

East Lammermuir Electricity Infrastructure Developments Liaison Meeting

ELC – ELCC – Developers – Transmission - Scottish Government

Thursday 7th December 2023 16.30 – 19.30

Innerwick Village Hall

Draft note of meeting

Keith Dingwall and Chris Bruce welcomed everyone to the session

Present – Chris Allen (Energy Hub Developments), Pauline Allison SSE, Chris Bruce (ELCC), Andy Collins, Tracey Dart, Keith Dingwall ELC, Lesley Gordon-Smith, Ciara Jamieson SSE, Cllr. Lyn Jardine, Diyar Kadar SPEN, Andy Kinnaird SG, Kirsty Leiper FOR, Fiona McGibbon, Dominic Moynihan, Sarah McLeary, David Mumford, Jim McLaren, Barbara Rowell (part), Rosie Scurr NNG, James Wheeler SSE, Emily Williamson (FOR)

Apologies were submitted by Kenny MacAskill MP, Craig Hoy MSP, Martin Whitfield MSP (previous commitments), Paul McLennan MSP (Ministerial business), John Rodger (SPEN)(moving to new role); Steve Ruggi (East Coast Grid Services) Sam McMillan, Andy Black, B Thorne (all Belltown Power); Kevin Burns (FOR); Claire Duffy (SPEN), Mick McLoughlin (Island Green Power), Rob Fryer & Behnam Khajeh (Community Windpower), Nicola Miller (Scottish Government), Katie Mackie (Scottish Parliament), Rebecca Meek (RES) Jill Malcolmson (ELCC), Paolo Vestri (ELC), Cllr Donna Collins, Cllr Norman Hampshire.

1. Paired conversations

We split up into pairs and had conversations starting with the question “how am I feeling about the proposed developments now?”

2. Responses to Community Statement

Document had been shared in advance (Annex 2). Hard copies were made available.

There was a lively discussion at tables with the following notes recorded:

- Less than half of attendees at October meeting responded to statement from ELWOC
- No one responded to request to pause planning process
- ELWOC has no formal membership but facilitates website, Facebook presence etc. Some overlap with ELCC and IPWA

Table 1 notes:

- Cumulative impact is key
- Will lead to 10 years continuous construction in addition to 3+ years of NnG so far
- Safety and disturbance concerns
- Lot of speculative battery storage applications
- Decommissioning of Torness to be considered as well as repowering of Crystal Rig
- How do we minimise disruption inc. transport?
- How is phasing work in terms of community disturbance being considered?
- Community benefit – not just financial through ELCC, e.g. can haul roads become cycle paths

- Community resilience
- Active travel often uses public roads with no pavements, but this is too dangerous now with the construction traffic
- Could a pause in movements during school runs be considered? More safe refuge areas?
- Believe that development should be focussed north of railway, but Branxton has brought everything south

Keith Dingwall (KD):

- Does sympathise, but need to ensure ELC carrying out their duty as a planning service
- If don't determine within deadline and developer doesn't agree to extension, the developer can appeal for non-determination
- ELC want to try and maintain control as e.g. Scot Govt could wipe out important conditions
- Community benefit is not a material consideration as can be seen as 'buying consent'

Fiona McGibbon (FMG): at planning committee meeting (determining Berwick Bank application), why couldn't ELC consider cumulative impact?

KD: Corrected that it was Chris Bruce arguing their hadn't been enough consideration of cumulative impact

FMG: cumulative landscape and community impact wasn't considered

KD: confirmed both were considered in the EIA, there is a paragraph in the planning report referring to this

Chris Allen (CD):

- National Grid security charges for holding grid connections. Pause in planning would mean additional charges (which are exponential)
- Has tried engaging with other battery developers but they have no interest in collaboration as are all competitors

FMG:

- BranxBESS project documentation didn't even acknowledge her house.
- Not currently safe to cycle on local roads
- Considers there has already been a cumulative impact

CD: confirmed traffic route not being used by anyone else, and will look to avoid school runs and bus times

Rosie Scurr (RS): lessons learnt from NnG – ensuring contracts ensure compliance with Traffic Management Plan, consider how contractors are incentivised

Table 2

Decision to site Berwick Bank & Eastern Link grid connection at Branxton. Taken via an unseen process by unseen people at an unknown point in time and with zero community consultation.

Having chosen Branxton, this has created a flood of speculative Battery Storage schemes around that hub. Again these schemes are uncontrolled and unseen.

