

Crystal Rig IV - Public Inquiry

**Submission from
East Lammermuir Community Council**

Statement

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Preamble

East Lammermuir lies within the county of East Lothian, and consists of four villages and their surrounding areas; Oldhamstocks, Innerwick, Spott and Stenton.

The applicant's documentation indicates that the proposed Crystal Rig IV development would be visible and audible from much of East Lammermuir, and the main access to and egress from the site and associated national grid works is through East Lammermuir.

Understanding the views of local people

East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC) carried out a door to door postal survey of residential properties in East Lammermuir January 2020 (copy attached as Appendix A).

Where more than one person lives in a single dwelling, the survey asked for the opinion of each person 16 years of age or older. The survey asked people to identify their position in respect of the proposal as one of the following opinions;

- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose

The survey also asked people to indicate their reasons for holding their opinion. Many respondents took the opportunity to comment - some comments ran to several pages in length.

Stamped Addressed Envelopes were provided for return of completed forms and we achieved a **31% return rate** (176 of 565 surveys).

Findings

i) The numbers

A majority of respondents (47%) tend to support or strongly support the proposals.

However, the opinion of local residents about this proposal appears to be polarised, with 41% indicating opposition and 47% support for the proposal.

A smaller proportion (13%) of respondents were not minded to support or oppose the development.

Most of those who oppose the proposal do so strongly.

Those who support the proposal are split between tending to support (26% of all respondents) and strongly support (21% of all respondents).

ii) The reasoning

Overall, the survey results can be read as broadly supportive of the CRIV proposals. However, on examination of the many reasons provided to explain people's opinions, it becomes clear that **many more people would support, or strongly support the proposal, if some or all of the following conditions were put in place;**

- ✓ **no red lights** on any turbines
- ✓ **no turbines taller** than those already in place at Crystal Rig
- ✓ **noise mitigation**
- ✓ control of windfarm-related **traffic**, speedy and effective repair of **road damage** due to construction and maintenance of Crystal Rig wind farm
- ✓ establishment of a **local liaison group** to monitor these conditions and liaise between the developer and the local communities.

In order to illustrate what local people experience, and are asking for, some examples of the comments received are shown here;

No red lights on any turbines

“Aviation lighting would give the area an industrial appearance”

“Flashing red aviation lights on 200m turbines. Light pollution will spoil the wonderful dark skies area for stargazing.”

“ . . . concern over impact on road infrastructure, water courses and light pollution”

“Object to the red aircraft lighting”

No turbines taller than those already in place at Crystal Rig

“Adverse effect on the landscape and character of the area and on leisure and recreational activities and on tourism”

“The economic case does not outweigh the visual impact of the development in an area of outstanding beauty”

“Turbines height should be restricted to those already existing”

“200m height sets a dangerous precedent on shore - too high”

“4 at 200m is excessive and will interfere with the scenic views of the area”

“200m turbines amongst the highest onshore in UK. 200m high turbine is more than half as high again as existing turbines and rotor diameter almost half as much again”

“Ratcheting effect - height of turbines seems to increase with every new proposal”

Noise mitigation

“Noise pollution detrimental to day to day life (stress & insomnia) - but being ignored!”

“Noise keeping us awake 100+ nights per year”

“Concern over cumulative noise levels - any increase in turbine numbers will have a large impact”

Control of windfarm-related traffic, speedy and effective repair of road damage due to construction and maintenance of Crystal Rig wind farm

“Increase in near misses between local resident cars and construction vehicles on narrow roads”

“HGV traffic speeding. Speed signs needed and adhered to!”

“That the local community be given adequate advance notice of large HGV movements”

“Woodhall, Hunter Steading, Thurston etc road already in poor state of repair and 2 HGV’s cannot pass side by side at Hunter Steading where the road narrows. No pavement, other road users simply squeezed out from using the road”

“Increase in damage to already significantly damaged access roads through East Lammermuir by HGV wind farm traffic”

“Road Access from AI at Innerwick has already taken a battering and is badly in need of repair especially hill through the woods from 2nd Innerwick turning to the turning for the Brunt”

Establishment of a local liaison group to monitor these conditions and liaise between the developer and the local communities.

“A formal liaison group be formed to include at a minimum members from contractors, ELC, Fred Olsen, ELCC and traffic police”

“A named liaison person for local people to contact”

We attach (Appendix B) a summary of all comments made in the surveys returned, and a full analysis of the opinions expressed in the tickboxes provided.

