

ELCC Meeting – Tuesday 18th January 2022

Webex, 7.30pm

1. Present/Apologies

Present - Community Councillors: Colin Bloomfield, Chris Bruce, Kelvin D’Arcy-Burt, Anne Lyall, Wendy Smillie, Julia Harrison, Donna Collins.

Present – Guests: Sue Kempson (local elected member), Paul McLennan (local MSP), Rosie Scurr (NnG), Kerry MacPhee (NnG), Claire Gilchrist (NnG), Ross Laird (Scottish Power), Barry Hughes (Scottish Power), Gary Donlin (SSE Renewables), Alex Meredith (Berwick Bank), Claire Duffy (Berwick Bank)

2. Inputs from Electricity Infrastructure Developers

Eastern Link (Ross Laird, Barry Hughes, Claire Duffy)

- Name may change
- Project value £1.3billion
- Construction to take place between 2021 and 2027
- Aim is to achieve zero greenhouse emissions
- Link between Scotland and England (Torness – Hawthorn Pit; Peterhead – Drax)
- New substations at either end; new large converter station next to waste incinerator (bigger than that building - see Hunterston in Ayrshire for comparison); larger building but smaller carbon footprint; marine and underground cables
- Surveys largely completed, refining cable corridor, permissions required from Marine Scotland and ELC

Berwick Bank – SSE Renewables (Gary Donlin, Alex Meredith)

- Working together with a number of different projects
- Links in to Eastern Link substation
- Goal is to decarbonise
- Planning predates devolution; bid won in 2010
- Promise to invest in local area
- Cables will make landfall at Skateraw
- Huge project: 307 turbines to be fully operational by 2030

- Construction will end in Innerwick in 2027

NnG (Rosie Scurr)

- Landfall at Torness and 12km of cables inland have now been completed
- Demobilising and deconstructing compound at Innerwick though some topsoiling and restoration remain to be completed
- One year of construction left on the substation then the level of traffic will drop, with a brief surge towards the end of the year
- Eyemouth operations and maintenance base at the harbour will be completed in June this year
- 54 turbines will be operational

Q&A

- **Q:** (CBI) In terms of HVDC tech for converter station, what is the % improvement environmentally in comparison to the smaller building? **A:** No exact figure; awaiting follow up.
- **Q:** Once offshore windfarms in operation, will this reduce the price hikes that we are currently expecting? **A:** While the goal is to remove reliance on gas, no comment available on that particular issue.
- **Q:** (SK) Where are the turbines manufactured? Concern over claim of true carbon neutrality. **A:** Burnt Island in Fife, and Indonesia
- **Q:** (SK) How long do the turbines have to produce energy before they become truly carbon neutral (e.g. offset carbon used in production)? **A:** Acknowledged there is still a carbon footprint in the production and no exact figures on times, but they will produce 12g carbon per hour rather than 300g, so focusing on future potential.
- **Q:** (CBr) Looking at the level of engagement from the community, is it worth pushing for more? Unsure of local residents' knowledge of scale of construction happening in the area. **A:** General agreement on the significant gap between the 2011 approval of the plan and current start of construction so it would be worth opening up opportunities for local knowledge. GD keen to work with local communities and welcomes any and all suggestions for presentations etc. to demonstration overall picture. Happy to work in conjunction with all projects to give a wider view of how much construction will take place.
- **Q:** (CBr) Are there opportunities for these presentations to include the things these companies will do to benefit the community, such as

deliberate employment of locals through various organisations? **A:** (PMcL) Very keen to discuss manufacture and construction skills that can be built within the community to maximise skills and jobs, also taking into consideration the upcoming closure of Torness in 6 years. (CD) Benefits will also include environmental considerations such as hedgerows and tree replacement. (AM) Enthusiastic about local communication and wants to be approachable face behind the corporate front. Has looked at improvements to John Muir Way, for example. Examples given of local workers already doing jobs that might originally have been outsourced, e.g. animation. (GD) Ongoing surveys and consultations to maximise benefits to community and how they will be impacted. (BH) Really want to embed the windfarms and their benefits into the local community in a sustainable way; genuine feeling that this is a good move environmentally and for the community.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of 16th November 2022 approved (proposed CBI; seconded CBr)

4. Matters Arising

- Dunbar Basics – WS attended meeting. To be renamed Foodshare (more inclusive). New system proposed, moving to monetary donations of a variety of products can be purchased rather than having a surplus of one item e.g. pasta. Working on a voucher scheme for local shops and accepting baking in the future.
- JH had a meeting with Janette Macdonald about the website and its management. Anyone taking it on would need to have experience with Wordpress and be prepared for an average time commitment of around 1-2 hours per month at most in “normal” times, but workload significantly increases when certain things are happening, e.g. lockdowns, storms, etc.
- Tarmac A1 roundabout – JH to follow up. **(Action: JH)**
- Plant a Tree for the Queen’s Jubilee – to be discussed next time