Difficult for developers to respond to request for pause.

Building trust between developers and community.

Dependent on goodwill of developers.

Table 3

- Lack of visibility in decision process for Branxton
- How grid connection decision is made is not shared, feels like bypassing the planning process
- Feels like decisions already made on future projects because of consenting of Branxton
- ELCC suggested ELC not consent Berwick Bank, but first hold a Public Inquiry which considers all cumulative projects together.

Finally the whole group talked together focussing on the decision to site a new substation at Branxton, seen as the key to all other proposed developments' locations. Andy Kinnaird and Keith Dingwall were able to explain the principles which govern decisions that ultimately lead to Public Enquiries. There were different routes through the planning system and under the Electricity Act. Andy Kinnaird (AK):

- Works on team which prepared NPF4
- Reiterated cannot speak about individual projects
- Confirmed Planning or Energy Ministers or ECU can't speak to ELCC as could compromise any potential future action
- Public Inquiry comes down to legal powers
- Clarified Branxton not yet consented
- Scot Govt can issue direction
- Scot Govt can call in any project, might not necessarily lead to a Public Inquiry, would be in extreme circumstance, e.g. in relation to national planning policy, e.g. flooding, where national agency has raised an objection, but Local Planning Authority still minded to grant permission*
- Can only call in a live application
- There is also a notification process by Local Planning Authority
- If decided by planning committee, can appeal to Scot Govt
- Electricity Act can also trigger mandatory Public Inquiry, currently reserved to UK Govt, but Scot Govt lobbying to change this

*KD advised only two applications have been called in since he started with ELC 1998 – ASDA Dunbar and Inch Cape.

It was agreed that the system is not fit for purpose, impossibly complex, and does not genuinely include much less build on community perspectives first.

Agreed that this was not resolved to the community's satisfaction – but the group were willing to move on to discuss other issues where we can have an immediate influence.

3 Charter – Principles of Engagement Ciara Jamieson, Kirsty Leiper

Copies of the current revised draft (Annex 2) were made available; these seek to incorporate all the comments made at the 25 October meeting. To date SSE and FOR have indicated they are willing to sign.

Other developers to indicate individually whether they are happy to sign this.

Group discussion notes;

Table 1

Theme 1

- Will purely be on a voluntary basis, but it provides a good framework
- Possibly not specific enough – but projects have so many nuances this could be difficult
- KD shared example where ELC grouped together a number of consultations on strategy into single consultation events, worked well, would encourage coordination of developers public events
- At this stage the draft is appropriate, doesn't address everything but step to building trust
- Encourages a sense of public responsibility

Theme 2

- Adequate (potentially)
- Speculative battery developers aren't good at providing information prior to planning application

Theme 3

- Not clear that concerns have been logged
- Not clear how to make comments on applications, especially if going direct to Energy Consents Unit
- Innerwick Parish Welfare Association are keeping log of complaints and checking with developers have been logged at their end
- Point of contact needs to be strengthened

Table 2

- Will be shared with contractors.
- Goodwill & reputational damage are the drivers of compliance.
- Community Benefit – Guidance not legal. Scottish Gov stance very important & so their desire that developers work together matters.
- Coordination/ communication requires resource (who? & who pay – comm benefit? Who are they accountable to?)
- Agreed this draft is good enough – give it a go.
- How will it be revised?

- Principles community engagement
- Single coord post – How? Who?
- Could we have started discussion 2-3 years ago.

Discussion around room

- Need assurance that charter will be passed to contractors
- Good will and reputational damage are drivers of compliance
- Good first step and don't know of any other examples of something similar
- Suck it and see!
- Needs to be a live document so can be amended for what does and doesn't work – commitment to annual review?
- How easy is it to get companies to sign up?
- Needs big developers first
- Most in local community don't know about individual projects
- Issues with sub-contractors – not knowing which company they work for – single point of contact?
- At February 2024 meeting, every developer will provide a presentation on their project and hope would all be able to sign charter before then
- Last public meeting was constructive, good feedback from community, helped to engage in forward thinking
- Consider publicity benefits of charter
- Make clear phasing of projects, what is consented, what is in planning and what is speculative
- AK –is seeing what is happening here in East Lammermuir as a positive case study for best practice, will share draft with Scottish Government colleagues and other areas affected by electricity infrastructure proposals

Agreed that this version of the Principles of Engagement document is now fit for purpose.

