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15th August 2006

Glenview
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Argyll PA23 7SH

Dear Mrs Forsyth

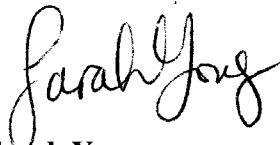
BLACK CRAIG WINDFARM

We would like to express our thanks to you and your fellow councillors on the South Cowal Community Council for hosting the public meeting on the 15th June. Further to your letter dated 29th July 2006, I have attached our response to the questions raised at the meeting. Where appropriate, we have provided further clarification on the issues raised. We trust that the attached information answers your queries but if you or any members of the public do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In relation to the specific point you raised in your letter regarding the other gentlemen present at the meeting from Argyll Windfarms. His name is Mungo Tulloch and he is a Director and Shareholder of Argyll Wind Farms Ltd.

Many thanks once again.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Young
for Land Use Consultants

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1. How will the concrete be brought in and how much will be required?

A. (Marc van Grieken) Aggregate will be sourced from a local quarry nearby.

Further clarification: It is intended that aggregate and sand for concrete production will be sourced from the local sand and gravel quarry at Killellan Farm. The quarry is located to the west of Killellan Farm and is accessed via an existing farm access track which leads onto the unclassified C10 public road. From this junction the vehicles will travel along the unclassified C10 public road to the site entrance, a distance of approximately 1.7km. It should be noted that the use of the sand and gravel from this quarry for the windfarm site will divert the number of existing quarry vehicles travelling along the A815 at present. It is estimated that there will be an average of one to two HGV two-way movements¹ per day travelling from Killellan Quarry to the site over a 6 month period. Cement will be brought in by boat to Ardyne harbour and then transported along the unclassified C10 road to the site. The concrete will be batched onsite. Concrete will be used for the construction of the turbine foundations.

2. Mia Crawford:

How will the equipment (turbines etc) be transported to the site? If by sea, where is its "landing point"? Is any coming via Sandbank?

A: (Marc van Grieken) It is proposed that all the turbine components (including the turbine towers and blades) and construction materials will be delivered by sea to Ardyne Point and then by road to the windfarm site. No traffic is proposed through Sandbank.

3. Jackie McBurney:

What is the cost of decommissioning turbines (environmental and fiscal)?
At what wind speed are the turbines inactive?

A: (Marc van Grieken) The windfarm has been designed with an operational life of 25 years. At the end of this period, if no further application for planning permission has been approved, the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the site. The cost of removing the turbines and reinstatement of the land is not currently known but the windfarm developer is likely to be required to place a bond with Argyll and Bute Council to cover the costs of decommissioning works.

Further Clarification: The dismantling and removal of the turbines will be undertaken in a manner similar to that of their erection. The bases of the turbines will be broken out to the exposed upstand section of the turbine foundations to a depth of around 0.5m below ground level. This will then be covered with topsoil and revegetated. Whilst complete removal of the tracks is possible, at this stage it is not known what is the best practicable environmental option. Consequently, the tracks will either be removed and the land reinstated, or covered with topsoil and revegetated.

The turbines generate power for all wind speeds between about 4m/s and 25m/s (9-56mph).

4. Mr Lowther:

Is there enough capacity on the ferries to bring all the building material, or will we have to wait because equipment is being transported?

¹ A delivery vehicle entering and exiting the site is defined as one two-way vehicle movement.

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A: (Marc van Grieken) No significant effect is anticipated, all transportation impacts are considered as part of the transport assessment within the EIA.

Further Clarification: No building materials will be brought in by the public ferries in Dunoon. All the turbine components and construction materials will be delivered to the site via Ardyne harbour. Further details will be provided in the transport assessment of the Environmental Statement which will be submitted with the planning application.

5. Marjorie Lowe:

What is the subsidy for each turbine, and what is the profit to the landowner?

A: (Marc van Grieken) We are not aware of any subsidy. The Renewable Obligations (Scotland) Act requires electricity suppliers to generate a specified proportion of the electricity they provide from renewable energy sources. The approved scheme will be a tradeable commodity.

Further Clarification: (Argyll Windfarms Ltd) Profit is difficult to predict. It is intended that the community benefit will be substantially in excess of that offered by developers for other similar sized schemes in Scotland. In addition, the local authority will receive annual rates.

6. David Mansfield:

Where is the mother company based? Where is the manufacturer of the turbines based?

A: (Mungo Tulloch) It is based in the UK.

Vestas in Campbeltown is the preferred manufacturer, although no commitment can be given on this issue as part of the planning application. The final turbine selection will depend on a commercial tendering exercise which will take place following determination of the planning application.

7. Jane Kelly:

How will you get the turbines from Ardyne to Black Craig?

A: (Marc van Grieken) They will be transported from Ardyne along the private access track which connects Ardyne to the public road. From this junction they will travel along the unclassified C10 public road to the site entrance. Some upgrading of the public road (eg widening of bends) will be required.

8. Alan Forsyth:

There has been a lot talk about turbine positions, but what about the miles of pylons used to transport the electricity? There is no talk of the environmental impact of the supporting infrastructure on the local community.

A: (Marc van Grieken) The connection to the grid network will involve the installation of underground cables running from site to the substation in Sandbank. There are no proposals for any additional overhead powerlines. The power will be transmitted to the national grid from Sandbank through the existing powerlines.

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9. John Wilson:

What was the size of your samples from the public meeting in November? Were they statistically significant?

