



**Energy Isles Wind Farm
Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting 13th June 2018
Cullivoe Hall, Yell**

Minutes

1. Present & Apologies

Present:

Jeanette Thomson (JT) – Element Power
Angus Ward (AW) – Energy Isles
Derek Jamieson (DJ) – Energy Isles
Charlotte Healey (CH) – Element Power
Lisa Ward (LW) – Energy Isles

Lawrence Odie (LO) – Yell Community Council
Lynsay Cunningham (LC) - Yell Community Council
Steven Henderson (SH) – Yell Community Council
Hazel Spence (HS) - Unst Community Council

Apologies:

Fetlar Community Council
Gordon Thomson (GT) – Unst Community Council

2. Welcome

JT opened the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance, noting apologies.

JT introduced CH, Project Manager for the proposed EI Wind Farm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the group with no comments and it was agreed that these would be circulated to key stakeholders and uploaded to the Energy Isles website.

Action: LW to circulate approved April CLG Minutes to key stakeholders and upload to Energy Isles website.

3. Terms of Reference

The attached Terms of Reference were approved by the group with no comments.

4. Project Update

CH introduced herself and her background working in wind farm project management.

Exhibition Update

As agreed at the April CLG, Energy Isles planned to send newsletters on 14th June to all households on the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) property list in Yell, Unst and Fetlar informing them of the upcoming public exhibitions.

An advert was also booked to appear in The Shetland Times on 15th June.

Posters advertising the event were shared with the CLG members and were also due to be posted on 14th June to key contacts for display in Unst, Yell and Fetlar.

Exhibition Dates

26 th June 10am-2pm	Sellafirth Exhibition, Yell
26 th June 4pm-8pm	Uyeasound Exhibition, Unst
27 th June 10.30am-1.30pm	Fetlar Exhibition, Fetlar
27 th June 4pm-8pm	Cullivoe Exhibition, Yell

Birds and Ecology Update

Surveys to date

- A full breeding season of bird surveys was undertaken in 2016, including vantage point and walkover surveys, following agreement of survey methodology with SNH.
- A phase 1 habitat survey and A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey undertaken by Botanaeco in June/July 2016.
- A full wintering season of bird surveys undertaken in September 2017 until March 2018, following agreement of survey methodology with SNH.

Upcoming Surveys

A second full breeding season is now being undertaken between April and August 2018, including vantage point and walkover surveys and focussed vantage point lochan surveys for breeding red-throated diver, following agreement of survey methodology with SNH.

Landscape and Visual

The wind farm design that was originally submitted for scoping was a 63-turbine layout which has subsequently been reduced to 50 turbines. The design will continue to evolve as the results of further survey work is received and community consultation takes place.

Eighteen viewpoints (VPs) have now been agreed with Shetland Islands Council and any layout will be guided by the assessment of these effects. This number may still be revised.

The Energy Isles team shared the Zone of Theoretical Visibility map for the current proposed wind farm layout with the CLG.

The maximum potential visibility of the wind farm in the surrounding landscape is illustrated by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The ZTV does not allow for the consideration of buildings and other vertical structures which can obscure actual visibility on the ground. So whilst a wind farm might be 'theoretically visible' out to 35 km and beyond, in practice, the impact is minimal at this distance and, in fact, may be considerably less.

The team explained that a version of this map would be displayed at the public exhibitions.

The members commented that the map was difficult to interpret and the colours used might cause confusion. The team committed to updating the map to make it easier to interpret.

Action: JT and CH to request production of updated ZTV map for public exhibitions.

Aviation

Energy Isles continues to work with Scatsa and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) about undertaking any further work required to understand any effects of the wind farm on aviation activity in the area.

Peat and Hydrology

A peat expert was commissioned and has now undertaken the initial peat grid survey work agreed with SIC and SEPA. Further survey work will be undertaken in August, in agreement with the statutory consultees.

LO pointed out that there had been an unusual spell of very dry weather in Shetland recently and that this could affect the peat surveys, meaning that they wouldn't be representative of normal conditions. The EI team noted this and agreed to pass this on to the peat consultant for consideration.

A further peat expert has been commissioned to visit Shetland in July to agree a comprehensive peat management plan in consultation with SIC, SEPA, and Shetland Amenity Trust.

Energy Isles is also in consultation with SEPA and the council over drainage and water supply. An engineering/drainage specialist will be commissioned to make sure all amenities are protected.

Action: CH to pass on concerns to peat expert re: unusual dry weather conditions.

Archaeology

A survey will be undertaken and consideration given, in consultation with Historic Scotland, to the impact of the proposed on scheduled monuments such as Burgi Geos.

SH pointed out that access to certain areas of the site, such as Hederdale, might encourage resettlement in future.

Community and Economic Benefits

JT confirmed that EI plans to commission a consultant to undertake study work on the potential socio-economic impacts of the proposed wind farm.

JT asked the CLG if EI should include suggestions on how the community benefit money might be spent in the public exhibition materials, e.g. addressing fuel poverty and/or improving broadband access.

The group discussed this and decided that open questions, rather than leading questions, on community benefit spending, would be preferable in order to get a better idea of what the community wants.

