involvement explaining that the only amendments that had been made since the document was circulated via email was to change the date and the text about the Launch Event which took place on the 29th of November. Harry Tolland asked for a summary on the sorts of issues that have been raised by members of the community during the consultation process. Eluned Lewis reported that the Consultation Report documents the types and number of comments received in great detail, showing a table within the document. She

also explained that example responses for each subject such as noise, landscape, efficiency were also included in the document as well as a table showing what comments have resulted in changes being made to the development. Harry Tolland asked roughly what the percentages of comments were for and against the development. Eluned Lewis reported that the results of the exhibition questionnaires were even but that the individual correspondences received were concerns and objections about the development. Hazel Lloyd Lurban asked how the Infrastructure Planning Commission would evaluate SSE Renewables's consultation activities and Madeline Cowley answered explaining that they will ask for comments from Ceredigion and Powys County Councils.

Amendments agreed at the meeting:

- i. Wynne Jones stated that a sentence in section 1.2 was misleading. After discussion it was agreed to change this sentence to "It was felt that this approach would be more likely to lead to a more robust proposal and cause greater awareness of the environmental issues linked to climate change and security of energy supply in the local area."
- ii. Wynne Jones suggested that the first sentence in section 1.4 should be reworded. It was agreed to change the first sentence to "The CEP methodology was endorsed in April 2009 by the Community Liaison Group (CLG)."
- iii. Richard Owen also noted that there was a discrepancy with the dates in section 1.4. Eluned Lewis stated that it should be November 2008 and this change was agreed.
- iv. Wynne Jones asked for clarification regarding the "pre planning exhibition" listed in point 6 on page 27, asking if another exhibition was planned. Madeline Cowley explained that this was the Project Launch Event held in November.
- v. Richard Owen asked for clarification regarding Powys County Council and approval of the Community Engagement Plan (CEP). Vanessa Garwood explained that Powys County Council did not formally approve documents such as a developer Community Engagement Plans, but that they did provide comments on it, including that it wasn't clear what consultation would be carried out along the transport route. Eluned Lewis added that at the time of developing the CEP the transport route was not agreed. Subsequently all Councils and Community Councils along the preferred transport route have been consulted with as part of the Statement of Community Consultation process under the new planning requirements of the Infrastructure Planning Commission.
- vi. It was agreed that where CLG minutes have made decisions which have altered the original Community Engagement Plan and other appendices a note explaining this should be inserted. It was also agreed to remove the date of the Statement of Community Involvement from the appendices as this was also confusing.

Action: The CLO to make the amendments listed below and to re issue the document as soon as possible.

Agreeing the Statement of Community Involvement (SOCI): Eluned Lewis asked if members felt they could approve the document with the above changes made. Harry Tolland reported that

Ysgybor y Coed Community Council would not be agreeing the document as there has not been any community engagement on the amount of community benefit funding payable on this project by SSE Renewables and he would encourage others to do the same. Gerwyn Jones agreed stating that this was a good opportunity to negotiate with SSE Renewables regarding the amount of community benefit funding. Eluned Lewis reminded the members that they had previously discussed community benefits and had raised concerns that the members of the CLG would be perceived to be fully in support of the project if they were discussed formally by the CLG and included in the SOCI. Members therefore agreed not to formally discuss community benefits and to therefore remove this element from the SOCI. She added that following this the SOCI was had been drafted to record only the consultation activities undertaken by SSE Renewables. Madeline Cowley added that although initially there was to be discussion on the format for community benefits the amount payable has always been fixed and there is no room for negotiation on this as has been previously stated. Gerwyn Jones stated that Alex Fornal did report an increase in the amount payable at an earlier CLG meeting, so why could it not be negotiated on further. Eluned Lewis clarified this, explaining that the minimum community benefit funding payable on this project was set in the agreements between Airtricity and the Forestry Commission and that they were only increased after Airtricity was bought by SSE, to bring them in line with SSE standard policy. After a lengthy discussion on the matter Andy Rowland suggested that there were several options available, firstly members could agree to sign or not to sign the document this evening, as was originally intended. Secondly members could leave the document unsigned whilst further discussions take place with SSE Renewables about the amount of community benefit funding. Another option, suggested by Eluned Lewis was that members could use the opportunity to make statements in section 4 as to why the document was not signed. Gerwyn Jones suggested that it was better to await further discussions and Richard Owen agreed that the reason for not signing is that it is unreasonable of SSE Renewables not to discuss the amount of community benefit funding available on this project. Gerwyn Jones asked what sums are payable on other projects and Vanessa Garwood reported that some developers in Area C in Powys are paying £5,000 per MW. Annwen Haynes stated that although she had been prepared to sign the document, she could not do so now without reporting back to her Community Council the sentiments made by the other members which she agreed with. The members agreed to not sign the document and to ask SSE Renewables again to allow discussions on the amount of community benefit funding, Madeline Cowley and Eluned Lewis both advised that they did not think this would be possible, but resolved to report this back to SSE Renewables. Eluned Lewis suggested a further meeting of the Community Liaison Group in February to enable further discussions on the matter.

9. Next meeting of the Community Liaison Group:

The CLG requested that although the current meeting was planned to be the last one prior to planning submission an additional meeting of the CLG be held in February. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group would be held on Wednesday the 23rd of February at 7pm at Y Neuadd Goffa Tal y bont.

9. Any other business:

There being no further business Hazel Lloyd Lurban thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed.