

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 1 June 2021

(Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Liz Steele, Irene Riddell, Robin Craig, Gordon Wilson Cllr McAllan
Public attendees – Kay Booton; Glynn Booton; Virginia Bennett;
Representatives – Arcus (on behalf of Grayside Wind Farm owners) Neil Reid; Ross McKenzie; Sophie Williams.

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, Cllr Holford; Katie Stuart-Cox; Alison Mitchell

2 Arcus – Overview of Progress with Grayside Wind Farm

- 2.1 RM introduced himself and SW. NR is hoping to join us, he is acting as client in the process. Arcus is leading on the Planning application. McArthur Green carrying out environmental/ornithological surveys, while Optimised Environments (Open) is the land architect.

SW then gave key updates since the community consultation in February, which she stated may not have been as well publicised as it could have been. She gave a quick overview on progress, identified the key concerns raised and advised about the second round of public consultation and raised the question of how it could be promoted.

SW referred to the site layout map which was shared with the meeting and identified the turbine locations and access road off the A702. The map showed the site in two sections with most of the turbines on the west side of the site. Last September the Scoping Report showed the scheme as having 27 turbines each approx. 200 metres high. However, since then turbines T26 and T27 have been removed and there is a possibility that some others may be removed as well.

SW referred to the concerns raised at the time, primarily the landscaping impact and the access road. Open is to look at the former. As regards the access road, Arcus is in discussion with SSE regarding the use of its access road which would approach the turbines from the west rather than the A702 as proposed. NR advised that given the time it was taking to finalise matters with SSE regarding access it may be necessary for Arcus to submit the plan as shown rather than including the SSE access. Arcus agreed that this would be the best environmental solution but it cannot be confirmed as yet. There are various surveys to be progressed including a more rigorous peat and noise surveys. Currently the proposal is for 23 turbines with T25 being removed as well. There is a design workshop on Friday at which it is hoped the layout will be frozen. This consultation includes Scottish Water, Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Government. Arcus hopes to make its submission in August 2021.

Arcus hopes to have the second round of public consultation on 23/24 June and is suggesting that it follow a similar format to the first sessions. All the information relating to the site will be uploaded onto the Arcus website and a letter drop in the area is proposed, covering the area up to 5 kilometres from the boundary of the site. In addition, there will be adverts placed in the local press e.g. Carlisle Gazette, Peebleshire News.

RM asked if DCC could highlight any bullet points and assist with in raising awareness of the consultation. MM advised that DCC has its own Facebook page as do the local villages and DCC could assist with that. IR raised concern about the A702 access road. RM advised it is still the current proposal. NR said it is their intention to use the SSE access from Wandel near T1 on the site. There are constructive discussions ongoing at the moment. The submission will be lodged as per the plan but they hope to use the SSE access. IR reminded Arcus of the high level of concern locally about the A702 access and asked if the access can be amended during the Planning process. NR advised that there is no downside for the SSE, however it takes time for a large organisation to sign off on such a request. The grid connection date for the site is post 2025. There is a further meeting with SSE this month to progress the issue.

MM asked about access to the east turbines if the SSE access is used. NR advised that a link road would be required from the west to east sections of the site. MM asked why T25 was being removed. SW advised that this was because of a nearby scheduled monument; Windgate Bastle House. There is a meeting with HES next week to finalise this. The proposal to remove T25 came from Arcus's archaeological advisor. RM advised that views to and from the monument were the issue.

RC asked what surveys were being undertaken regarding any peat on the site. NR advised that any peat found so far was of shallow depth. If any peat was found they would float a road over it. There will be some disturbance of peat on site but anything below a metre depth is allowed. Any peat deeper than that and development would not be allowed. So far, the site has avoided any deep pockets. RM advised that the second phase peat survey would check every 50 metres as opposed to the first survey which checked every 100 metres. NR referred to the Whitelee Wind Farm where the peat was 12 meters deep and special founds were built. He stated that the consultees would not allow development if there was any significant depth of peat.

VB asked about the access road. She said that although there are discussions with SSE there is no reference to the SSE access road in the plan. NR advised that Arcus cannot change the access at present as nothing with SSE is confirmed. What is being shared by Arcus today is Arcus's internal working drawing. VB said that local experience at other wind farms was that original plans weren't changed after submission. NR confirmed that Arcus is having a meeting cannot go ahead based on something that is not yet finalised. The developer does not in reality want to use the roads on the drawing but have to cover themselves during the Planning process. VB stated that the public will hold the developer to account. NR advised that he appreciated that.

GB asked questions. The initial consultation had not been the easiest to get to and Arcus still appears to be rushing into the second round of consultation. Why not delay consultation for 3 – 6 months until we can arrange a proper face to face public meeting?

NR said Arcus is happy to have face to face meetings. KB said the consultation should be delayed until we can have a proper meeting as there is a number of people who cannot cope with this medium for discussion. GB also made the point that the map is not very clear for people to discuss. NR advised that Arcus would take these comments on board but they would not delay the consultation for that length of time.

