

8th March 2018

**The thirteenth meeting of the Mynydd y Gwair Wind Farm Community Liaison Group
Institute, Pontarddulais**



Attendees

Cllr Paul Northcote, Mawr Community Council
Emma North, Planning, City and County of Swansea
Sgt. Philip Morris, South Wales Police (SWP)
Matt Collins, SWP
Bryony Kamratov-Jones, SWP
Christopher Watts, SWP
David Owen, Planning Dept. City and County of Swansea
Alun Thomas, Highways, City and County of Swansea
Cllr. Kevin Griffith, Pontarddulais Town Council
Paul Newman, Pontlliw and Tircoed Community Council
Cllr Wyn Morgan Penllergaer Community Council
David Flatley, Farrans
Brigitte Rowlands, WGCA
Philip McDonnell, Chair
Tim James, Construction Project Manager, Innogy Renewables UK Ltd
Angharad Davies, Cadno Communications Ltd

1. Welcome and introductions

The chair welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves, as there were new attendees present, including a number of PCSO's, attending as part of their induction.

2. Apologies

- 2.1 Cllr Robert Jones, Mawr Community Council, has informed AD that he is stepping down from the Community Council. PN (Mawr) confirmed that the Council would be nominating a replacement representative at their next meeting.
- 2.2 Jenny Cowley, Community Liaison Manager, Innogy Renewables UK Ltd

3. Minutes & matters arising

- 3.1 The WGCA has now erected fencing near to the cattle grid, and this matter is now closed.
- 3.2 The Chair asked members whether they were passing correspondence on to Jenny Cowley, following the discussion at the last meeting (4.2), and members confirmed that they were doing so.
- 3.3 Litter accumulating behind fences at the site entrance is being regularly cleared by Farrans (action 5.9).
- 3.4 KG commented on how little had been raised with him by constituents since the last meeting.
- 3.5 AT confirmed that he had carried out a site visit to look at road safety (5.14 ARUP report) and is satisfied that a small number of issues can be remedied quite easily.
- 3.6 An update on the community benefit fund (7.9) will be provided later in the meeting.
- 3.7 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the previous meeting. Proposed by EN and seconded by WM.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1 KG had received an item of correspondence and passed this on to JC. TJ will cover this during his update.

5. Update from Tim James

- 5.1 Work is gathering pace, and the welfare facilities and compound are up and running. TJ commented that they are amongst the best facilities he has seen on any project he has worked on.
- 5.2 Approximately 15km of fencing has been erected by local contractor, Joe Jones, and this is out of a total of 24km.
- 5.3 The surface water drainage ditches are being installed, and revegetation is being carried out in tandem, as this helps with drainage, and it means that the area can be restored more quickly.
- 5.4 Thus far, Farrans have completed approximately 2,300 metres of swales, and 2,100 metres of road.
- 5.5 A helicopter is being used to move 70km of duct across the site more quickly. This also has the advantage of reducing the number of vehicle movements on the ground.
- 5.6 Cable plough will be mobilised next week.
- 5.7 Excavation for the turbine foundations will have begun by the time of the next CLG meeting. The soil that is excavated is kept in close proximity to the excavation site and will be re-used as topsoil and to re-vegetate the area.
- 5.8 TJ informed BR that fencing the drive of local residents, Mr and Mrs Williams, was due to take place in mid-March. This has been an ongoing issue, and BR was pleased that the fencing was now scheduled to take place.
- 5.9 TJ has instructed Farrans to reinstate the layby at Five Roads, and DF confirmed that, weather permitting, this work would be carried out in two weeks.
- 5.10 After successfully keeping the roads free of mud for some time, there has been an unfortunate step backwards, with more debris appearing on local roads. This is probably due to the fact that Farrans changed their stone supplier, and the new drivers are having to be instructed afresh on the expected standards. Farrans has spoken to the haulier and will continue to monitor the situation.
- 5.11 TJ has asked Farrans to put in more passing places along the route.
- 5.12 Unfortunately, the original location for the dry wheel cleaning facility is too steep, and for health and safety reasons it cannot be installed. Other options are being looked at, and in the meantime, a pressure washer is being used on site.
- 5.13 Local Authority planning officers and highways officers have been on site to inspect progress.
- 5.14 It was noted that a 4x4 which had been used for joy-riding on the common and had got stuck, had now been removed.
- 5.15 MC commented that anti-social behaviour by off-road bikers was a persistent problem, and SWP were monitoring this very closely. The matter of anti-social use of the local roads and common is a long-standing problem and will need to be discussed at future meetings. It is thought that the construction presence may prevent some from using the common for this sort of anti-social activity.
- 5.16 There is 24/7 security on site.
- 5.17 PN (Pontlliw) commented that Community Councillors has raised the issue of construction vehicles travelling on Bolgoed Road at speed. The speed limit is 40 mph, and PN has advised Councillors to note the number plate of speeding vehicles in future. He has also noted that some loads are not covered by sheeting to prevent spills on the road. TJ confirmed that drivers are conditioned to sheet their loads.
- 5.18 A local resident has contacted innogy about the noise caused by lorries passing her property. Innogy has carried out noise monitoring and the levels do rise to between 2-3 DB when a lorry passes by. It is thought that potholes on the road, causing the empty wagons to bounce and rattle, may be the cause of the higher than normal noise, and as a result, Farrans are temporarily filling in these potholes. Unfortunately, they cannot do a permanent fix as yet, because Wales and West Utilities have not pinpointed the location of their 450mm gas pipeline that runs along the route.

6. Written update from Jenny Cowley

- 6.1 JC has received an update on progress with the community fund from Kathryn Harris, innogy's community investment manager: The Mawr consultation is being organised. There is no progress to report on fund set up, and this is not due to start in earnest until the autumn, at which point

representatives will be sought to sit on the panel. In the meantime, anyone looking for support to develop ideas, should contact SCVS directly.

6.2 Concerns have been reported about the speed of vehicles coming up the track. Farrans have spoken to the supplier.

6.3 There has been one report of lorries coming through the village. Again, Farrans have spoken to the drivers.

6.4 KG passed on correspondence regarding fly-tipping. It transpires that the fly-tipping is on an area of land associated with the neighbouring flood-alleviation scheme and Dawnus (the flood-alleviation contractor) has been notified.

6.5 The Local Authority Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Officer has received correspondence from local residents complaining that PRoWs have closed, claiming that the closures are not necessary.

Unfortunately, the closures are necessary, as there will be a significant number of large vehicles using these tracks and it is unsafe for members of the public to be on them. All PRoW closures were planned properly in advance.

7. AOB

7.1 The Chair mentioned the availability of Rural Development Plan funding as a means of helping communities to develop good projects, in advance of the wind farm community benefit fund becoming available. Some members had not had a good experience of submitting applications for funding and they felt that the focus of the RDP funding was commercial, rather than community focussed.

7.2 PN (Mawr) queried whether blasting techniques would be used when creating foundations for the turbines. Farrans confirmed that there was no need for them to blast, and they would only be using excavation machinery. As discussed earlier, the soil will be re-used for re-vegetation purposes and the objective is to blend the turbine foundations in to the local landscape as much as possible.

7.3 Members were asked to note that Llangyfelach Road is due to close on Thursday and Friday so that Highways could mend potholes. This work is not related to the wind farm.

7.4 BR has been asked to obtain some digital files submitted as part of the planning process. DO will respond to the request.

8. Next meeting:

8.1 The next meeting will be held at 6 pm on Thursday 19th April at Tircoed Village Hall (subject to availability).

8.2 The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.