

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 2 February 2021

(Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Liz Steele, Irene Riddell, Alison Mitchell, Robin Craig, Cllr Eric Holford

Public attendees - Kay Booton; Virginia Bennett

Banks Group – Robin Winstanley; Grant Mollison

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, John McLatchie.

2 Banks Group - Bodinglee Wind Farm Proposal

- 2.1 MM welcomed the Banks Group representatives to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves. RW (Community Manager), GM (Bodinglee Project Manager) advised they had a video presentation which they went through. RW stressed that Banks wants to work closely with the local community and take its views into consideration. Wants to be a lead example of a community led development, shaped by interaction with the community.

Banks already has a local wind farm presence. Area C of the proposed development is in the DCC area, near Roberton. Potential to generate 300MW; generate £60M for the local community over the next 40 years.

Timeline –

Pre-planning Ongoing Community Consultation Design Process

Final Design (June 2022); On stream in 9 years.

Looking to achieve a regional community led sustainable development. Important aspects – conservation/rural access/integrated energy system/land use incl. carbon capture/work with partners including SLC.

To take account of:

Digital feedback tools

Meetings with community

Workshops

Local/National Government

Statutory consultees

Face to face consultation

Key residents

RW asked what would good consultation look like? What are the key issues?

GW asked if local views/perspectives of the windfarm could be produced to give locals an idea of the visual impact of the wind farm in their area. RW advised mock-ups would be possible. GM advised that they do not know the height of the turbines as yet and it will be some time before that is finalised.

VB stated that if the turbines were to be 250 m high there would be potential noise/flicker issues. She is particularly concerned as Roberton is approx. a mile from

the site – has anyone looked at it from Robertson’s perspective? GM advised he had driven the area but not looked at specific issues. He will get the Design team to discuss this with the local community/representatives. VB asked for some local scoping as the wind farm will be visible to a large proportion of Robertson village.

GM advised that the Scoping Report is with the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU). RW stated that Banks will organise a zoom meeting with the Robertson Group.

VB asked why the site is good for a wind farm? GM advised it benefitted from open space and strong winds. RW advised that after the Eskdalemuir decision there was the potential for more windfarms in the area.

Cllr EH left the meeting at this point.

LS raised the following points;

Community benefit – there are already several wind farms in the area and the local community is having problems spending the community benefit monies due to the current process – can we do something rather than use the SLC process?

Themes referred to in presentation – these are irrelevant to our small villages e.g. employment opportunities.

What is the community benefit from Middle Muir and what legacy will transfer to Bodinglee? There is no direct benefit to the local community to come from the biggest wind farm. VB advised that the best benefit to the community would be for the wind farm not to be put up. There was general agreement on these points from those present.

RW advised that as far as community benefit is concerned the process was framed in a particular way and we are learning as we go.

MM advised that should the application proceed the DCC will respond to it. Do we want the last large section of open space to be filled by a wind farm? We are at capacity – we have had our share of them. However, we will take part in the process and work with the developer in trying to reflect the views of the local community.

RW asked how best to progress things? LS advised Banks to do checks to familiarise themselves with the area and potential impact of the project. MM asked if they were going to speak to Douglas CC. RW confirmed this and asked what was important to DCC? GW suggested Banks receive a copy of the Strategic consultation document DCC compiled following local consultation. This was agreed. MM/LS to check if AJ has an e-copy to send to Banks.

RC asked if Banks had given thought to the fact that two significant gas pipelines run through the project area. RM advised they had and this would influence the design process.

RW thanked the DCC and others attending for their time.

MM thanked Banks for its presentation.

KB advised that the link to this meeting and the agenda should have been on the website, then more people would have attended.

3 Previous Minute

- 3.1 KB referred to Item 8.1 – she denied using the term ‘bribe’ and this should read ‘encourage’.

