

South Cowal Community Council

Planning Enquiry into Corlarach Wind Farm Development

To the Chairman of the Enquiry

South Cowal Community Council would like to make a further submission on the matter of Corlarach Hill Wind farm.

We have tried to canvass the local in as representative and comprehensive a manner as we are able. This has been by means of face to face surveys, online questionnaires and a series of public meetings. Then overall lack of interest has been noteworthy. Whilst we recognise that there are some members of the community who are implacably opposed to any windfarm developments and this one in particular this is by no means the majority view. We note specifically that this development will not be visible from the shoreline at Innellan and as such the loss of visual amenity will be small to most of those living in South Cowal.

We feel the objections made on the grounds of disruption to wildlife specifically golden eagles to be specious. We have taken advice from a number of experts in this field who advise that significant golden eagle activity in this area is extremely unlikely as the terrain is not a preferred habitat for this species. Thus any disruption is theoretical rather than likely and as such this argument should not sway the decision process.

We further note the findings from our surveys of a considerable amount of general support for renewable energies. We have been led to believe the building and construction works can be undertaken in such a way as to minimise the disruption and resulting inconvenience to local people.

We therefore conclude that such a development in South Cowal is reasonable and not opposed by the majority of residents. We support this development as a component of a comprehensive approach to meeting our local and national energy needs in a responsible and environmentally sensitive manner and welcome the local investment and benefits that have been suggested.

Dr Christopher Valentine
Chairman
29 January 2008