GB stated he had written to NR asking that if the proposed wind farm was agreed it would not be extended or the height of the turbines increased. NR stated that the site

would not be extended or the height of the turbines be increased. GB asked that this response be noted in the minute.

RM advised that all the materials for the consultation will be available through the website. There would still be the opportunity for video calls or 1-2-1 calls and any specific request for materials can be sent on. SW advised that RM and she are to meet with SLC and Scottish Government representatives to firm up the consultation process. MM asked that the Biggar DC and DCC be kept in the loop regarding the consultation. He advised that the questionnaire already issued by DCC had over 65 responses and many had commented on the cumulative effect of having so many wind farms in the area.

On behalf of Arcus, NR thanked DCC for this chance to meet and advised MM that anyone could access Arcus via the website and he was happy to be contacted direct through his email. (Malcolm can you insert that? Thanks)

3 Previous Minute

- 3.1 GW advised that he had received suggested amendments from GB and VB which he thanked them for. He advised that as he was taking a note of the meeting, rather than a specific minute, he felt that the suggestions did not make a material change to the text. However, he did receive three proposed actions from GB which he was looking to incorporate.

- draft spreadsheet of key dates for wind farms published on website. This has been done and updated by MM.

- DCC to ensure that Banks Group addresses all the comments about its Scoping Report and that it is amended accordingly. DCC to check this is carried out.

- resurfacing of the A73 near the bridge at Robertson. DCC to ensure that SLC actions and report back.

- 3.2 With these changes the note of the meeting was approved. Proposed by MM; Seconded by IR.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £235.91, no change.

DCC General account balance: £17,776.70. 2 x COVID grant cheques, 1 x CWFF grant cheque

Activity

- Issued 3 grant cheques

Actions

- Grant applications for consideration:
 - o Glenkerie Covid Wiston Village Hall
 - o CWFF Holy Trinity Chapel
 - o Glenkerie Holy Trinity Chapel

- 4.2 DCC 2020-21 Accounts due to SLC before August for auditing, requiring Chair's signature.

4.3 Grant Monies Remaining

- CWFF: £5033.65 remaining of the £5000 2020-21 grant
 - Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £627.26 remaining of the £1000 2020-21 grant
 - VASLAN Covid: £880 remaining of the £1000 2021 grant
 - SLC Covid: £900 remaining of the £900 2021 grant
 - Ventient Energy Glenkerie Covid: £1333 remaining of the £2000 2020 grant
 - CWFF Covid: £1000 remaining of the £1000 2021 grant
- £4113 total Covid funding available

5 Grant Applications

5.1 Wiston Village Hall – plant swap

Funds are sought to provide flyers flowers and some drinks. Seeking £248.

Proposed GW; seconded IR

5.2 Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington – repairs to wooden bench

Proposed RC; seconded GW.

5.3 Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington – roses in common garden/survey of stencil

Looking for £500, £200 for roses, £300 for stencil survey. Latter part of much larger scheme regarding stencil. Proposed MM

6 Planning Applications

6.1 Wiston – house extension. No issues.

7 Wind Farm Updates

Grayside

7.1 MM advised that questionnaires have been loaded onto websites. 62 responses after 4 days. MM said he would issue a reminder next week and that we should close the process after three weeks. This was agreed.

MM stated that he understood that both developers want to use the SSE access as Arcus stated earlier.

Bodinglee

7.2 MM asked VB if she had heard of any update.

7.3 VB advised she had not heard back from the Banks Group. Bodinglee is moving slowly by comparison with Grayside. However, there is a difference in scale between the two sites.

West Andershaw

7.4 Development of existing wind farm – RC advised he had heard nothing specific. There should be a Scoping Report – response within 6 months. Given the proximity to Crawfordjohn GW to investigate.

Kennoxhead

- 7.5 At Scoping stage. Consultation by the end of June. RC/GW to look at implications.
- 7.6 MM stated that there was a need to revise the DCC website as there is a lot of information on it but it can be difficult to follow. LS advised that AJ has the editorial rights over the page and that some the issue may relate to the fact that it is linked to the Facebook pages. MM thought that much of the historic information that needed to be kept online could/would be better presented as pdf. Files, and be stored in folders. MM to speak to AJ regarding the website.

