

**Dunmaglass Wind Farm
Minutes of Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting
Thursday 28 August 2013 – 7pm – Daviot Hall**

Attendees:

Jimmy MacPherson (JMacP)	Chair
John Murray (JMu)	Strathnairn Community Council
Margaret Saunders (MS)	Strathdearn Community Council
Catriona Fraser (CF)	Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council
Ian MacGillivray (IM)	The Highland Council (TEC Services)
James Dominiak (JD)	RES
Steve Scott (SS)	RJ McLeod
Jamie Meneely (JMe)	SSE Renewables
Ross Cowie (RC)	SSE Renewables
Marianne Townsley (MT)	SSE Renewables (minutes)

1. Welcome and introductions

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

2. Apologies

- Councillor Carolyn Caddick, Highland Council
- Edward Usbourne, Strathdearn Community Council
- Ros Rowell, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting

The approval of the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 11 July 2013 were proposed by JD and seconded by IM. These are therefore approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Post meeting note: IM confirmed that this is now complete, including the additional works at Dunmaglass Bridge to enable SSE to use the south access to Dunmaglass.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 IM confirmed that an inspection visit had taken place for the roadworks on the B851 and all outstanding points are being addressed by RJ McLeod (RJM).
- 4.2 JMacP explained that there had been some water lying at the foot of Wester Lairgs, and the installation of the trench drain seems to have fixed the problem. IM advised that the issue would be further solved after the belmouth entrance is surfaced with tarmac.
Post meeting note: IM confirmed that the surfacing works have not yet been instructed and they should be complete by the end of the year. In the meantime the Wester Lairgs access drainage problems have been significantly reduced.
- 4.3 SS advised that there will be a road closure in place between 9am and 5pm on Thursday 5 September and Friday 6 September to carry out surfacing work at the entrance to the site, and SS provided details of the diversion route.
- 4.4 THC advised that some of the coping stones on the Dunmaglass mains bridge had become dislodged and this would be sorted under traffic management at the start of September. Post meeting note: IM confirmed this is to be done by Angus Fraser on behalf of THC by the end of November within a suitable traffic management window.

5. Project update

- 5.1 JMe provided an update on the progress of the project, and advised that the lease for the site has now been agreed between the landowner and SSE. JMe also confirmed that the pre-start conditions have now been discharged with the Highland Council (THC) which means that the project can progress into construction, beginning with the enabling works.
- 5.2 JMe provided a summary of what the enabling works will involve on the site, including:
- Construction of a main works compound
 - The upgrade of 11km of existing track from 3m wide to 6m wide
 - Development of the borrow pit
 - Construction of two timber deck bridges
 - Construction of the 132/33kV sub-station platform
- 5.3 JMe advised that the main construction works would follow on from these enabling works, which will be completed around June 2014 (weather permitting). JMe explained that the main construction works will include the construction of the bases, tracks and hardstandings. JMe explained that we anticipate the deliveries of the turbines to commence in 2015.
- 5.4 JMu asked about the HGV movements on the B851 and JMe explained that up to 50 movements per day have been consented, the majority of which will be delivering aggregate to site from the quarry at Daviot. JMe advised that we would expect the number of movements to decrease once we have established the borrow pit on the site, which is expected within the next three or four months, weather permitting.

6. Questions

- 6.1 CF asked for an update on the situation with Sockich Bends. IM advised that Mike Stevens from TECS was in attendance at a meeting week commencing 19 August 2013 and they are hopeful that the land can be secured. IM advised that THC are hopeful that the work will be done in the winter of 2014/15, and they will aim for this to be done when the road is not required for use by SSE at Dunmaglass wind farm or by North British Wind Power (NBWP) at Corriearth wind farm. IM advised that he would have to look to carry out the works to suit both Dunmaglass and Corriearth wind farms, and he explained that it would not be possible to phase the work because the cut will be required for fill material. JMe suggested taking down the trees first, and IM confirmed that he is keen to ensure that the work is done immediately after the removal of the trees to prevent any further slippage. CF advised that it would be important to ensure that any other road closures at the Stratherrick and Foyers end of the project does not clash with other closures.
- Post meeting note: IM confirmed that THC have met with the Forestry Commission (FC) who confirmed tree felling is not planned in the next 10 years. THC are continuing discussions with FC requesting the bring work forward to autumn 2014, and FC have confirmed that they have raised concerns about resources because they are committed to other power related felling at Foyers which is more critical. THC are considering an alternative alignment with retaining walls on the forest side whilst continuing discussions with FC for the preferred option which is tree felling prior to road construction.
- 6.2 JMu advised that there is a bad bend in the road at Flichity Bridge and IM advised that TEC Services intend to do work on the bend but they do not currently have the land to do it. IM advised that he will look into fast-tracking the purchase of the land for Brinmore Bend and then they will consider negotiating with RJ McLeod as they are on site at Dunmaglass, or they will go out to competitive tender. IM advised that he would have to look to carry out the works to suit both Dunmaglass and Corriearth wind farms, and he explained that it would not be possible to phase the work because the cut will be required for fill material. JMe suggested taking down the trees first, and IM confirmed that he is keen to ensure that the work is done immediately after the removal of the trees to prevent any further slippage. CF advised that it would be important to ensure that any other road closures at the Stratherrick and Foyers end of the project does not clash with other closures.
- Action:** IM to circulate further information at the next meeting.

6.3 JMu said that he understands there is an intention to haul timber from Inverfarigaig via the B851, and JMacP advised he believes there is an intention to haul fewer loads per day than previously. CF said that they are to take the timber via the bottom road, not the top road.

6.4 CF advised that the laybys on the B851 are not long enough to accommodate the school bus. IM advised that feedback had been taken on board by THC and the laybys would be increased in size for Corriegarth. JMe asked what works NBWP are doing on the B851 and IM advised that it is very similar to the works carried out by RES for Dunmaglass, and that they are due to start on site around September 2014. CF commented that there was a revised planning application for an extension to the site which came through their community council recently. Post meeting note: THC met RJM on 25 October prior to the first work starting in the next month – north of the Grouse and Trout on the U1221 and at the village entries at Whitebridge, Gorthleck and Errogie. Generally no road closures except for final surfacing.

7. Date and time of next meeting

7.1 The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 24 October 2013 in Farr Hall.

8. Any other business

8.1 JD explained that this is the last liaison meeting that will be attended by RES that they have appreciated the co-operation from the liaison group and from the wider area during the works. JD asked for people to get in touch with RES if they had any queries about the works which are now completed on the B851.

8.2 JMacP closed the meeting.