Action; Ask all developers to sign up.

4 Combined map and schedules – demonstration

James Wheeler SSE did a demonstration of their sharepoint site where a combined map of proposed developments is hosted.

The whole group discussed this, and the following points were noted

- Community Wind Power proposing new project at Aikengall, rough position shown as no details yet
- Would prefer more realistic boundaries of projects and also location of proposed haul roads and traffic routes
- Next version will have selectable layers (web hosted version) – single website for all developers?
- Want to see what developments will look like in e.g. Google Earth. Suggested that viable alternative would be to have links to visualisations within the map.

There remain questions about how to ensure all developers contribute in a timely manner, keeping the map and associated schedules of planning and works up to date; and how best to make available to everyone who needs to see this information – independent website?

5 Resources – new Jobs

Keith Dingwall gave a brief update on progress with the three proposed jobs (Planning Officer, Transport and Co-ordination Officer, Biodiversity Officer) and proposed next steps.

- No one opposed to contribution to posts (developers) but need to figure out correct mechanism
- ELC need security of funding for posts on annual basis
- Potential route could be discretionary funding – allows Council to charge for discretionary services
- Aberdeenshire and Highland Council already following this model for funding posts
- ELC can move very quickly once have approval
- Could liaison post be funded outwith ELC? Utilising consultancy firm?
- ELC have one Planning Enforcement Officer for all of EL – critical that have more resources to expand this
- Is CARES funding available? Could Community Benefit be used? ELCC to investigate and discuss locally.

The community and council reps are certain that making these appointments is urgent. However, more work is need on a mechanism whereby developers can contribute to the costs of these posts. Ian Lennox is investigating the use of “Discretionary Payments”.

There had been no support from developers for the community ask for a short term contractor/land agent. This leaves a risk that community benefits will not be co-ordinated, consistent or of maximum benefit to local people.

6 East Lothian Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy

Chris Bruce briefly described this ELC Strategy, which is currently still in draft form. He reminded those present that SSE had accepted a Planning condition that the Berwick Bank onshore works will look at ways to utilise heat from substation/converter station.

Chris stated that the community believes that there is a significant opportunity for the local area to decarbonise by capturing and using heat from proposed developments. They would be asking all developers: How can heat be captured from your proposed development, and used locally to heat homes?

7 Local Place Plan

Chris Bruce gave a brief update from ELCC, covering both the public meetings, school visits, and survey responses.

- The Demographic of survey respondents is skewed to retired individuals
- Infrastructure works are one of the key concerns across the whole community
- Broad support for community ownership of renewables – community investment
- Developers funding next phase of consultation and development of the LPP, to meet the Council’s Spring 2024 deadline.

8 Next meeting

Agreed to hold an open public meeting in Innerwick Village Hall Monday 26 February 19.00

ELCC and local groups will ensure good publicity and attendance

Developers will be offered a one hour (or more if required) to report on progress.

Annex 1

Members of the East Lothian Winds of Change group prepared a Statement setting out our experience to date, and our ask of all those with a part in the proposed energy developments. This was read out at the stakeholder meeting on 25 October 2023.

This document, dated 6 December 2023 includes the statement, and responses received from the listed stakeholders.

Contents	Page
Community Statement	2
Response from Craig Hoy MSP	4
Response from Kenny MacAskill MP	5
Response from Alison Baisden Scottish Government planner	6
Response from Colin Wylie on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Networks	7
Response from Alex Meredith, Berwick Bank Windfarm Project Director	8
Response from Douglas Proudfoot on behalf of East Lothian Council	10
Response from Kirsty Leiper, Fred Olsen Renewables	11
Response from Cllr Lyn Jardine	12

No response has been received from the following members of the stakeholder group:

- Paul McLennan MSP
- Martin Whitfield MSP
- Councillor Norman Hampshire
- Councillor Donna Charlton
- Eastern Green Link
- Pegasus Consultants/Energy Hub Developments
- Community Windpower
- RES
- Island Green Power UK
- NnG/EDF
- Belltown Power – Newlands Hill
- Steve Ruggi (East Coast Grid Services)
- FRV TH Powertek (North Belton BESS)

Statement read out at energy developers meeting 25 October 2023

Thank you all for coming today. The primary objective for the Community (as we in East Lothian Winds of Change (ELWOC) see it) assembled here is to convey the level of anger, disappointment, frustration, anxiety and fear that we all feel due to the way this apparently uncontrolled expansion of the National Electrical Infrastructure is being inflicted upon us. One does not need to look far to see the effects of Climate Change, the storms of the past few weeks have provided a scary image of what is to come and so we need to rapidly de-carbonise the entire Industrial Complex of the Planet, not just Scotland. We get that and are prepared to play our part. However, this expansion of the National Grid should not become an opportunity for plc's, foreign owned companies & private equity 'chancers' to profit from this expansion at the complete expense of and with no consideration or respect for, this small rural community.