Conclusion and recommendation

“Feeling of Powerlessness against current planning system”

East Lammermuir Community Council, on behalf of our residents - **urge the reporter to attach all of these conditions** to any permission to proceed with CRIV.

Whilst the balance of local opinion supports the proposals for Crystal Rig IV, many of the concerns of local residents can be addressed if conditions are imposed to meet the five key asks;

- ✓ **no red lights** on any turbines
- ✓ **no turbines taller** than those already in place at Crystal Rig
- ✓ **noise mitigation**
- ✓ control of windfarm-related **traffic**, speedy and effective repair of **road damage** due to construction and maintenance of Crystal Rig wind farm
- ✓ establishment of a **local liaison group** to monitor these conditions and liaise between the developer and the local communities.

Representation at Inquiry / Hearing

It is proposed that the Chair of the Community Council will represent these views on behalf of the Community Council and local residents

Chris Bruce

Chair

East Lammermuir Community Council

27th January 2020

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Appendix A - Copy of Survey

East Lammermuir Community Council wants your view on a planning application please

At the Inquiry, the Reporter will be keen to understand what lies behind local opinion. Please indicate any specific reasons here:

The results from this communication will enable us to make an informed contribution to the Public Inquiry on your behalf.

This survey has been numbered to monitor response only. In order to maintain confidentiality numbers are **not** linked to specific households, but do identify each of the four villages and surrounding areas.

Many thanks for taking the time to read and respond to this letter. Please return your completed questionnaire in the stamped addressed envelope provided without delay.

