

# **ELCC meeting – Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

19.30 by Webex

## **1 - Present and apologies**

**Present Community Councillors** Colin Bloomfield (minutes), Janette MacDonald, Anne Lyall, Janice Hanvidge, Chris Bruce (Chair), Julia Harrison, Donna Collins.

## **Apologies**

**Visitors In attendance** - (part meeting)

Claire Duffy, Ross Laird, Barry Hughes - SP Energy Networks

Gary Donlin, Elly Smith SSE Renewables

Councillors : Paul McLennan, Norman Hampshire (full meeting)

## **2 - Approval of previous Minute**

Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved. Proposed Janice H, Seconded Janette MacD.

## **3. Eastern Link Power Transmission Project**

Claire Duffy explained that the basis of the project was reinforcement of power transmission capabilities between the East Coast of Scotland via High Voltage DC bi- directional undersea powerlines. HVDC is more efficient than AC networks over very long distances. However, primarily it will export renewable energy to England from offshore wind. In times of low power production in Scotland, it will import energy South to North. There would be four future projects seeking to invest in long term network stability. This project is the first of these - Eastern Link 1 would run undersea cables between Torness and Hawthorn Pit in Durham. Cables are likely to come onto land south of Thornton Loch. The Converter station site could be anywhere between the south of Dunbar to Cockburnspath, although ideally would be fairly close to existing infrastructure at Old Branxton, depending on land availability. Installation work on the substation is likely to start in 2022 and on the converter station early 2026.

The Berwick Bank windfarm (NnG) infrastructure will be installed first, followed by these changes

(A presentation is attached).

Chris Bruce commented that whilst the project focusses on the electrical infrastructure requirements, other broader community benefit issues that could be cheaply addressed as part of such a huge project are often overlooked. For example, there is no safe pedestrian access across the A1. It might be possible to design and install this type of benefit as part of this type of larger project at very little cost compared with trying to do this separately later. Hence community consultation at early stages is key to trying to see whether this sort of local issue could be addressed as part of the project brief.

Chris B asked whether the Berwick Bank & Marr Bank works could be shown alongside this development so that an overall picture of the combined landfall impacts could be understood. Claire D commented that this was already planned, and drawings/maps would be produced.

Gary Donlin (SSE Renewables) gave an update on the offshore windfarm projects – Seagreen, BerwickBank, Marr Bank, NnG and Inchcape. Land fall of Berwick Bank cables are likely to be either Skateraw or Thornton Beach. Cables will be buried underground once on land. Survey work has already started and will carry on through 2021. The formal public consultation is likely to be Autumn 2021 and the Planning Application early 2022. Construction is likely to be around 2026 onwards.

#### **4. Actions from Previous minutes**

Training for self-employed care workers – Janice H commented some workers were now getting worried about their accreditations lapsing and JH had contacted Norman H. NH had asked within the Council and would chase up a reply (**action Norman H**).

Chris B reported that a resident in Oldhamstocks had applied for a cold weather payment but had been rejected because Oldhamstocks area has some non- EH postcodes. Norman H confirmed he would send contact details of an ELC officer who could sort this out (**action Norman H**).

#### **5. Matters arising not featuring elsewhere on Agenda**

None

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Covid-19 Community Support Fund is currently £21,391.58, with one application since the previous meeting, bringing the number of applications received to 15.

#### **7. Covid-19 Support**

An additional meeting date was agreed for 20<sup>th</sup> April to review the current situation on Covid support funding and processes.

Janice H had attended the Health and Wellbeing Sub-group and Link Worker roles had been discussed. A broader approach than just exercise on referral had been mentioned. No way forward had yet been agreed regarding Belhaven Hospital and no Needs Analysis had yet been done. A number of Link Worker referrals had been made to The Ridge, although future volume was unknown at this stage it was mentioned that if there were a high demand this could potentially result in a resourcing issue. Referrals to other service providers were also in the system and in some cases it was noted that clients were on waiting lists.

Norman H commented that the current strategy was tending towards 'hospital at home' and when additional care was needed more towards 'Extra Care' in specially design housing equipped with hoists and the appropriate medical equipment. He also commented that attracting people to care jobs was difficult when, for instance, retail pay levels are higher with less job responsibility than the care sector.

Janice H had contacted Alan Blair, who was going to provide some costs of exercise on referral options.

## **8. Councillors Issues**

Stenton – potholes in local roads a bad issue. The road from Stenton to Stoneypath, plus Stenton to East Linton were particularly bad. A number have been reported. A van that had been in the Church carpark for a number of months had been removed by ELC Environmental Health

Anne L commented one new person on Spott CA had picked up the poor broadband project and was trying to progress improvements. Colin B had sent some contact info for Openreach Community Fibre project. Anne L mentioned there was no interest currently to fill the other vacant councillor position.

Julia H reported that NnG construction traffic speed was an issue through Innerwick and residents were hoping to get the speed limit reduced to 20mph. Norman H commented that if a local resident survey is carried out and the majority of residents support 20mph, then this can be used as evidence by the council to change the speed limit.

Innerwick – a large slurry pit was a concern – as it was agricultural use, specific planning permission was not required. Donna C clarified that there was some belief that it was not just for farm use, but part of a broader commercial operation re-processing other farms waste. Norman H would ask the Planning Officer whether this has any impact (**action Norman H**).

Chris B reported that drainage improvements around Oldhamstocks had been very effective.

## **9. Liaison Meetings**

CAPP meeting minutes had been circulated.

Julia H reported that there were no plans to build another power station at the Torness site, although there were concerns that currently the various new windfarms developments were not yet sufficient to replace that existing Torness capacity when decommissioned in 2030.

Dunbar and East Linton Partnership – Anne L reported there had been a presentation from Carol Orr – the new Community Link Worker. – relevant info from meeting would be circulated in due course and she would circulate the last set of minutes when available.

Viridor Recycling meeting had happened but David Mumford had been unable to get connected and attend. Paul McL commented that the Plastics Recycling plant may now not go ahead as Viridor had been taken over and the new owners were reviewing all projects.

Kenny MacAskill had circulated a map of East Lothian broadband coverage was circulated but it was thought to be fairly inaccurate and generalist, so not particularly useful.

## **10. Planning Applications**

Previously distributed as normal to relevant councillors

## **11. Communications**

Chis Thacker had tendered his resignation as Community Councillor for Spott.

Chris B reported that he had joined a virtual meeting at the request of Stonehouse Community Council in South Lanarkshire, in relation to a planning application which Viridor are proposing there to build an Energy from Waste plant like the one at Oxwellmains.

## **12. AOCB**

Janette MacD asked Donna C whether it had been possible to trace the descendants of Thorburn family as per website enquiry forwarded to Innerwick councillors. DC commented this was still work in progress.

## **13. Dates of Next Meetings**

**20<sup>th</sup> April – ADDITIONAL MEETING @ 7.30pm**

4th May – Funding meeting prior at 18.00

8th June

24th August

14th September

26th October

16th November - Funding meeting prior at 18.00