

The Nant y Moch Wind Farm

Community Liaison Group

Third Meeting 28th April 2009 at 7.00pm Neuadd Goffa Talybont

Minutes

Chair:	Allan Lewis	Assistant Chief Executive, Ceredigion County Council
Active Members:	Aled Thomas	Blaenrheidol Community Council
	Gerwyn Jones	Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council
	Andy Rowland	Ecodyfi Manager
	Anwen Haynes	Llancynfelin Community Council
	Gareth Daniel	Melindwr Community Council
	Wynne Jones	Pentir Pumlumon Development Officer
	Kari Walker	Trefeurig Community Council
	Harry Toland	Ysgybor y Coed Community Council
	Alex Fornal	Development Manager, Airtricity
Observers:	Aaron Fortt	Forestry Commission Wales
	Allan Lewis	Assistant Chief Executive, Ceredigion County Council
	Lowri Jones	Regeneration Officer, Powys County Council
	Paul Burrell	Dulas
	Eluned Lewis	Community Liaison Officer, Airtricity
Secretariat:	Eluned Lewis	Community Liaison Officer, Airtricity
Translator:	Heledd Davies	
Apologies:	Hazel Lloyd Lurban	Ceredigion's Association of Voluntary Organisations
	Gwyn Lewis	Cadfarch Community Council
	Ray Quant	Menter Aberystwyth
	Vanessa Garwood	Regeneration Manager, Powys County Council
	Michael Phillips	Dulas

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Allan Lewis welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG). He explained that as Hazel Lloyd Lurban was unable to chair tonight's meeting Eluned Lewis had asked

him to do so in her place. Allan Lewis asked if all the Active Members were happy with this, all were and the meeting continued.

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

Allan Lewis asked if there were any declarations of interest, of which there were none.

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

Allan Lewis asked members to look over the minutes of the last meeting page by page before confirming them as accurate. Andy Rowland proposed the minutes as accurate and Kari Walker seconded them, all the Active Members agreed with this.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes

Wynne Jones raised the issue of conflict of interest for members of the Community Liaison Group in relation to discussing community benefits and would prefer if these discussions were deferred until after the planning process has taken place. Anwen Haynes reported that Llancynfelin Community Council had declined to rank the themes for community benefit spend and would not do so until the planning process has taken place. Aled Thomas, Blaenrheidol Community Council also reported some concerns. Harry Toland and Kari Walker felt that a distinction could be made between discussing community benefits and the planning process and therefore continuing to discuss them within the CLG wasn't a problem. A lengthy discussion took place after which it was agreed that as a compromise the CLG would not discuss community benefits formally. It was agreed to remove references from the Community Engagement Plan and the Terms of Reference which referred to a detailed set of Community Benefits Commitments being part of the Statement of Community Involvement. Alex Fornal explained that he could understand the concerns of some members and was happy to proceed on what has been agreed and that the Statement of Community Involvement would now only reflect the Community Engagement Plan elements. It was also agreed that informal discussions about community benefits would continue.

Harry Toland asked if the figure of £1,500 per Megawatt was a firm commitment from Airtricity. Aaron Fortt explained that Airtricity is contractually bound to pay £1,500 per Megawatt installed capacity. Alex Fornal, explained that he had an announcement regarding the amount of community benefit funding, however, in light of the earlier discussion he felt somewhat uneasy about making it. He explained that following on from Airtricity's acquisition by SSE the amount of community benefit funding payable on this project would increase to be in line with SSE's current policy for community benefit funding which is as follows:

£2,000 per megawatt installed capacity

£3,000 per megawatt one off payment

2.5% of the Renewable Obligation Certificate Income, he added that on this basis the community fund would be around at least £7.5 million based on the lower capacity of 140Mw for the site.

6. Forestry Commission Wales and their role – Aaron Fortt

Aaron Fortt introduced himself, explaining that he was the Communications Officer and was part of the Wind Team based in Resolven set up to manage the Strategic Search Area wind farm developments which are managed on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government by Forestry Commission Wales. He explained that Forestry Commission Wales's role was to ensure that Airtricity as the developer are fulfilling their tender obligations. He added that the approach being taken by Airtricity through implementing a Community Engagement Plan and the set up of the Community Liaison Group were excellent and that tonight's discussions and way forward was a reflection that this approach was a good one if not always easy. He went on to explain that the Forestry Commission are observers and that if CLG members felt it appropriate he could attend future meetings in this capacity. The CLG Active Members agreed that Aaron Fortt's attendance at future meetings was essential as it will provide links with the other TAN 8 projects. Aaron Fortt agreed to feed this back to the Forestry Commission.