Chris Bruce, Chair, East Lammermuir Community Council

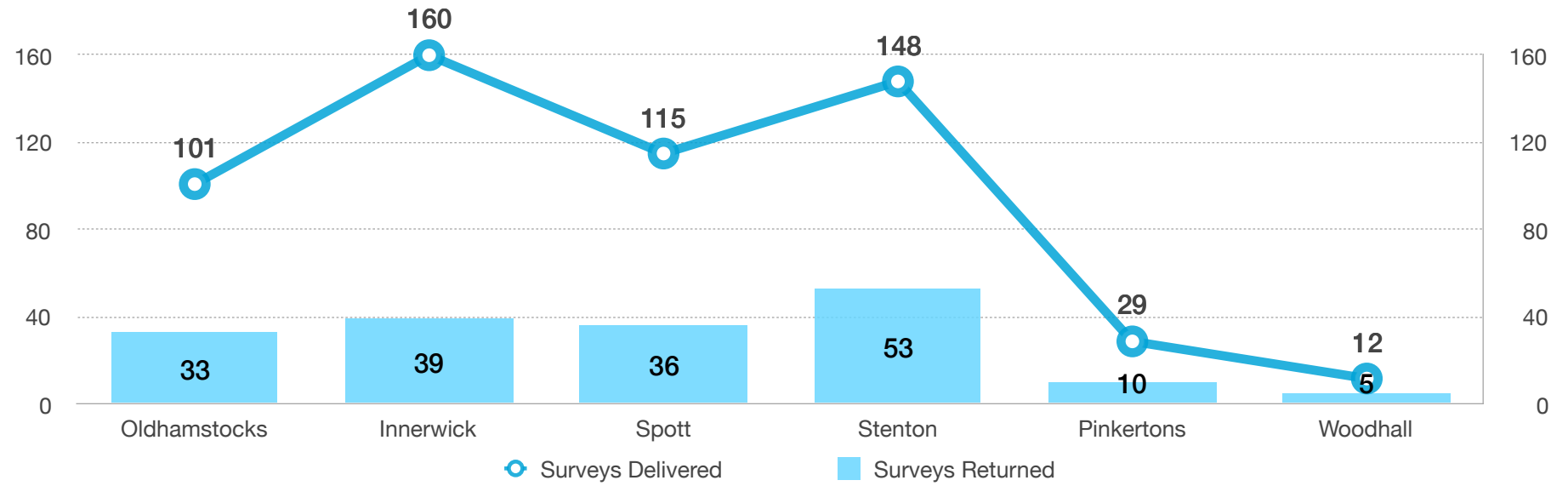
17th December 2019

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Appendix B - Findings

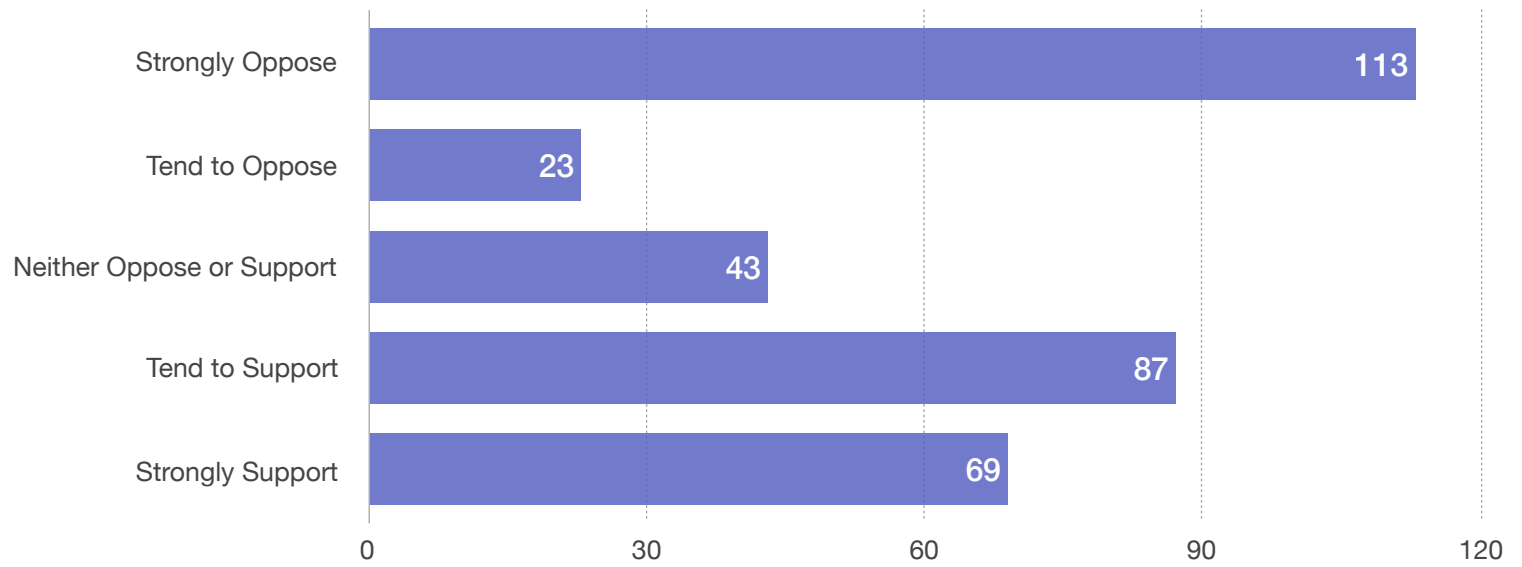
	SURVEYS DELIVERED	SURVEYS RETURNED	RETURN RATE %
Oldhamstocks	101	33	33%
Innerwick	160	39	24%
Spott	115	36	31%
Stenton	148	53	36%
Pinkertons	29	10	34%
Woodhall	12	5	42%
TOTAL	565	176	31%



To what extent would you support or oppose the CR IV Application

RESPONSE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Strongly Oppose	113
Tend to Oppose	23
Neither Oppose or Support	43
Tend to Support	87
Strongly Support	69