5. AOB

- Innerwick defib has been offline for 5 weeks but should be up and running by the end of the month; DC following up **(Action: DC)**
- Schedule to ensure defibs are maintained appropriately **(Action: CBI)**

6. Membership of Community Council/Training

- Spott vacancy – 2nd representative sought through use of poster, social media, and community meeting. AL to bring up again at AGM in February **(Action: AL)**
- Training – CBI has signed up for some sessions already. CBr will reforward email to members and let them know that where possible members will sign up and let them know if they are attending. **(Action: CBr)**

7. Storm Arwen – review/debrief

Discussion on other methods of disseminating information outside of website during crises such as storms and lengthy power cuts such as in recent events like that following Storm Arwen. JH to check who visits the site **(Action: JH)**. Uncertainty regarding responsibilities of SPoC in villages; most reported a general rallying of the community rather than one single person taking responsibility. Emails received from Sandy Baptie regarding storms and power. Social media very active, but it would be good to look at additional information going out by radio in event of power cuts. Paul McLennan has sent an email with opportunity to send feedback to Scottish Power directly about the issues caused by extensive lack of power. All members to have a think about what we can do in the future to increase resilience and awareness in these situations. **(Action: ALL.)**

8. Liaison Meetings and Roles

Planning – KDB to attend training

Viridor – no updates

Torness – no updates

Tarmac – JH to chase up

Area Partnership reps

- AL sent minutes via email; WS confirmed as Depute of community garden in East Linton
- Great Expectations, an action group for older people, has released a long paper in response to the care review coming up in 2023 (delayed till then). Paul McLennan has spoken to Jackie Bell, Terry Prior and Bruce Dickie about how to deliver care effectively in East Lothian. Terry Prior has offered to speak to us and CBr will invite him to do a 10 minute presentation and Q&A. (Action: CBr)
- Community memorial programme has money put aside but this has not been well received

Association of East Lothian Community Councils – CBI following SOLE project – the EL project has £475k grant from recovery program but more detail required. PMcL says SOLE has set up virtual high street but there have been issues with the traders and discussions are ongoing. Dunbar is unhappy with the state of the project but there is limited info on this.

A1 Action Group – JH sent follow-up email regarding diversion signs and cycle path; still awaiting response.

CAPP – KDB to attend meeting on 1st Feb.

DELAP Health and Wellbeing Group – AL will send minutes.

Other – Hallhill TRA have invited us to their AGM 17th March 2022; CBr to let them know if there are any members who can attend. **(Action: CBr)**

9. Local Updates

Stenton – graveyard has been closed due to falling masonry. SK to contact Tom Reid on Stenton's behalf. New noticeboard is messy and needs to be sorted, with more communication in advance.

Spott - none

Innerwick – defib update as previously mentioned

Oldhamstocks – damage to bus shelter and search for who is responsible; WS following up

General – bin complaints regarding new system, particularly lack of local consult. SK to raise with Tom Reid.

10. Windfarm benefits/Treasurer's Report

- Postcode required for Fred Olsen
- New post box for Stenton for applications
- Signatory achieved in three months and treasurer's handover nearly complete – huge congratulations!
- CBI to send accounts to members once checked (**Action: CBI**)
- Members to send costs of individual village hall hire to CBI (**Action: ALL**)
- Fred Olsen sent over the funds for applicants prior to Xmas, CBI and Janice Hanvidge handled the considerable administration and work involved with this so many thanks to them
- Website still lists Covid support funding as being available, need to review this by April to look at potential for wider need. Members to consider this (**Action: ALL**)

11. Correspondence

- East Lothian Foodbank AGM, 3pm on 27th January – WS to attend
- PMcL following up with Be Green

9. Dates of Next ELCC General Meetings

- **Meeting Dates and Locations 2022** - to be published on the website, along with contact details (**Action: JH, CBI, AL, CBr**)

When a meeting takes place virtually, this should be publicised online to general community a week in advance.

All meetings to take place on Tuesday at 7.30pm unless otherwise indicated.

29th March – Oldhamstocks Village Hall

3rd May – Spott Village Hall

10th May – Funding meeting via Zoom (tbc)

7th June – Stenton Village Hall

23rd August – Innerwick Village Hall

13th September – Oldhamstocks Village Hall

25th October – Spott Village Hall

15th November – Funding meeting via Zoom (tbc)

29th November – Stenton Village Hall