It is important that you all understand the level of damage to our community's health, well-being, spirit, culture and financial value due to these proposed infrastructure projects.

It is equally important to note that here tonight are not just the "disgruntled few" but a selection of the most active community members who represent many more concerned voices.

As this "Energy Infrastructure Gold Rush" has evolved we had hoped that we, as members of society and citizens of this country would be treated with fairness and respect. This is not happening.

We have, as a community over the last number of months put in huge amounts of effort trying to navigate our way through the myriad of legislation, planning frameworks, approval processes, elected and unelected officials trying to make sense of how things have gone "so wrong, so quickly" in and around East Lammermuir. "Opaque" is the new word round this Community.

The complexity of Energy Infrastructure is not lost upon us. However the opacity with which these have been discussed, planned, decided, communicated, understood and approved defies belief and all measures of reasonableness. At the time of the last such 'Developer' & Community gathering, on the evening of 25th April the number of projects known (or divulged) at the time consisted of:

- Berwick Bank Wind Farm
- Eastern Link (now known as Eastern Green Link¹)
- Crystal Rig 4
- Branxton Battery Energy Storage Station (Branxton BESS)
- North Belton BESS (FRV TH Powertek)

Assembled that night were both elected representatives, employees of East Lothian Council as well as representatives of the Developers listed above (with the notable exception of Scottish Power representing Eastern Link who declined the invitation). At no point on that evening, did any person whom it could be argued ought to have known, divulge that these projects though collectively massive already, represented the totality of development. We have since learned of the following additional projects:

- Gresham House Branxton BESS
- Branxton PV & BESS – Export capacity 1,000 MW
- Lawfield & Branxton Energy Park (BESS)
- Aikengall BESS

¹ Eastern Link is an entry point for, rather than a generator of, electrical energy.

Despite the best efforts of many good and reasonable people , and the multiple admissions and acknowledgements from various officials that “this is not right” we have failed to gain any traction in securing a pause in the processing & consenting of these massive schemes, the cumulative magnitude & therefore impact of which is even now, not ‘in the public domain’ & therefore known by those impacted. That’s us in this community by the way.

Our key complaint, and has always been, that we firmly believe we have not been meaningfully engaged with as a community. We have not had sight of the end point and we have not been given the opportunity to influence anything. The concept has never been discussed with us.

It is clear that the catalyst for all that will be discussed here tonight is the decision to increase Branxton Sub-Station’s capacity as a future key “grid connection”.

It is that first gold nugget around which all have planned their decisions.

It is the key around which many can & do claim to evidence their “commitment” to Net Zero and is also a major component in , surprisingly ,sending electricity to England & beyond.

It is also the first nail in the coffin of East Lammermuir.

The first nail which has given rise with alarming rapidity to many other nails being banged in around us.

I’d like to raise Community Benefit.....not the oft touted handful of silver that is rather sparingly & somewhat spasmodically distributed to affected communities in certain casesnor the Community Benefit that some may be preparing to fire right back at us.....but Community Benefit as in the actual, tangible **Benefit to the Community.**

Is there one? Well, if there is it is certainly well hidden because we cannot see it.

Are there many that we can’t see?

Should we be honoured and proud of our contribution to saving the planet?

Or, as is our overwhelming perception at present, are we just collateral damage in the big money games of big business , landowners , Private Equity and obsessed government?

Will our future be decided by tension and lack of clarity between our local Council , Scottish Government and UK Government?

Whose moral compass thinks that this is fair?

Will any, body corporate or governmental actually poke their head above the parapet & intervene?

We have deliberately avoided quoting from various Government & Non-Governmental guidance and legislative documents in order to delay the onset of slumber. There is however one which would serve us well to keep in mind as we go through tonight. The 2010 Scottish Government Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 ‘Community Engagement’ noted at paragraph 8:

“In the context of this document engagement is, in effect, giving people a genuine opportunity to have a say on a development plan or proposal which affects them; listening to what they say and reaching a decision in an open and transparent way taking account of all views expressed.”