Action: Aaron Fortt or another representative from Forestry Commission Wales to attend all future meetings of the Community Liaison Group.

7. Agree the Terms of Reference – Active Member discussion

It was agreed to amend Section 3 – the objectives of the CLG following the earlier discussions noted under matters arising. Point 2 would be removed completely and point 4 would be re worded, with the references to community benefits removed. Allan Lewis asked the Active Members if they would now formally agree the Terms of Reference with the above changes made. Harry Toland proposed that the Terms of Reference were agreed and Kari Walker seconded this, all other Active Members were in agreement with this. Allan Lewis asked Eluned Lewis to bring a final copy to the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group for all the Active Members to sign.

Action: Eluned Lewis to amend the Terms of Reference as stated above and to bring a copy of the final version which will be signed by the Active Members at the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group.

8. Agree the Community Engagement Plan – Active Member discussion

It was agreed to amend the section on the Community Liaison Group and its remit following on from the earlier decision to remove the community benefits aspect from the Statement of Community Involvement.

Action: Eluned Lewis to amend the section on the Community Liaison Group and its remit in the Community Engagement Plan.

Eluned Lewis gave an update of activities carried out since the last meeting of the Community Liaison Group circulating a paper showing activities undertaken under each heading within the Community Engagement Plan for the current time period. All Active Members were happy with this update of activities. Following on from this the dates of the Public Exhibitions were discussed and the following dates and times were agreed:

Tuesday 16th of June – Ponterwyd School Hall 5pm – 8pm
Wednesday 17th of June – The Iron Room Furnace 5pm – 8pm
Thursday 18th of June – Penrhyncoch Village Hall 2pm – 8pm
Friday 19th of June – Tal y bont Memorial Hall 2pm – 8pm

Action: Eluned Lewis to liaise with Harry Toland regarding the booking of the Iron Room Furnace.

It was also agreed that Eluned Lewis would attend local shows and events in order to maximise engagement with the local communities.

Action: Eluned Lewis to prepare a plan of attendance at local shows and events and circulate to CLG members.

9. Agree Hazel Lloyd Lurban as the Independent Facilitator

Allan Lewis asked if the Active Members if they were now happy to formally agree Hazel Lloyd Lurban as the Independent Facilitator. All were happy with this and agreed Hazel Lloyd Lurban as the Independent Facilitator.

10. Community Benefits – a short presentation by Eluned Lewis, followed by Member discussion

Following the earlier discussion and decision taken by the Active Members to suspend formal discussions on Community Benefits at the Community Liaison Group Meetings only a quick update on the feedback received was given by Eluned Lewis. It was agreed that no further formal consultation work on this issue would be carried out through the Community Liaison Group until the planning process is complete.

11. Future meetings of the Community Liaison Group

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group would be held on Tuesday the 28th of July at 7pm at Y Neuadd Goffa Tal y bont.

12. Any other business:

Eluned Lewis circulated a Press Release regarding the Community Liaison Group for approval. It was agreed to remove the references to Community Benefits.

Action: Eluned Lewis to amend the Press Release and circulate to Members

Eluned Lewis reported that a Community Liaison Group Bank Account had been opened which would, following approval from Active Members administer expenses.

Action: Eluned Lewis to send out additional travel claim forms to Members

Anwen Haynes thanked Alex Fornal and Airtricity for increasing the amount of Community Benefits funding payable on the project adding that there is a perception that Wales is cheap.

Gerwyn Jones suggested that a newsletter is produced and sent out rather than a brochure prior to the first series of Public Exhibitions. All agreed with this.

Andy Rowland raised the issue of transport stating that the issue was being talked about in the locality and that information was appearing on websites. He suggested Airtricity place information about this issue on the project website to avoid further misinterpretations being made on this issue. Alex Fornal explained that Airtricity are fully aware that transport is an important issue within the locality. He explained that work was being done currently to fully assess the routes including a dry run through Mid Wales as part of the British Wind Energy Cymru group and a separate Airtricity commissioned dry run from the south, which could mean bringing the turbines from the port of Swansea. He explained that if the dry run from the South was possible Airtricity would be removing the Nant y Moch project from the cumulative effects of multiple TAN 8 projects being developed in Mid Wales. He added that the forthcoming public exhibitions would provide an opportunity to set the record straight with this issue and that there would be information on the website following the Public Exhibitions.

Action: Project website to be updated with transport information following on from the Public Exhibitions

Allan Lewis informed the meeting that the National Grid were commencing the consultation process on the 28th of July.

There being no further business Allan Lewis thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

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