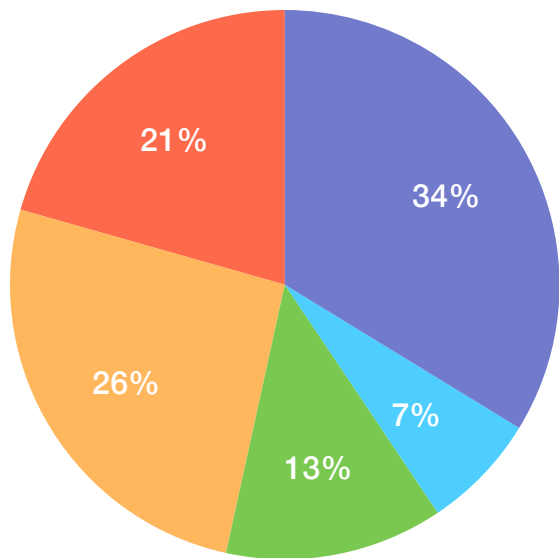
Bar Chart



To what extent would you support or oppose the CR IV Application

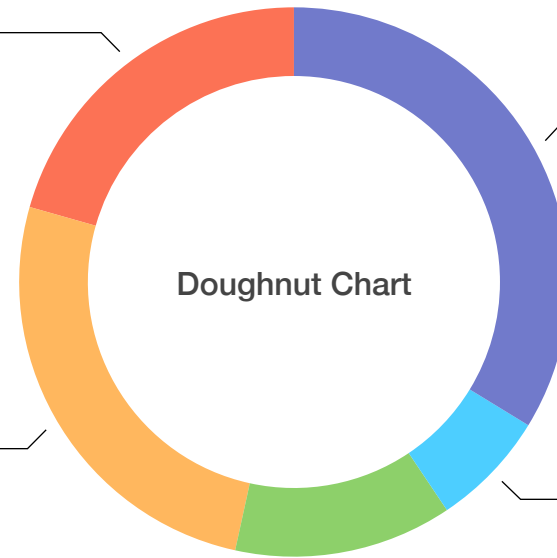
RESPONSE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	SHARE
Strongly Oppose	113	34%
Tend to Oppose	23	7%
Neither Oppose or Support	43	13%
Tend to Support	87	26%
Strongly Support	69	21%
Total	335	

Pie Chart



- Strongly Oppose
- Neither Oppose or Support
- Strongly Support
- Tend to Oppose
- Tend to Support