I leave you with a question: Is this an unreasonable request?

From: "Hoy C (Craig), MSP" <Craig.Hoy.MSP@parliament.scot>
Date: 20 November 2023 at 14:54:37 GMT
To: Morag Strang <strangmt@gmail.com>
Cc: "Brunton C (Callum)" <Callum.Brunton@parliament.scot>, "Mackie K (Katie)" <Katie.Mackie@parliament.scot>, "Wright J (Julie)" <Julie.Wright@parliament.scot>
Subject: Response on Energy Projects

Dear Morag,

Many thanks for your email. During my summer surgery tour I had a number of representations from constituents concerned about the size, scale and number of energy projects in East Lothian – and indeed across the South of Scotland region.

I have not commented in public on any individual project but continue to raise concerns that by pivoting away from nuclear energy – and oil and gas – the Scottish Government is relying too heavily on the rapid roll out of renewable offshore and onshore wind related energy solutions which is having a significant impact locally.

My concern focuses on both the revised National Planning Framework, which continues to erode local accountability and control, and the fact that the Energy Consents Unit, which will approve many of these plans, does not adequately account for cumulative impact.

I have also raised these issues with the operators of the main development projects in and across East Lothian / South of Scotland.

My fear now is that once areas of East Lothian become densely populated with wind farms, battery storage units, grid connections and other energy related infrastructure then the case for cumulative impact is all but lost as they will effectively say the damage has already been done, and point to the energy and economic impact as grounds to continue.

I am therefore working with colleagues and making representation to the Scottish and UK Governments to this effect.

I would be happy to focus one of my future East Lothian Courier columns to this effect so that local residents know my views.

Kind regards,

Craig

From: "MACASKILL, Kenny" <kenny.macaskill.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: 20 November 2023 at 13:02:09 GMT

To: tracey Dart <4birnie@gmail.com>

Cc: kmacaskill@inbound.caseworkermp.com

Subject: RE: Electrical infrastructure developments in East Lammermuir

Dear Tracy

Thanks for getting in touch.

I understand the concerns and though I support the expansion of renewables both the siting and indeed some solar applications seem superfluous.

I am in regular touch with Chris Bruce and others. The solution I sense is to site most projects at the considerable land bank that EDF has at Torness. That is both available and closer to connection for cables reducing costs as no use will be required of the national grid and incurring transmission charges.

That really requires council and Scottish Government to use planning and economic development powers to intercede as the UK government simply leave it all to the market which is ridiculous and damaging.

Kind regards

Kenny MacAskill

**Alison Baisden MRTPI | Senior Environmental Planner | Environment and Net Zero
Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division | Scottish Government**

Thank you for sharing the statement made on behalf of the East Lammermuir community about the proposals for renewable energy infrastructure currently in planning in your area. As you know, the Scottish Government have recognised that your community is experiencing an intensification of development as new renewable energy generation and storage developments are proposed in relationship to the electricity grid. We do appreciate how an accumulation of development in planning can give rise to uncertainty and impact on local people and communities, especially when proposals are progressed by separate developers and under different statutory processes.

We have explained previously how we would normally decline to meet with stakeholders, including community representatives, to discuss matters relating to live or future development proposals, given the Scottish Government's role and position as a decision-maker. However, recognising your circumstances and the necessary expansion of renewable energy infrastructure across Scotland, we have taken the unusual step of meeting with your community to listen and learn from your experiences and to encourage best practice in the coordination and collaboration over renewable energy proposals.

We are pleased to have done that and commend the measures taken by you and your community in seeking to understand and engage with all parties on the developments proposed in your area. We have also been happy to support East Lothian Council in their positive work to promote co-ordination between developers and to agree a framework for engaging with and updating your community. We were very pleased to attend the workshop hosted by your community and East Lothian Council at Innerwick Village Hall on 25 October 2023 and are keen to remain updated on the measures being progressed.

My colleague, Andy Kinnaird, will be attending the next workshop proposed for 7 December 2023.

Through measures such as the [On-Shore Wind Sector Deal](#) we have secured commitments from the renewables industry to provide information on the pipeline of proposed energy developments coming forward and to collaborate on interconnected planning and environmental considerations in areas affected by multiple development proposals. We will continue to work across the renewables industry, electricity network companies and relevant planning authorities to encourage collaboration at all levels and to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be involved as decisions are made.

