

Report of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 10 March 2008 at 7-30pm in the Hawken Rowse Room, St. Newlyn East Village Hall.

Present:

Cllrs. M Harvey (Chairman). Cllr. Mrs A John (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. H Bucknell. D Laud. C Tankard. Mrs J Brimacombe, H Farmer, T Odgers, Mrs M Vale.

Also attending —:

John Dyer (Chairman of Carrick District Council). Cllrs Mrs J Clark. J McCulloch. K Yeo & D Mennear.

Mrs. K Rees (Clerk). Benjamin Bateman (Scottish power). Victoria Ridyard (Environmental Impact Assessment Consultant) & 19 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. S Skinner

Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Mrs H Bucknell declared a personal prejudice in agenda item 11 (planning).

Cllr. M Harvey (Chairman) declared a personal interest in the proposed wind farm as two of the wind turbines will be placed on his land. As this was only a consultation he would Chair the meeting but when it is discussed under `planning` he would hand over the Chair.

Benjamin Bateman. Project Manager for Scottish Power addressed the council regarding the proposed redevelopment of Carland Cross Wind farm. He introduced Victoria Ridyard, EIA Consultant (Environmental Impact Assessment). Scottish Power purchased the land last year with the intention of increasing output from the current 6MW to 20MW. By 2020 20% of electricity generated has to be from renewable sources and this land is ideal because there is already a wind farm on the site. This is the very early stage of the proposal. There is no fixed layout and the number of wind turbines is not yet determined. The environmental studies have started to see what impact the redevelopment will have which is a requirement under planning law. Scottish Power hopes to have the planning application in to Carrick by the end of the year. The wind farm will extend out to Fiddlers Green which will double the area in terms of square kilometres.

Questions from Councillors to Benjamin Bateman:

The Chairman, Cllr. Harvey stated that the main concerns of local residents were noise levels and the proximity to dwellings. How close will the turbines be to dwellings?

The plans show that the wind turbines will approximately 500 metres from dwellings. For the original wind farm the buffer was 350 metres. The exact distance will be determined by ecological constraints such as the location of water pipes. Turbines have to be 150 metres from these. Noise studies have not yet started.

How many wind turbines will there be?

Scoping responses are not yet back. These studies will determine where the turbines will be placed. If it is only possible to place 10 turbines on the site then they will build the larger ones. If the site is clear then they would rather build 20 of the smaller ones. Once plans have been finalised, a public consultation will take place where exhibition boards with the plans will be displayed. Once the planning application has been submitted, another consultation will then take place where the environmental report will be available.

What about the money due to the community?

Scottish Power has a policy and a corporate responsibility to channel some of the profits from the wind farm back into the community. The amount is not yet confirmed but it is typically £1500 per wind turbine so potentially £20,000 would be given to the Parish.

What are the timescales of the development?

The planning application will go in at the end of the year. It will roughly take another year to go through the planning process so a potential build start date of 2011/2012.

Mrs Burn read a statement regarding an existing wind farm and the noise created. The village was less than 3/4 of a mile from the farm and the nearest dwelling was 1km. A study before the wind farm was built claimed that the dwellings would not be affected by noise. However, in reality the noise often penetrated the double glazing. Her main concern is the school which will be within 3/4 mile of the Farm.

Benjamin Bateman replied that sound is a subjective thing. Scottish Power has to abide by sound regulations.

A parishioner from 4 East Wheal Rose Barn was concerned that Scottish Power can't yet give any data on sound.

Victoria Ridyard confirmed that sound is not monitored over winter as the results can be distorted. The study will be done in the next couple of months. Turbines do come with guide lines on sound. However, many factors affect sound levels so they cannot yet give specifics for this site.

Andrew Murgatoyd, the closest resident to the farm made several comments:

Do all the proposals double or treble the height of the turbines? Yes

Trewithen Estates are supportive of the project but they will receive a financial benefit from rent? Benjamin Bateman was not prepared to comment on financial matters.

The Scottish Exec published planning guidelines in 2007 which stated that wind farms should be at least 2km from the nearest village. Mitchell, St. Newlyn East. Trevilson and Fiddlers Green are within 2 km of the farm? You cannot apply Scottish guidelines to a farm in England.

Mr Humphries, the agent for the landowner, said that the proposals were in the very early stages but he is supportive of the project and is interested to see the assessment and impact reports.

Mr Corby said that he was sympathetic to environmental issues but was shocked and dismayed at the almost provocative placement of wind turbines so close to the village.

Cllr. Vale then asked whether there had been any discussion with Carrick. Benjamin Bateman confirmed that talks with Carrick had been undertaken by his colleague, Neal Reid. It is fair to say that Carrick are supportive of renewable energy but not specific projects.

A parishioner then asked how the public would be kept informed? A company had been employed to look at the electoral role and contact all the residents involved. Many feedback forms had been completed and Scottish Power would do their best to keep locals informed, particularly through the Council.

Cllr. Yeo asked what would happen to the existing bases as large engineering works had taken place to erect the current turbines?

The turbines would be removed and maybe resold to the Eastern European market.

An environmental study would take place to determine the effects of taking out the bases. There might be less of an impact to relandscape the area.

Cllr. Yeo said he was disappointed that they currently had no idea of the size of the wind turbines. The current noise is like Chinese torture. It won't be picked up on sound monitors so Scottish Power will have no problem passing environmental tests. Benjamin Bateman again said it was hard to quantify subjective noise.

Benjamin Bateman stated that as Scottish Power had held this initial public consultation he hoped it would go some way to giving villagers the confidence that they will be involved in the process.

The Chairman, Martin Harvey then advised that the public speaking session was only 15 minutes long. The session had lasted 45 minutes so public speaking time was over. He reiterated that the project was only at the consultation stage and currently there is no formal planning application to support or object to. There was much disappointment so it was proposed to extend public speaking time by a further 5 minutes.

RESOLVED: Public speaking time to be extended by a Further 5 minutes.

Andrew Murgatoyd said it wasn't true that the wind farm is now defunct. It could be used for years but just at a higher maintenance cost to Scottish Power. Benjamin Bateman said that this was true. However, the cost would be passed on to the consumer. He also confirmed that there would be no compensation to local residents.

Andrew Murgatoyd then asked what level of subsidy Scottish Power would receive? Benjamin Bateman did not know the answer. Andrew Murgatoyd thought it to be in the region of £200,000- £400,000 per turbine, per year.