- 3.2 KB referenced Item 8.2. - she said that Banks had applied for approval for a wind mast – not that it had located one on site.
- 3.3 RC referred to Item 8.2. The three options referred to the three areas that make up the Bodinglee site (A, B and C) and not to Grayside.

With these changes the note of the last meeting was agreed.

GW advised that AJ had reminded him that following changes to the SLC CC Guidance the meetings held remotely were now official as from 16 December 2020.

At this point KB and VB left the meeting.

4 Review of Banks Meeting

- 4.1 MM advised that he had originally seen this meeting as a chance for Banks staff to meet the individuals of the DCC. He was surprised that they had a presentation ready for the meeting. At this point in time DCC can only comment on the Scoping Report as no formal application has been submitted. We can present our view and he will draft a response using LS husband's feedback, which he thanked her for.
- 4.2 LS agreed to speak to AJ regarding posting of future agendas on the website.

5 Treasurers Statement

- 5.1 MM read out the Treasurer's Statement.

Balances are general pot £17,166.18, SLC pot £235.82.

On top of that we're also holding £8.4k for SSE until they're back to normal and can pay in our grant overpayment refund cheque.

Latest payment to RDT for Liz and the CWFF EOY paperwork were completed last month. I'm now up to date (woohoo!) apart from a couple of cheques to refund Liz for Covid grant expenditure.

6 Grant Applications

- 6.1 Abington – request for monies to carry out on-line fitness programme for older residents.

Declined as the view was that there were several other alternative on-line opportunities already in place if people wanted to make use of them.

7 Planning Requests

- 7.1 Crawfordjohn – application to enable Duneaton quarry to process construction waste to infill quarry.

There was concern about increased vehicle use locally but it was recognised that the site is well managed and the waste will be inert material.

8 Defibrillators - (Lamington and Coulter)

- 8.1 IR needs to get clarity of who the group members will be. A draft constitution has been drafted and IR to send the signatory page for signing. There was some discussion about public liability and LS agreed to contact the company that deals with the other defibrillators to explain their liability under their contracts and send that information to IR.

9 Development Worker's Report

- 9.1 Abington store – no volunteers needed as no deliveries require to be made – people appear to have made their own arrangements since last lockdown. Pop-up café on hold.
- 9.2 VasLan monies for Xmas dinners – 8 dinners provided - Abington 6, 1 each in Coulter/Crawfordjohn. LS advised she had received a thank you card from one of the participants.
- 9.3 Make Your Way project – meeting on 16th February. MM had heard nothing further about Coulter Make Your Way.
- 9.4 Crawfordjohn – Val McCarron had 21 +ve responses to questionnaire – 1 -ve. Held zoom meeting last week. Lease issue not resolved.
- 9.5 Roberton Hall – feasibility study to go ahead – need to wait till November for funding, but right people involved and work can progress over the winter.
- 9.6 AJ asked LS to attend 6th Annual Transport Conference webinar.
- 9.7 LS referred to her husband’s Scoping report response. Happy for MM to use it in DCC response. LS husband has appeared as an expert witness in wind farm planning application hearings. Normal fee £5,000. MM advised if DCC could fund such a piece of work it would need to go through a procurement process. Obtaining funding would be an issue and DCC would need to be sure it was reflecting the community view.
- MM advised that he and CS had discussed how best to reflect the community view and CS had drafted a questionnaire. MM is to finalise this and get it put on line. RC advised that the Roberton Action Group had already drafted and circulated a questionnaire in Roberton.
- 9.8 LS advised she had completed her first month of flexible furlough.

10 Local News

- 10.1 RC – nothing to report
- AM – update on Village Hall. Had a very good meeting with SLC’s Benny Martin and Joanne Forbes. SLC not charging for work - no feasibility required. SLC looking at Roberton as a pilot for other halls.
- IR - nothing to report
- GW- nothing to report
- LS – Abington. – contacted about a plot of land in Colebrook Terrace- used as a dumping ground – advised to contact Environmental Health.

11 AOCB

No matters raised.