I hope that this response gives some comfort to your community about the Scottish Government's level of commitment to promoting best practice in this regard.

Many thanks,

Alison

Colin Wylie on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) / Eastern Link recognise and understand the points and concerns raised by the local community – thank you for bringing these areas to our attention.

As you may know, SPEN own and maintain the electricity networks across central and southern Scotland which are currently undergoing unprecedented levels of modernisation and reinforcement in response to the challenges we all face in the transition to net zero and connection of renewable energy.

Protecting the environment and engaging with local communities are priorities for SPEN which we assure the community will be considered in all activities we undertake in the local area.

You will be aware we have held consultations and drop in sessions to provide local residents with information at the same time seeking their views – in addition we have attended a wide range of community meetings to ensure we are listening carefully to any concerns.

Thank you for the recent, very worthwhile meeting / workshop which encouraged discussion on many areas and for us all to consider the overall potential impact through the eyes of the various stakeholders involved – we would agree that some form of overall project coordination from a community perspective would be a benefit not just to the community, but to everyone with interests and are keen to support this in addition to our own community engagement.



SSE Renewables Berwick Bank Wind Farm – Response to Community Statement

Thank you to the community for sharing this powerful statement. Both as a business and as individuals working on the Berwick Bank Wind Farm Project, we are aware of the strength of feeling in relation to the developments proposed within East Lammermuir through the discussions we have had with you over the past two years, and we understand and appreciate the concerns that have been raised.

We will continue to find ways to build on the dialogue we have had with the East Lammermuir community and are taking proactive steps to mitigate concerns wherever possible. In agreeing a set of core engagement principles with other developers and the community, we hope that this will provide a positive benchmark for considerate development prior to and during the construction phases of our projects. We cannot control the behavior of other developers, but we at SSE are committed to and will adhere to this benchmark.

We are already engaging with our potential contractors to ensure that our Construction Traffic Management and Routing Plans can be aligned with these core engagement principles and take onboard the views already expressed by the community. This includes measures to ensure further engagement with the community on our traffic management proposals, seeking to limit the use of the local road network where possible, and incorporating specific local traffic management measures, such as the use of HGV speed limits on the local road network.

In addition to traffic management, having listened to the feedback on our proposals we will be working with our potential contractors on the design of the substation and associated landscaping proposals to help minimise the longer-term impacts of the proposal, provide a net positive benefit to biodiversity, and to explore options for an innovative approach to community benefit.

More broadly, we remain fully committed to actively engaging with the East Lammermuir community and other developers as the project moves forward through detailed design stages and into construction with an assurance to provide open communication, regular contact, and a drive to collaborate and share best practice with other stakeholders.

We take the issues you articulate in your statement seriously. We wish to reassure the community that we are listening and taking action where we can and are committed to building a positive long-term relationship with the East Lammermuir community.

Alex Meredith, Berwick Bank Wind Farm Project Director, and the Berwick Bank Project Team.

Email response from Douglas Proudfoot sent after the 25 October meeting

I would caution that there was no opportunity to respond to that presentation nor obviously would it have been appropriate to do so. Some of the content I would suggest would have at least been clarified however were the council have been asked to formally respond. It does feel a bit unfair that the council for example is implicated as knowing that wider development interests existed in April but didn't divulge – we absolutely didn't know, nor should we have known. I've been very clear on the statutory process and where that sits re cumulative impact assessment. We have though been supportive of trying to ensure that happens through mutual agreement as opposed to our ability to compel and are working hard to try and help bring that about. There is also no lack of clarity in terms of the council's handling of it's statutory obligation. I would suggest too that in doing what we are doing to facilitate we are trying to intervene but that is for others to recognise.

I am constantly frustrated at the blame that gets levied unfairly at local government and particularly of course East Lothian Council - I am fiercely proud of my staff and what they do in the context of the constant resource challenges they face.

Response from Kirsty Leiper, Fred Olsen Renewables

We do value the time that the community has spent considering proposals and engaging with developers. We welcome the views that have been shared and appreciate the concerns raised.

We will continue to work closely with residents on our proposals at Crystal Rig. We want to build on the good relationships that we already have in place across the community.

We will also continue to work collaboratively, where possible, with other developers in the area and we hope that, together, we can help to address some of the points raised.

