



**Dunmaglass Wind Farm  
Community Liaison Group (CLG)  
Thursday 11 July 2013, 7pm, Farr Hall Committee Room.**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Jimmy MacPherson (JM)	Chair
Jenny Stewart (JS)	Strathnairn Community Council
Margaret Saunders (MS)	Strathdearn Community Council
Ian Macgillivray (IM)	The Highland Council T.E.C. Services
Chris Bell (CB)	SSE Renewables
Jamie Meneely (JMe)	SSE Renewables
Ross Cowie (RC)	SSE Renewables
Steve Scott (SS)	RJ McLeod
David McKenzie (DM)	RES
Alan Macintyre (AM)	RES
Sam Mayes (SM)	RES (minutes)

**1. Welcome and introduction**

JM thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves around the table.

**2. Apologies**

Councillor Carolyn Caddick, The Highland Council

Edward Usbourne, Strathdearn Community Council

**3. Approval of minutes of last meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**4. Update on the B851 road works**

**4.1** DM advised that since the last meeting, RJ McLeod had finished the Inverarnie culvert which was now open.

**4.2** DM explained that although Littlemill Bridge was now open to road users as planned, the traffic lights would remain whilst the team finished the remainder of the works on the verges and parapets. DM anticipated this would be completed the following week.

**4.3** DM updated the group on the progress of the works at North Croachy and told them how everything was going to plan in order to lift the road closure on 19 July. Ongoing works included the black top surfacing at North Croachy and the removal and restoration of the compound at Littlemill, which David advised was currently targeted to begin the week commencing 22 July.



4.3 JM reminded the group they had previously discussed the possibility of the CLG having a visit to review the works undertaken once they were complete and before the construction team left site. IM advised that The Highland Council were doing an inspection on 19 July though it would be problematic to combine this with a tour for the group. IM said he would prefer the group to visit beforehand and explained he would coordinate this with JM outside of the meeting to make sure this took place. JS expressed interest in attending.

## 5. Questions

5.1 JS wanted to know, following the road closure the day before and that morning, whether there would be any more closures. SS told the group there would likely be another closure the next day or the following Monday as a result of some pipe replacement taking longer than originally anticipated.

## 6. Introduction to SSE Renewables

6.1 CB addressed the group, introducing himself and project manager JMe. CB stressed that following the sale of Dunmaglass Wind Farm, SSE Renewables were committed to continuing the CLG; assuring that communication would be ongoing as SSE is keen to maintain a productive line of dialogue.

6.2 JMe explained the current plans for the programme would see the enabling works kick off in the first week of August. He advised the tendering process was currently ongoing however the team is targeting the week commencing 5 August within which to begin the access track drainage. SSE Renewables would also progress plans for a bridge which would enable the construction team and vehicles to reach the plateau. JMe advised that weather dependent, the enabling works would run until May 2014 when the main works for the wind farm would begin.

6.3 JMe continued to say that from the outset, the local community would notice a lot of HGVs on the road, but that this would last for around 3-4 months. This would be in the period before the team reach and establish the burrow pit, so would decrease once the burrow pit is functioning.

6.4 JMc asked what to expect in terms of vehicles on the road per day.

JMe confirmed there are specific guidelines that SSE Renewables are committed to follow in the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) which details a quantity in the region of 40-50 journeys per day; clarifying this meant 'in and out'.

6.5 JS asked if when the programme for lorry movements is established, whether it could be published on a project website or similar.

JMe said it was SSE Renewables' intention to certainly keep the community informed of key milestone dates and asked the question of the group whether there was anything in particular they would like to see, in order to try and accommodate this.

JM suggested start and finish times, to which SS explained this would typically follow the opening hours of the quarry and therefore 07:30 - 17:00.

6.6 CB advised SSE Renewables were keen to continue the email update notification system RES had employed ensuring the CLG members would be the first to know. However due to the nature



of the programme, CB couldn't promise the emails would be as regular as the updates sent throughout the B851 road improvements.

**6.7** JS consulted JM on whether he was aware of the Forestry's plans by way of comparison as she was aware they were currently felling at Croachy.

**6.8** IM wanted confirmation on whether traffic movements would be restricted to Monday-Friday.

JMe explained there may be times when the works would possibly require Saturday deliveries however SSE and RJ McLeod were in the process of establishing the programme so he couldn't be certain of frequency.

IM iterated that any changes to the TMP would need to be agreed with the Council, to which everybody agreed, though JMe advised there were no plans at present.

**6.9** CB asked whether the group had his colleague, Marianne Townsley's details (marianne.townsley@sse.com; 01463 728069). Some confirmed they had but it was suggested these would be noted in the minutes for reference.

## **7. Future meeting dates**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29 August 2013, 7pm, Farr Hall Committee Room.

CB enquired as to the preferred frequency for the group, to which it was agreed that a meeting before the start of each major phase seemed sensible.

## **8. AOB**

**8.1** JM took the opportunity as chair to express thanks to contractors RJ McLeod for their 'absolutely super' work throughout the B851 road improvements. JM also acknowledged sadness at seeing some of his RES friends leaving. Some discussion followed regarding his memories of working with RES, explaining of how he has known AM for 10-12 years, after being first consulted when the project was in its very early stages of development.

**8.2** JM continued to say that in all his years as a Daviot resident, he had never dreamt the community would get a bridge at Littlemill; particularly after requesting one from the council over 40 years ago.

**8.3** The CLG members recounted various dangerous stories of road users on the B851; all agreeing the recent roadworks had delivered countless benefits.

**8.4** MS commented that Littlemill Bridge is nicely designed and has blended in nicely already.

**8.5** JM thanked all for attending and said he hoped to see all again soon.

### **Post Meeting Note:**

- Due to availability, the venue for the next CLG meeting was changed to Daviot Hall.