8 Development Worker's Report

- 8.1 LS advised that tomorrow is the final day of her original 2-year contract. She will be working through until October, using up the remaining funding that was unspent from March to June last year when my salary was paid through the Clyde Extension Covid support funds. AJ and MM have approved her request to take unpaid leave throughout June. She will use her remaining annual leave for a family holiday during the 1st week of July, returning to work on the 12 July. She advised she will attend to any urgent emails and project updates during her absence.
- 8.2 Funding:
MM has advised of the funds available to DCC.
- 8.3 Cost of proposed spend ideas:
Gazebos: Heavy duty 3x3 metre ordered for Wiston and Robertson events. Further gazebo ringfenced for Lamington.
Afternoon tea boxes: 4-week project, with 2 deliveries of 6 boxes each week beginning 25 June.
Abington Store Vouchers: 20 x £25 = £500. By application from individuals. Anne and Rod are kindly designing and printing the vouchers. Funded through SLC grant
Newsletters: 500 A4 - £69. Funded through DCC SLC admin fund. These to be dropped off to you by the end of the week. LS thanked members for agreeing to distribute.
- 8.4 Connect to Renewables Employability
LS contacted Wilma Weir following her presentation at our last meeting. LS suggested when the Hub is open, she books a room for a weekly session so she can link her services into our local communities. She thought it a very positive idea. I've passed on Wilma's details to KSC.
- 8.5 CDW Village Project Updates:
Abington - BT 'Adopt-a-Kiosk - The idea for Abington to buy the village phone box from BT has gone quiet. As already mentioned, it's quite a complex procedure with all liabilities and upkeep transferring to the village after purchase.
Coulter Defibrillator: - The processes and contacts to proceed and complete the project are now confirmed. The Coulter Community Group is going to take on the project once they've created a new bank account for the group.
Crawfordjohn - picnic area. Still no update from SLC to confirm they will renew the now out of date management agreement for the picnic site. The project can't proceed without it. On behalf of the Picnic Area group, LS again asked Gregor Leishman to

make enquiries. SLC were unable to give any update. LS to contact Cllr McA with details so he can follow up within SLC.

Lamington – nothing to report.

Roberton - The Gardening Club are hosting their well know plant sale plus a cake stall on 5 June in the Playpark. The group have taken up the offer of a gazebo for the event.

Wiston - Wiston Village Hall committee are hosting a community BBQ on Sunday 6 June. They've requested a gazebo and taken up the suggestion to apply for funding to support the event.

9 Local News

9.1 Lamington – nothing to report.

9.2 Crawfordjohn – had been more comments on Facebook regarding the picnic area given several tents etc on site this week.

9.3 Roberton – RC raised questions on behalf of AM:

Opening of village halls – when will this happen. Cllr McA was positive that they would open soon but the continued closure is to follow Scottish Government Covid restrictions.

Garden Waste Uplifts – Cllr McA has asked for a response regarding this and will update when he has any information.

RC referred to anti-slip road surface previously raised by GB. RC stated he had not had a chance to chase this up but stated that he had noted that these sections along that road were all in poor condition. GB advised he had since checked the area at the bridge and that he was appalled how bad it was. Cllr McA advised he would pursue.

9.4 Coulter – Openreach broadband works well advanced. Individual property hook-ups now ongoing.

10 AOCB

10.1 **Fountains Forestry UK Ltd – forestry management letter** - MM referred to this received from the Soil Association. There are three forests in Scotland the area but Gilkerscleuch was the only one in our area. DCC has no issues to raise regarding that.

10.2 **Meeting Attendance** - Cllr McA apologised for not attending more of the DCC meetings and will attempt to attend as many as he can going forward.

10.3 **SLLC potential site closures** - Cllr McA referred to an article that appeared in the press regarding this. He re-assured the meeting that there is a cross party group looking at a range of issues affecting these properties but that the Council Leader had confirmed that these closures would not proceed. MM advised that there is a need for us to make a point of using these facilities. LS advised she was meeting with SLC staff in July to discuss hall upgrades based on the process agreed for the Roberton hall. GB advised that with regards the Roberton Hall there were a series of proposals put forward that were liked by SLC and SLLC. A feasibility study has been carried out but the Roberton residents are awaiting for the results of that. GB chases SLC every week for a response. GB to pass contact details to Cllr McA who will follow this up.

11 Date of next meeting

10.1 Tuesday 6 July 2021, at 7.30pm.

Actions

Provide £200 grant to Shed Group. ✓

Clarification needed regarding the consideration of grant applications when the agenda has been finalised.

Grayside questionnaire to be posted on Facebook page. ✓

MM to check with Energy Consent Unit at Scottish Government regarding MoD disturbance levels.

Purchase of tea boxes and gazebos to proceed. ✓

Defibrillator to be progressed.

Upload spreadsheet for tracking key windfarm dates onto website. ✓

Tracking of Banks Group Scoping Report amendments.

A73 non-slip surface at bridge near Robertson refer to SLC. ✓

This meeting

Promote consultation for second phase of Grayside wind farm.

Monitor access issue for Grayside wind farm

DCC to consider review of website. MM to speak to AJ

Payment of three grants – Village Hall Wiston

Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington

Monitor Bodinglee progress

Report back on West Andershaw and Kennoxhead sites

Cllr McA agreed to follow up on issue regarding Crawfordjohn picnic area; garden waste uplifts; non-slip area on A73;