Lyn Jardine

Councillor for Dunbar & East Linton

I realise I am in a relatively fortunate position as the only Councillor for the ward who does not sit on the Planning Committee. This has afforded me the opportunity to be alongside community members for a number of months as you have continued in your efforts to seek meaningful and impactful engagement in the very many planning propositions that have arisen in recent months. As such, much of what was relayed in the statement Dom read out was not news to me, but it did consolidate my own concerns around the emotional and physical impact on the small, yet mightily talented, group of residents who continue to rally round their commitment in renewable energy as an essential part of the future of their community, country and indeed the planet.

I completely understand that planning is a quasi-judicial process, with associated risks of loss of control through appeals etc. However, while we are in the hiatus between LDP & LDP2, there is an increased vulnerability due to the evident non-existence of a broad strategic plan for how such critical national infrastructure may be achieved without the piecemeal and, perhaps somewhat opportunistic, development process. Having a keen sense of social justice, I'm keen to support the development of a truly co-production approach to how these projects are delivered at local level, and that the community's openness and willingness to collaborate, is met with an equal commitment from developers to trust that you know your community and neighbourhood best, and understand you can work with them to achieve the necessary infrastructure while enhancing community assets and resilience. I will continue to caution developers against treating engagement as a tick box exercise, and to work with yourselves and officers of the council to continue to build relationships and trust to that end.

East Lammermuir Developers

Principles of Community Engagement

Declaration

We, the undersigned developers operating in the East Lammermuir Area², recognise the need to engage effectively with the community as a collective and to work collaboratively wherever possible.

Our mutual goal is to build credibility and trust with local people by working with them to reach informed decisions and better outcomes.

The following document is a statement of intent that every party undersigned is working with the best intentions and is committed to engaging with the community at every stage of our developments either in operation, under construction or at proposal stage within the East Lammermuir Area.

The principles set out below are the broad aims of the undersigned developers operating in the East Lammermuir Area. It is understood that each developer will be at a varying stage within their respective projects and will have their own discussions and arrangements with the community on project-specific considerations. However, it is hoped that the principles will allow for a more efficient and coordinated relationship with the local community.

Principle Theme 1 – Working Collaboratively

1. To communicate and collaborate with each other and where possible with other developers working in East Lammermuir Area.
2. To coordinate community engagement events and other communications, where practicable.
3. To learn from those operating in the area and to hold regular developer group meetings to share information and implement best practice where possible.

Principle Theme 2 – Sharing Information

1. To ensure there is an ongoing focus to build and maintain relationships with the local community.
2. To develop initiatives for effective communication of key development milestones with the community and stakeholders.
3. To communicate, and where possible collaborate, with other developers, the local authority, and community groups to address large scale issues such as transport, infrastructure, and supply chain.
4. To provide opportunities for recurring in-person collaborative meetings with local representatives to help raise the level of awareness with, and disseminate information to, the wider community.

² This is defined as the East Lammermuir Community Council Area

Principle Theme 3 – Listening to Concerns

1. To ensure there are clear and accessible communication frameworks in place to provide members of the community opportunities to correspond and speak with us so we can answer their questions and listen to what they have to say.
2. To be available and consistent in our engagement, with a single main point of contact for each developer wherever possible.
3. To ensure that local community groups have the opportunity to provide comment during the development of project construction traffic management plans.
4. To review and revert on concerns and questions from the community and key stakeholders within mutually agreed timescales.

Principle Theme 4 – Responding to Feedback

1. Consider community feedback and take appropriate steps to minimise local disruption wherever reasonably practicable.
2. To identify where actions can be addressed more effectively by cross-developer implementation.
3. To provide reasonable explanation if we are unable to fulfil requests suggested by members of the community.
4. To record and evidence where the community have influenced proposals or delivery.

Principle Theme 5 – Creating a Positive Legacy

1. To seek opportunities, in conjunction with the Local Authority, to improve local access routes for the longer term as part of development construction works, adopting a joined-up approach between developers where possible.
2. To consider how we can collaborate with the community to deliver sustainable benefits to the local area, including providing appropriate input and assistance to relevant aspects of the East Lammermuir Local Place Plan.
3. To consider what we can do to offer opportunities for biodiversity enhancement as part of our respective developments.

As developers working in your community, the principles above set out the core aims and intentions of the undersigned to the communities in the East Lammermuir Area.

The undersigned

Organisation Name

Full Name, Position

Organisation Name

Full Name, Position

Organisation Name

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