LC raised a concern that the community benefit money may not benefit *everyone* in the community. She said that, whether you are in favour of the development or against it, the community must make sure that everyone benefits from it.

LO agreed and said that's why it's important that any group brought together to manage community benefit money must be robust, accountable and representative of the community as a whole.

JT noted that it is the role of Energy Isles to facilitate this process, not to prescribe it, and offered to bring some examples of successful community benefit management from other wind farms.

LO noted that representatives from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) were due to visit Yell on the week of the 25th of June and this would be a good opportunity for both the community and Energy Isles to take advice on any potential community share ownership options. LO and AW agreed to take this discussion outwith the CLG meeting and progress.

As discussed at the April CLG meeting, Energy Isles is committed to ensuring that local businesses benefit as much as possible from the proposed wind farm and has developed a Local Procurement Policy (attached to these minutes) to support a strong local supply chain, and maximise the positive local impact of this development.

EI has created a Suppliers Page on its website to allow local businesses to register their interest in working on the proposed wind farm. LW agreed to circulate this link to the CLG for sharing with all potential suppliers: <http://www.energyisles.co.uk/suppliers>

SH commented that previous large-scale construction projects in Shetland had used non-Shetland based companies for plant work, which had resulted in poorer quality work and a loss of potential income on Isle. He noted that he would not like to see this happen with the proposed Energy Isles development.

LC asked if it would be possible to have apprenticeships during the construction phase. CH said that this is something that could be explored further. LC asked EI to look into this. CH said she would find some examples from other projects to bring to the CLG. LW said she would add Shetland College UHI and Train Shetland to the list of key stakeholders for the project.

Action: JT to bring some examples of successful community benefit management schemes in other areas to next CLG meeting.

Action: CH to bring some examples of community apprenticeships in wind farm development to next CLG meeting.

Action: LW to add Shetland College UHI and Train Shetland to list of EI key stakeholders.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was provisionally agreed for September 2018, in advance of the second round of public exhibitions in October.

AOB

No other business was raised.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Energy Isles Community Liaison Group Terms of Reference – agreed 23.04.2018

1. The group will be known as the Energy Isles Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)
2. The CLG will have the following appointed community members:
 - *Yell Community Council Area – 3 representatives appointed by the Community Council*
 - *Unst Community Council Area – 2 representatives appointed by the Community Council*
 - *Fetlar Community Council Area – 1 representative appointed by the Community Council*
3. The aim of the CLG is to provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of information and to improve and maintain channels of communication between representatives of Energy Isles, and the local community.
4. The CLG will:
 - Receive progress updates about proposals for the site;
 - Seek clarification from the developer on issues arising from the surrounding communities;
 - Establish workshop discussions on key specific elements of the potential proposals, development and operation of the site.
5. Energy Isles is responsible for the administration costs of the meetings.
6. Detailed minutes shall be kept as a record of the meeting and these will be agreed and distributed by email, subject to any agreed amendment proposed by any member of the group.
7. Copies of all CLG meeting notices and minutes will be sent to the local Member of Parliament, MSPs, Shetland Island Councillors and the SIC Planning Department for information purposes.
8. The agreed minutes will be published on the Project Website and issued through the Community Councils.
9. Where possible any questions from members of the public or interest groups should be sent in advance to the Chairman or should be directed through an existing CLG member.
10. Attendance at these meetings does not imply support or otherwise for the Energy Isles Wind Farm proposal.

Energy Isles Local Procurement Policy

Energy Isles was created to develop a plan for a large-scale wind farm in the north of Yell.

Energy Isles has a strong desire to ensure that the considerable benefits of additional renewables developments in Shetland are enjoyed locally and is committed to ensuring that local businesses benefit as much as possible from our development.

Energy Isles will undertake the following actions to support a strong local supply chain, maximising the positive impact of our development in Shetland.

Energy Isles will:

1. Promote general business opportunities and establish contact with local business networks;
2. Maintain an up-to- date Register of Local Businesses;
3. Facilitate meetings between local business and the Energy Isles project team, helping local businesses to understand opportunities and general contracting requirements;
4. Make engagement of local businesses a material consideration for main contractors;
5. Require main contractors to report on local economic impact to enable monitoring and reporting on performance, with general lessons learnt and best practice communicated to the local authority and economic development agencies to help them plan support programmes;
6. Require tenderers to state their actions on apprenticeships and local employment and make this a material consideration of the contracting process;
7. Welcome tenders from local consortia to deliver major contracts;
8. Work in partnership with local business networks and the local authority to share best practice and ensure work to promote the local supply chain is effective.

Typical Balance of Plant work for contractors

- Access: Including new and improved tracks, road improvements, traffic control measures, geo-textiles, road edge markers and plant.
- Crane hardstands: Geo-textiles, geotechnical testing, plant, aggregate and construction materials.
- Site Compound: Service requirements include construction, cleaning, services, water, wireless communications, waste management, removal and security.
- Substation: Building materials, block layers, groundworkers, painters, joiners, lighting, fire protection systems, door manufacturers, palisade fencing, etc.
- Electrical Installation: Cabling and electrical equipment.
- Operation and maintenance. Statutory inspections, alarms, signage, waste management, high voltage maintenance and environmental contractors for habitat monitoring.
- Accommodation and catering for construction phase and operational phase workers.