Strongly Support
21%



Strongly Oppose
34%

Tend to Support
26%

Tend to Oppose
7%

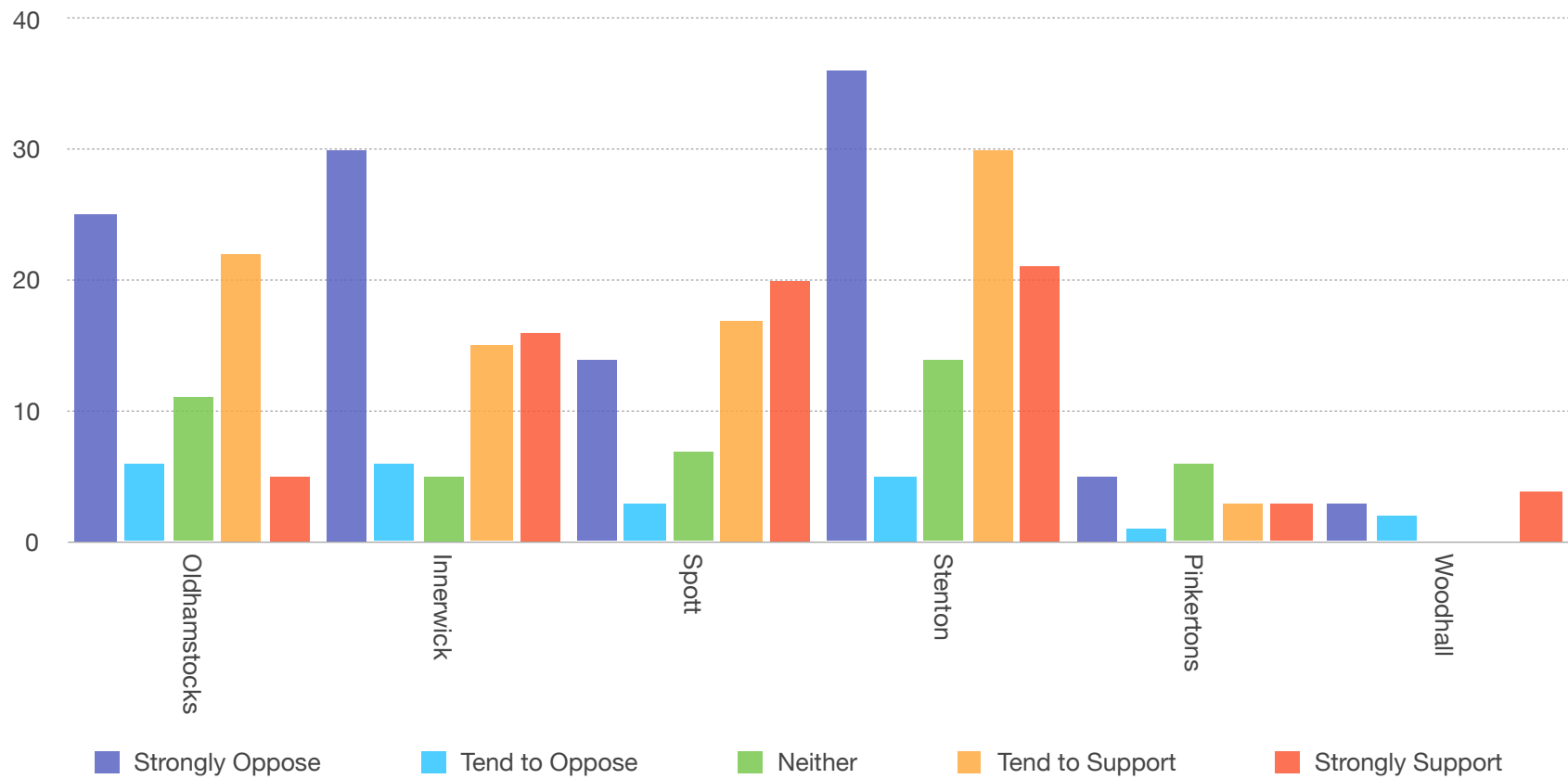
Neither Oppose or Support
13%

Doughnut Chart

To what extent would you support or oppose the CR IV Application by Village Area

RESPONSE	OLDHAMSTOCKS	INNERWICK	SPOTT	STENTON	PINKERTONS	WOODHALL
Strongly Oppose	25	30	14	36	5	3
Tend to Oppose	6	6	3	5	1	2
Neither	11	5	7	14	6	0
Tend to Support	22	15	17	30	3	0
Strongly Support	5	16	20	21	3	4
Total	69	72	61	106	18	9

Column Chart



Crystal Rig IV Survey - Respondent Comments

Duplicate comments have not been recorded separately

Strongly Oppose

Landscape

- Wilful Destruction of the Lammermuir through over saturation of wind turbines
- Blight on landscape which has been designated by East Lothian as a landscape of natural beauty
- Loss of area of natural beauty, eco system and habitat for wide variety of wildlife due to quarrying and road construction
- Adverse effect on the landscape and character of the area and on leisure and recreational activities and on tourism
- The economic case does not outweigh the visual impact of the development in an area of outstanding beauty
- Suggest 2 or 3 turbines in vicinity of Bute House to give Scottish Govt an idea of what local residents have to put up with

Ecology and Wildlife

- Destruction of trees to make way for turbines. Ecological hypocrisy
- Increase in bird/raptors killed in blade strikes, removal of fauna to site turbines and associated cabling
- Seems more appropriate to plant trees to combat climate change!
- Increase in litter in area from construction workers and delivery drivers
- Lammermuir becoming like a concrete jungle - how is this eco friendly?

Noise

- Noise pollution detrimental to day to day life (stress & insomnia) - but being ignored!
- Noise keeping us awake 100+ nights per year
- Noise heard in village throughout the year
- Concern over cumulative noise levels - any increase in turbine numbers will have a large impact

Turbines & Wind Power - quantity, height, efficiency, lights

- Saturation! Enough is Enough
- Where will it end? We will shortly be covered in turbines. We do not want this to happen
- 200m height sets a dangerous precedent on shore - too high
- Sketch elevations don't give correct impression of 200m high turbines on hills - only 200m high above land level
- 4 at 200m is excessive and will interfere with the scenic views of the area
- Flashing red aviation lights on 200m turbines. Light pollution will spoil the wonderful dark skies area for stargazing.
- Aviation lighting would give the area an industrial appearance
- 200m turbines amongst the highest onshore in UK. 200m high turbine is more than half as high again as existing turbines and rotor diameter almost half as much again
- Combined effect of above is 200m turbine will look at least twice the size of those existing, more than twice the size of Big Ben

- Ratcheting effect - height of turbines seems to increase with every new proposal
- No wind No Energy
- Current wind turbines switched off in high winds - how is this effective efficient renewable energy?
- Inconsistent power generated by wind farms. Grid needs to be upgraded to cope with power surges
- Wind energy not cost effective. Turbines only work at full capacity for a third of the time and therefore must be backed up by other technology.
- Increase in costs to consumers subsidising 'green projects'
- Turbines expensive to build and have limited life span
- Only generate money because they are subsidised

Traffic and Road Damage

- Huge increase in HGV and maintenance traffic on rural access roads.
- Increase in damage to already significantly damaged access roads through East Lammermuir by HGV wind farm traffic
- Already increased HGV movements supplying hard core to widen areas of road to Crystal Rig
- HGV traffic speeding. Speed signs needed and adhered to!
- Woodhall, Hunter Steading, Thurston etc road already in poor state of repair and 2 HGV's cannot pass side by side at Hunter Steading where the road narrows. No pavement, other road users simply squeezed out from using the road
- Road Access from A1 at Innerwick has already taken a battering and is badly in need of repair especially hill through the woods from 2nd Innerwick turning to the turning for the Brunt
- Increase in near misses between local resident cars and construction vehicles on narrow roads

