

The Nant y Moch Wind Farm

Community Liaison Group

Fifth Meeting

27th October 2009 at 7.00pm

Neuadd Goffa Talybont

Minutes

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

Active Members:

John Wall	Blaenrheidol Community Council
Gwyn Lewis	Cadfarch Community Council
Gerwyn Jones	Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council
Andy Rowland	Ecodyfi Manager
Anwen Haynes	Llancynfelin Community Council
Gareth Daniel	Melindwr Community Council
Gwennan Davies	Menter Aberystwyth
Wynne Jones	Pentir Pumlumon Development Officer
Kari Walker	Trefeurig Community Council
Harry Toland	Ysgybor y Coed Community Council
Madeline Cowley	Project Manager, Airtricity

Observers:

Eirlys Lloyd	Ceredigion County Council
Michael Phillips	Dulas
Tony Ellis	Forestry Commission Wales
Vanessa Garwood	Regeneration Manager, Powys County Council
Eluned Lewis	Community Liaison Officer, Airtricity

Secretariat: Eluned Lewis Community Liaison Officer, Airtricity

Translator: Heledd Davies

Apologies: Lowri Jones Regeneration Officer, Powys County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Hazel Lloyd Lurban welcomed everyone to the fifth meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG).

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.

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. Under any other business, it was raised that 4 items had not been recorded in the minutes which were the following: the concern over transport and access, a question on disruption to water quality, the possibility of using the community benefit fund to enable people living in the vicinity of the wind farm to qualify for cheaper energy bills and also the amount of community benefits funding compared to the percentage of the company's profits from the potential wind farm. The CLO apologised for this and it was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly and to send out a revised version which could be approved via email before being placed on the project website. All were in agreement with this.

Action: CLO to amend the minutes and send out via email for approval before placing on the project website.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

Under any other business the Trial Run was raised and discussed in detail with the CLO confirming that it was now due to take place on the 25th and the 26th of November. The CLO explained that the main purpose of the trial run was to see if the use of Swansea Docks was possible, and explained that all three potential accesses on to the site were being looked at still. Annwen Haynes expressed concern again about the access at Pengerwyn, south of Furnace and the CLO answered that Airtricity were aware of these concerns and had made a request to the Forestry Commission use the Nant yr Arian access. Wynne Jones expressed concern over the use of Nant yr Arian, explaining that many were concerned about the Visitor Centre being closed. The CLO explained that discussions were taking place currently with the Forestry Commission and that once a decision was made the Community Councils would be informed. Annwen Haynes asked about the other loads, not just the abnormal loads asking which way these would be travelling to the site. Madeline Cowley answered that all of this was being considered and that once decisions were made they would be informed.

Regarding the issue of the company profits on the project Madeline Cowley responded by explaining that this was not information that Scottish and Southern (SSE) disclosed, but added that the amount of community benefit funding has been raised voluntarily to be in line with the amounts payable on new SSE wind farm projects. She explained that the payments are as follows: a one off payment of £3,000 per MW for energy efficiency related projects and £2000 per MW per annum there after for the 25 year lifetime of the wind farm and an additional 2.5% of the ROC income per annum. The CLO added that the amounts payable were substantially higher than the payments offered under the current wind farms operating in the area. Harry Toland asked if the amount of community benefit

funding was negotiable at all and Madeline Cowley replied that the amount wasn't but that SSE anticipates and will welcome a lengthy discussion on the mechanism for making the community benefits funding available and the types of activities it will fund, following on from the planning process. Vanessa Garwood added that the Powys County Council document on community benefits from wind farms could be used as an example. The CLO added that under the tender arrangements with the Forestry Commission for this project the community benefit funding would have to be channelled through a specific trust fund agreed by the communities and signed off by the Welsh Assembly Government. Hazel suggested that a copy of the Powys document be circulated as information for the members.

Action: CLO to circulate the Powys document on community benefit funding for wind farm developments.

6. Update on the Community Engagement Plan:

The CLO circulated a paper on the Community Engagement Plan activities carried out since the last meeting along with a briefing paper on the issues which have been raised locally and Airtricity's response to these issues. Andy Rowland stated that he would like to see more detail about who had requested what information and the CLO agreed with this and explained that the next agenda item would cover this in more detail. It was agreed that as the programme was taking longer than originally anticipated that the public exhibitions would now be likely to be held in the first quarter of 2010 when the issues surrounding transport and access are resolved and a final turbine layout is achieved. All were happy with this.

7. Statement of Community Involvement

The CLO circulated draft copies of the Statement of Community Involvement, explaining that this is the document that will require agreement and sign off by the Community Liaison Group prior to the planning submission. She went on to explain that the document is a record of Airtricity's community engagement activities, measured against the commitments agreed to and enshrined in the Community Engagement Plan which the Community Liaison Group have also agreed and are monitoring on a quarterly basis. Mike Phillips added that it was important all aspects of the Airtricity's consultation activities were contained within the document and that the Community Liaison Group could include comments, both positive and negative on what has been carried out. It was agreed that the next draft would contain more detail on the letters received and responses given, with the CLO explaining that the final version would need all of this. It was agreed that the draft would be circulated electronically and that the Community Councils could look it over and provide feed back. However, the CLO added that depending on the programme timetable, a delegated authority maybe required by the CLG members to sign off the final version after the final series of public exhibitions. All were in agreement with this.

Action: Copy of the draft Statement of Community Involvement to be sent out to all the member organisations of the Community Liaison Group with an explanatory note on its purpose.

8. Next meeting of the Community Liaison Group:

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group would be held on Tuesday the 16th of February at 7pm at Y Neuadd Goffa Tal y bont.

9. Any other business:

The Infrastructure Planning Committee was discussed and Michael Phillips gave a brief synopsis of the process the planning application would now follow. It was agreed to provide more information at the next Community Liaison Group meeting.

Action: Further information on this to be provided at the next Community Liaison Group Meeting

There was a discussion regarding community ownership of turbines. The CLO explained that within the tender agreement with Forestry Commission Wales there was a provision for community ownership of a turbine. It was agreed to provide more information on this at the next Community Liaison Group meeting.

Action: Further information on this to be provided at the next Community Liaison Group Meeting

The CLO raised the suggestion of featuring a story on the Community Liaison Group with a feature interview with an active member for the next edition of the newsletter. The active members felt this was not appropriate and that it would be better to obtain a quote from Hazel Lloyd Lurban as the Independent Facilitator instead.

Action: CLO to liaise with Hazel Lloyd Lurban regarding a suitable quote for the Newsletter.

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