

**Energy Isles Wind Farm
Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting 19th June 2019
Cullivoe Hall, Yell**

Minutes

1. Present & Apologies

JT opened the meeting at 6.20pm and welcomed all those in attendance, noting apologies.

Present:

Jeanette Thomson (JT) – Smithy House Associates Ltd
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
Andy Ross (AR) – Yell Community Council
Hazel Spence (HS) – Unst Community Council

Apologies:

Fetlar Community Council
Laurence Odie (LO) – Yell Community Council
Gordon Thomson (GT) – Unst Community Council

JT introduced DW to the CLG and explained that DW would be chairing the meetings going forward.

2. Action Points from the last minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were previously approved by the group and had been circulated to key stakeholders and uploaded to the Energy Isles website.

LW had made contact with the schools around the proposed visit which had been requested by the pupils at the last exhibition. It was discussed and felt that Secondary 2 and 3 would be the best groups to participate given their subject choices.

Progress will be followed up and updated at the next meeting.

3. Exhibition update

Tuesday 5 February
Sellafirth 10am – 2pm
Baltasound Hall 3pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 6 February
Cullivoe Hall – 4pm – 7.30pm exhibition

It was noted that the comments from the CLG around the last exhibition feedback forms have been taken into account and this time the forms were more specific, this was made easier by being able to display the final site layout at the exhibition. The format was the same and this allowed for ease of comparison of the results from both exhibitions.

57 people attended the exhibitions and 47 comment cards were completed. DW explained that this was a positive number of attendees. At a recent exhibition held on the mainland around a different project 4 members of the community had attended.

LW gave a detailed explanation of the feedback (previously circulated to the CLG). It was noted that everyone had been given an opportunity to attend and results were now published.

AR presented a number of questions from the Community Council.

1. Improvement ? It was felt that people had not understood the question and was not a simple yes/no answer.
2. Supply Chain. How many of them had filled in the cards, they would have a different viewpoint to the general public.

There was no way to tell who the supply chain representatives were that completed feedback cards.

3. Some members of the community felt that they could not attend the exhibitions and therefore unable to make comments.

It was explained that there was nothing EI could do about this, newsletters had been sent to each household in the North Isles and it was sad that people felt they could not come and find out information that they do not know.

4. Project Update

The planning application had been submitted to the Energy Consents Unit in April and we are expecting the application to be considered by SIC in Autumn of this year.

CH updated that no objections had been received to date from the majority of the statutory consultees. This had largely been down to work undertaken before planning was submitted with statutory consultees working together and developing strategies.

The Ministry of Defence had objected based on a Scotland wide issue. We are working closely with them to establish a way forward.

It was noted that this period of consultation had been extended to the end of August for a number of statutory consultees to respond. This is normal for this type of planning application.

JT explained that the documents relating to the planning application are situated in the foyer of the Cullivoe Hall for public access at all times. All documents were also available for reference on the EI website.

5. Community and Economic Benefits

A benefits leaflet had been created which took key points from the documents and formatted into an easy to reference document. It was agreed that this would be posted on the EI website.

EI is in regular contact with the local supply chain and is entering into conversations with Train Shetland and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) around jobs and opportunities for local people.

The group discussed the Community Benefit and the feedback from the exhibitions around fuel poverty, de-population and how this could attract families to the North Isles and how Foundation Scotland would support and advise the community with the distribution of the benefit.

EI have met with Graham Hughson a representative of the Mid Yell Development Council and will meet shortly with the 4 other development trusts to help further the work that the groups currently undertake.

DW requested the permission of the CLG to allow GH to attend the CLG meetings as a representative of the 5 groups. This was agreed.

Foundation Scotland

Energy Isles had facilitated the Community Benefit Workshop led by Foundation Scotland, an independent charity that provides support and advice to local communities on strategic grant making, facilitating philanthropy and contributing to achieving lasting positive impact in communities across Scotland in February and it was agreed by the CLG that another meeting would be set up in the near future before the next CLG.

Community AND Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)

CARES representative Mark Brennan had met with Community Councils in February around community ownership and this had been a successful meeting

The group were reminded that Community Benefit and Community Ownership were completely separate, and this was not an area of expertise from EI. Therefore, CARES will hold meetings with the community and report back to the CLG.

Another meeting would be set up and It was noted that this would take place before the next CLG.

6. AOB

JT updated the group on the Consultation on Final Needs Case and Delivery Model of the HVDC link which closed on 31 May.

AR raised a question about where the rock that would be required to build the wind farm will come from? CH explained that all the rock required would come from the borrow pits already identified. The use of this on-site material for construction would limit the use of traffic using the roads and avoid disruption and minimise disturbance and environment impact. It was noted that further information was available on the EI website in the Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

7. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting date would be confirmed as soon as possible, it is expected to be early September.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm