

## ELCC Meeting Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Virtual meeting (Webex)

#### **Present:**

Colin Bloomfield (Webex Host); Chris Bruce (Chair); Cris Thacker; Janice Hanvidge; Anne Lyall; Janette MacDonald (part)

#### **Apologies**

Donna Collins, Julia Harrison

#### **Visitors attending**

Rosie Scurr, Suzanna Kerr, Adam Marshall, Drew Kininmonth, Chris Hamill, James MacKinnon (all offshore windfarm project)  
Ross Grieve (Thistle Foundation)

#### **Previous Minutes**

These were approved in principle, although one correction was required to the comments on Branxston substation (**action CB**). Final version to be formally approved at next meeting.

#### **Items**

##### **1. Offshore Wind Farm**

A number of people involved in the project attended the meeting to clarify aspects of the NnG off shore windfarm construction. A separate presentation (pdf) is attached – this covers all key project information and aspects of importance to the local communities.

The attendees were:

Rosie Scurr, Onshore Environment and Consents Manager for NnG Offshore Wind, Adam Marshall (EDF onshore engineering) and Suzanna Kerr (comms for EDF)  
Chris Hamill (Volker Project Liaison), Drew Kininmonth (Volker Ops Manager) and Les McLaughlin (Volker Project Manager) - Volker do project cabling/infrastructure install  
James Mackinnon (Prysmian – construction works)

Project Highlights:

- Key Government approved Essential infrastructure project. EDF are the project client. Planning approval was obtained in 2013 and the project has been running for around 10 years, and is now entering construction phase.
- 12.5km of cabling to be laid along a defined route (see presentation maps)
- Project will take 18 months
- All works will be carried out in compliance with Government COVID restrictions on social distancing etc.
- The main construction compound will be East of Innerwick Village, quite near Thurston Manor holiday park.
- Trenches are dug in open land and ducts/cabling then installed and backfilled
- Woodland locations are drilled/tunnelled underneath with specialist equipment so the tree roots are not disrupted.
- There is an additional contractor parking compound approx. 1km west of Innerwick for around 30-40 vehicles (but this is not part of NnG cable-laying project, it is for works at Crystal Rig Substation itself)
- Discussions are ongoing with Thurston Manor to provide contractor accommodation

- Whilst most of the 65 roles will be specialist construction/engineering, around 10% are expected to be more general admin. These are likely to employ local people. From experience on previous projects, many of these people are retained within the businesses in permanent roles – at a previous project in Caithness 20% of new contractors were retained.
- Deliveries to the construction site will be kept outside school hours
- Liaison meetings being set up with local landowners

Questions raised by ELCC were as follows, and comprehensive answers were provided:

- a) The routing of the cable appears different in the 2 maps (Slides 3 and 4). Which one is correct?

**Ans:** Slide 3 indicated the general work areas, Slide 4 indicates the cable routes. The blue lines indicate how the construction traffic enters the work areas.

- b) On completion of cable works, will the construction compound north of Innerwick be decommissioned and the land restored to former self or will the compound be here to stay?

**Ans:** The compound will be removed a short time after completion of works and returned to agricultural land.

- c) Will any damage to the roads and verges be repaired following works completion?

**Ans:** Yes – this is a pre-condition of ELC Planning consents.

- d) We are constantly dismayed at the level of littering on road verges and fly tipping (including construction materials) on the way to Crystal Rig. Can you provide assurance that your workers (including delivery drivers) will show due respect to the area?

**Ans:** This has been noted and information will be briefed regularly at team briefings to all contractors. If residents notice issues, these should be reported to EDF, as EDF manage the project including all contractors. Appropriate action will be taken as it's recognised that residents goodwill and co-operation is essential to enable these types of project. A phone number to report issues is included on the leaflet about to be distributed.

- e) The speed of construction and wind farm traffic has been an issue in the area for years. Can you provide assurances that your drivers will be sufficiently briefed about watching their speed and being courteous to fellow road users.

**Ans:** Workers are briefed as part of the induction process, vehicles are fitted with speed recording equipment and a 20mph speed limit for site traffic from the A1 to the work area was part of the Planning consent.

- f) Number of vehicle movements anticipated?

**Ans:** Initially 4 tippers on a turnaround basis to and from the main compound. Other info from the traffic plan will be checked and communicated later. Deliveries for instance are scheduled for outside of school hours (09.15 to 15.30).

- g) What defines an affected neighbour, where works are planned outwith agreed times?

**Ans:** Contacts have already been established directly with local landowners. ELC have to be informed of any variations to the Planning agreements. It was recognised that the Planning process requires only certain residents to be informed of changes though. EDF are trying to communicate beyond purely Planning requirements, hence the comms session this evening.

h) Are Construction Leadership Council Safe Operating Procedures approved by Scottish Government?

**Ans:** CECA and CLC construction industry guidelines are being followed.

i) And finally, can NnG consider a way of setting up a liaison with Innerwick/Thurston/Woodhall residents throughout the construction period?

**Ans:** EDF/Volker would like to do this and asked what the best way to go about this would be. CB said unfortunately Donna and Julia were not present on the call – they represent these areas. CB will ensure they are set up with contact details with Rosie Scurr post this meeting (**action CB**).

j) CT asked how trade waste and other materials would be recycled?

**Ans:** Excess building materials are retained for use on other projects. Aggregate will be lifted go back for recycling, cleaning and re-use. Excess cable is sent for specialist recycling. Cable drums are returnable. Any excess fencing that cannot be retained/re-used is usually offered 'free to a good home' to whoever wants it locally.

CB asked about potential community benefit from the project?

Suzie Kerr confirmed that ongoing talks and plans for a community benefit fund are in progress. The communities benefitting would be those affected directly by the project as well as Dunbar.

ELCC thanked everyone from the project for their contributions and comprehensive answers to the questions raised.

## 2. Thistle Foundation discussion

CB declared an interest in the Thistle Foundation and withdrew from the discussion.

CT had invited Ross Grieve to discuss wellbeing services as long-term prospect for the community. At the previous ELCC meeting emphasis made on how to move forward productively into Phase 2 of the Covid crisis, where mental health and wellbeing of the community was marked as a key priority. It had been suggested there would be a benefit from having wellbeing support at Dunbar Medical Centre.

Ross Grieve described how services in Midlothian work. Ross manages the Thistle Wellbeing service. Thistle Foundation are contracted by Midlothian Health & Social Care Partnership and provide 12 Wellbeing practitioners embedded in local GP services in Midlothian. There is a national 'LINKS' worker program which offers similar services, but mainly as a 'signpost' link to point people at the service they need. Wellbeing Services offer a longer term, more supportive coaching type relationship with the person concerned and also includes group type support services. These include Mindfulness, T'ai Chi and many other similar processes that help support mental health.

One of the main benefits has been GPs now have an in-house support service that helps people who have non-medical needs, allowing GPs more time in their main key role.

CT asked how the service is evaluated, and on what sort of frequency. RG outlined the principles of the 'Outcomes Navigator Tool' for service results assessment. He explained the main difference between a Wellbeing Practitioner and a Links worker was the Links service identifies an individual's needs and then points them to the appropriate service, whereas Wellbeing is a broader concept. Wellbeing involves much more of a conversation to identify an individual's life goals, and more coaching support over a longer term to help get them to more where they want to be.

Wellbeing practitioners tend to be a combination of Occupational Therapists, Social workers, Medical advice workers – people with a combination of a background skill set along with relevant coaching skills.

RG mentioned that if ELCC were interested in progressing further, it may be possible to share some of the Midlothian service evaluation information.

ELCC members thanked Ross for his contribution. ELCC need to discuss and decide whether to and how to move forward, recognizing this is very much a long term type of project commitment. RG left the meeting.

JMacD suggested that perhaps the Benefit Fund could pay for a Wellbeing Practitioner and a Councillor maybe one day a week at Dunbar Medical Centre (DMC). Whilst Midlothian use the Wellbeing approach, it was known that Edinburgh uses the Link approach. It was known that most of these support services are run on typically a 3-year contract, with inbuilt measures to assess level of success and regular reporting.

AL questioned whether DMC were looking into this already. Dr Tom Lynch had already been contacted by JMacD. Current information was that DMC would have more information in a couple of weeks. Following discussion it was agreed that ELCC would be happy in principle to support some type of service at DMC, which would be of benefit both to East Lammermuir and Dunbar residents. Doctors at DMC had already made comment that these types of services are invaluable.

Further conversation was required with Dr Lynch/Dr Bagley at DMC to establish more detail around the type of services that DMC felt were appropriate for the Dunbar area. **(action JH/JMacD)**.

There was also a need to at least establish 'rough ball park costs' of such a service on a part-time basis initially from RG, recognising that there may also be other service providers. **(action CT)**.

There had not yet been time to research use of a mental health worker in North Berwick High School as a model for future support for youths in East Lothian. This would be followed up. **(action CT)**

### **3. Hallhill/Dunbear Park Meeting**

No one from ELCC was able to attend but JH was aware of a contact that had, and would try to obtain a report back on that session **(action JMacD)**.

### **4. Community Windpower Funding/COVID response**

Community Windpower have agreed to release £20K to ELCC for Covid response. This would be in the form of 4 payments over the next 4 weeks of £5K, and would be retained by ELCC for use as community benefits money if not spent during the Covid period. The remaining current balance of funds (£40k) was subject to finalizing the CWP/ELCC agreements.

Innerwick Parish Welfare Association had been granted an initial £1000 from ELCC plus a further £500.

Innerwick Welfare had also applied for £2500 from BeGreen/Community Windpower. As Innerwick councillors were unable to attend this evening JH would contact the Innerwick Treasurer (Megan) for more information **(action JH)**

It was commented the Volunteers Centre for East Lothian had been in contact with SPoC's to inform that a government fund of around £90K was available for application from local organisations for COVID support. Applications of up to £3000 per organisations would be considered.

There was a discussion on the wording on the Sustaining Dunbar website. This currently can be read as though £12k has been awarded to the four local Community Councils (i.e. interpretable as £3k each), although this is not actually the case. If ELCC is queried, then we should clarify the actual position for whoever asks – that there is a fund of £12k open to any suitable application to Sustaining Dunbar from the whole geographical area. ELCC is represented on the decision-making panel for this £12k.

## **5. ACOB**

JH confirmed that ELCC now has RBS internet banking facilities.

CT suggested he might set up a WhatsApp group for ELCC members if it seems it might be useful.

Two more COVID support applications had been received and these were approved. Electronic banking arrangements would be useful in enabling payments.

Colin Bloomfield offered to take a note of meetings held virtually, and this offer was gratefully accepted.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm by Webex