A: (Sarah Young) 127 questionnaires were issued and 80 were returned.

10. Stan Ireland:

Where can we obtain reliable evidence that the existence of wind turbines in Scotland will prove detrimental to tourism? Or is this just an opinion of the anti wind turbine lobby?

A: (Marc van Grieken) There is no evidence either proving or disproving impacts on tourism.

Further Clarification: The Environmental Statement will provide a summary of the surveys and opinion polls that have been undertaken on perceptions and attitudes towards windfarms.

11. Robert B Fairlie:

Question re – specification weights of concrete (*indecipherable*), how many, and plans for clean-up at 20-25 years lifetime end, before certification.

A: (Marc van Grieken) Information on the decommissioning of the windfarm will be included in the Environmental Statement. With respect to the potential removal of concrete foundations, it is generally accepted that there is less environmental impact leaving the concrete foundations in situ rather than removing them.

12. Mrs J Park:

Question re – noise, depth below ground level, infrasound, lifespan and end of lifespan.

A: (Marc van Grieken) The best way to judge noise levels is to visit the Ardrossan wind farm. The Environmental Health Department of the Council must ensure that there is no impact on people nearby.

Further Clarification: A noise impact assessment has been carried out in accordance with Government Guidance – namely the DTI Noise Working Group report ETSU-R-97 *The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Windfarms* (1996). The ETSU-R-97 Guidelines recommend that the allowable windfarm noise limit should be set either to a relative limit or a fixed limit, according to which produces the highest value. The relative limit is defined by a value equal to 5dB above the measured background noise level. ETSU-R-97 states that the fixed limit should be in the range of 35 to 40 dB LA90 depending on site specific factors. The assessment that has been undertaken for the Environmental Statement has found that the noise immission levels associated with the scheme are fully compliant with the noise limits outlined in ETSU-R-97.

In terms of infrasound (low frequency sound), while the audibility of various frequency ranges differs between human subjects, a wealth of research has found no evidence to suggest that low frequency noise or vibration due to the operation of windfarms, either ground borne or airborne, causes potential problems. It has been repeatedly shown by measurements of wind turbine noise undertaken in the UK, Denmark, Germany and the USA over the past decade, and accepted by experienced noise professionals, that the levels of infrasonic noise and vibration radiated from modern wind turbines are at a very low level; so low that they lie below the threshold of perception, even for those people who are particularly sensitive to such noise. In response to concerns that wind turbines emit infrasound and cause associated health problems, Dr Geoff Leventhall, Consultant in Noise Vibration and Acoustics and author of the Defra Report on Low Frequency Noise and its Effects, said: "*I can state quite categorically that there is no significant infrasound from current designs of wind turbines.*" Further information on low frequency noise will be contained in the ES.

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13. Iain Gamage:

Please explain who Argyll Wind Farms are, and what experience they have in operating and constructing wind farms?

A: (Peter Blacker) Argyll Wind Farms is new to wind farm development. The landowner was originally approached by other wind farm developers and concluded that the proposed schemes were not appropriate and that the benefit to the community they were offering was inadequate. The landowner therefore decided to progress a wind farm through his own company and engaged a team of specialist consultants to advise.

14. Philip Norris on behalf of Dunoon and Cowal Marketing Group:

How can a wind farm in this location avoid damaging landscapes, seascapes and tourism?

A: (Marc van Grieken) The question of whether windfarm as perceived having a positive or negative impact on the landscape will partly depend upon the personal opinion of the viewer regarding the visual qualities of turbine structures and their perceptions as to what wind turbines represent. Perceptions and attitudes towards windfarms has been the subject of several public opinion surveys but there is no evidence either proving or disproving impacts on tourism.

Visit Scotland is a consultee in the planning process.

Further clarification: The Environmental Statement will provide a summary of the surveys and opinion polls that have been carried out looking at perceptions and attitudes towards windfarms.

15. Alister MacAlister:

Why? What is the benefit?

A (Peter Blacker): The Community Benefit will be substantially in excess of that offered by developers of other similar sized schemes in Scotland.

16. Evan Malcolm:

Which route will the access road take to the wind farm site?

A: (Marc van Grieken) Existing forestry trail, widened and extended where necessary.

Further Clarification: The route runs from the site entrance to the south of Gortanansaig Farm along an existing access track, which is currently used for forestry. The track then branches into a lower grade forestry track. A new track will be constructed on the course of the forestry track, running via Corriebeg Wood to the main turbine area. Full details and maps will be provided in the Environmental Statement.

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17. John Wilson:

Can you enlarge on the possible planning gains (with relevance to Innellan Community Hall in mind)?

A: (Peter Blacker) There will be significant community benefit offered in due course.

18. Mrs Stanton:

How much energy does Dunoon require every day and what is the output of the proposed development? Will it be enough to supply just Dunoon or how many other towns will it supply both on full capacity and on an average day?

A: The output of the proposed development could supply 600 households per installed MW capacity, ie 22,000 homes annually. Exact figures will be included in the EIA.

Further Clarification: It is anticipated that the windfarm output could meet the annual power needs of approximately 21,247 households – which is equivalent to approximately 46%² of the households in Argyll and Bute. This equates to meeting the annual electricity needs of Dunoon³ five and a half times over.

² Based on the 2001 Census and derived from Argyll and Bute Profile (2004). www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

³ Dunoon has 3765 households, based on the 2001 Census and derived from Census Key Statistics Report (2003).