Few Benefits for Local Residents

- Rural Areas like Woodhall have no public services infrastructure - no mains water connection, no mains gas meaning high prices for those on oil and LPG - Yet surrounded by Wind Farms which generate power.
- On our doorstep but does not give any reduction in electricity bills/compensation to local residents
- Continuation of damage to access roads through East Lammermuir by HGV wind farm traffic
- In an area of nuclear power and wind power, why don't we benefit from reduced electricity costs from said suppliers
- Feels like Industrial area with Torness, Viridor, Cement Works and Wind Farms but with few local benefits

Miscellaneous

- Object to Huge profits to private shareholders and investors
- Time for Scottish Govt to look at Tidal energy
- Feeling of Powerlessness against current planning system
- What proof is available to the reporter which would confirm mitigation of light and radar security especially for military flights?
- SNP passion project. It has no wider impact on the economy.
- If Wind Farms operate without any govt subsidy, we may change our minds.

Tend to Oppose

- Increasing visual impact of the windfarm to the detriment of the landscape.
- Object to the red aircraft lighting
- Size of proposed turbines and transport of large components through countryside

Neither

- Clean energy v's Damage to environment/wildlife
- Scottish Govt need to revise opinion on nuclear energy
- Can we meet electricity needs when there is no wind
- But object to turbines appearing above the skyline over a large expanse of lowland
- Turbines height should be restricted to those already existing
- Please ensure all paths/rights of way eg Herring Road are protected, maintained and clearly marked

Tend to Support

- Need to lower carbon emissions
- Best to increase capacity at existing sites rather than creating new ones
- Makes sense to use existing infrastructure for additional turbines
- Support alternative to fossil fuels
- Support the turbines BUT not the size. Maximum size should be as now - 149.9m
- We do not find them offensive providing they do not affect wildlife
- If the CR IV goes ahead, roads need to be upgraded and not just repaired
- However someone needs to be responsible for repair to damaged roads
- Wind power is important for a sustainable energy future
- Increased revenue will positively contribute to local economy and community support through pay back scheme
- But concern over impact on road infrastructure, water courses and light pollution
- With the proviso that Crystal Rig give further support to the local villages & surrounding area with cash grants etc

Strongly Support

- Providing funding for numerous local projects in East Lammermuir
- Good for the environment
- Sustainable solution to power production
- More requirement for renewable energy. This will help with generation of green energy going forward
- Making use of a natural resource in wind and reducing carbon emissions
- Climate emergency means we need to move rapidly from dependence on fossil fuels to the use of renewables. This far outweighs other considerations
- Support Renewable energy
- All forms of renewable energy are essential to reduce greenhouse gases

- Until Tidal turbines are developed and installed we need to use existing technologies like onshore wind turbines
- Hypocritical to have a 'not in my backyard' attitude
- Help to reduce global warming and fight climate change
- Climate emergency
- Anything helping to being independent in providing our own energy should be welcomed
- From resident living 750m from nearest CR turbine: noise/flicker is not a problem and visual impact is always well contained by Fred Olsen designers

Extended Responses received with a number of Suggestions

1. A formal liaison group be formed to include at a minimum members from contractors, ELC, Fred Olsen, ELCC and traffic police
2. A named liaison person for local people to contact
3. That the local community be given adequate advance notice of large HGV movements
4. That there be rapid and full reinstatement of damage to road edges and pot holes and a full reinstatement of the roads at the end of construction period
5. That the applicant ensure there is carbon emission offsetting to cover all aspects of the new installation including the embedded carbon cost of the components and transport
6. Developer and Community Funds be used to help restore wooded cleughs like Lammermuir Deans in the area. These are the last surviving relics of what would have been extensive oak woodlands and are the most rich and valuable local sites for wildlife. These should be restored and extended by planting native woodland, removing non-native plants and fencing against stock. Further native tree planting offsite should also be undertaken for conservation, landscape enhancement and CO2 offsetting. With careful planning and the wise use of funds by ELCC, the proposed development could and should result in net ecological gain for the site and wider environment, together with increased social benefits such as landscape enhancement for the local community.
7. What happens after during and after decommissioning?