



Drummarnock Wind Farm Pre-Application Consultation Report

July 2024

Drummarnock Wind Farm Limited

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CONSULTING

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

**Drummarnock Wind Farm
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by McDaid Public Relations Limited**

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report constitutes a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report as required by Regulation 9(3)(e) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and Section 35C of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. It describes the consultation requirements for the Proposed Development, Drummarnock Wind Farm, the consultation measures undertaken by Drummarnock Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant), the feedback received and any resultant modifications to the Proposed Development.
- 1.2 The Applicant recognises that it is very important to ensure that communities in the vicinity of the development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with regulations and good practice guidance.

Site Location and Description

- 1.3 The site is located approximately 10km south-west of Stirling, in the Fintry, Gargunnock and Touch Hills (the 'Proposed Development Site' or 'Site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) (NS 74314 87247) and is illustrated in **Figure 1** and is located entirely within the boundary of Stirling Council (SC) local authority area. Access to the site would be from Junction 9 of the M9. The proposed route would then take the A872 northbound before turning onto the Pirnhall Road, onto the New Line Road, and continuing along approx. 4km of minor roads to reach the access track entrance for the site.
- 1.4 The land cover within the site is predominantly marshy grassland in the eastern part, with the western part dominated by a mosaic of blanket bog, shrub heath and unimproved acid grassland.
- 1.5 The site features numerous watercourses, which primarily originate from the North Third Reservoir to the north-west, and the Loch Coulter Reservoir to the south-east. The site is currently used for livestock grazing, including sheep and cattle, and for occasional grouse shooting.
- 1.6 The settlement pattern in the wider area is characterised by scattered residences and farms with the nearest substation settlement being the city of Stirling located approximately 3km north-east of the site boundary at its closest point.
- 1.7 The proposed abnormal load route required to transport turbine components to the site is based on an assessment from the Port of Grangemouth via the M9.

The Proposed Development

- 1.8 The layout of the Proposed Development is shown on **Figure 2**. The key components of the Proposed Development, which would be constructed in accordance to detailed design and relevant Health and Safety requirements, include the following:
- 4 variable pitch (three bladed) wind turbines (Figure 3-3), each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 180m and rotor diameter of up to 163m;
 - turbine foundations (Figure 3-4) and a crane hardstanding area (Figure 3-5) which includes areas for blade, tower and nacelle storage at each wind turbine;

- up to 6.9km of new onsite access track and associated drainage with a typical 5m running width (wider on bends) and two turning heads (Figure 3-7);
- underground cabling along access tracks to connect the turbine locations, and the onsite electrical substation (Figure 3-9);
- one onsite substation which would accommodate 33KV Switchgear to collect electricity from the site. The substation compound would include a control and metering building (Figure 3-10);
- up to four borrow pits; and
- a construction compound (Figure 3-6).

1.9 The site will have an indicative maximum electricity export capacity of approximately 30MW.

The Applicant

1.10 The Applicant is Drummarnock Wind Farm Limited, a subsidiary of EDP Renewables (EDPR). Drummarnock Wind Farm is being developed by Wind2 on behalf of EDPR.

1.11 Wind2 is a specialist onshore wind farm developer founded in 2016. The company has staff based in the Scottish Highlands, Perth, Edinburgh and Wales, with significant expertise in renewable energy and a track record of successfully developing onshore wind farms throughout the UK. Wind2 is working on the development of a number of renewable energy projects and is committed to investing in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

1.12 EDPR is a global leader in the renewable energy sector and the world's fourth-largest renewable energy producer. EDPR is currently present in the UK and internationally in another 27 markets. EDPR has personnel based in Edinburgh and through its joint venture with ENGIE (Ocean Winds), recently completed construction on the 950MW Moray East Offshore Wind Farm, supplying 40% of Scottish electricity.

Public Consultation Guidance and Legislation

1.13 In conducting its public consultation programme for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has complied with the legal requirements and guidance set out by the Scottish Government. As a major planning application, the appropriate level of pre application phase consultation was considered with due cognisance to Planning Advice Note 3/2022: Development Management Procedures.

1.14 NPF4 (2023) notes that throughout the planning system, opportunities should be available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals.

1.15 The Applicant believes that a meaningful and far-reaching dialogue with the local community is essential to the sustained success of any development and that legislative requirements provide a minimal framework of what should be expected of a developer in terms of consultation.

- 1.16 The consultation programme described in this report demonstrates that policy and guidance requirements have been exceeded and that a thorough and constructive community engagement process, has underpinned the final proposed design being put forward.

PAC Screening

- 1.17 The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 apply to all developments across Scotland and sets out various criteria that are to be used to differentiate planning applications by development types and to define developments as either National, Major or Local developments. That differentiation is used to ensure that applications are dealt with in an appropriate way to their scale and complexity, allowing decisions to be taken at the most appropriate level. As the Proposed Development will have a capacity greater than 20MW, it will be classed as a 'major' development. Therefore, formal PAC procedures set out within the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 require to be followed.
- 1.18 The requirement for pre-application consultation relevant to this application are set out in Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and sections 35A & B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- 1.19 The 2013 Regulations referred to above have been updated in the form of The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 as of October 2022. In the case of this application, the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted on 10 February 2023 and the application will be submitted after 21 April 2023 and prior to the 10 August 2024. A copy of the PAN is provided in **Appendix 01**. The pre-application procedures for this application are therefore compliant with The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021.
- 1.20 Regulation 7B of The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 requires that pre-application consultation report must contain:
- (a) the dates on which, and places where, public events were held as required in accordance with regulation 7(2),*
- (b) a description of—*
- (i) any additional consultation or notification required by the planning authority in relation to the proposed application under section 35B(7) of the Act,*
- (ii) any additional steps taken by the prospective applicant to consult with members of the public as regards the proposed development,*
- (c) a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the prospective applicant,*
- (d) evidence as to how the prospective applicant carried out the activities described under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c)*
- (e) copies of—*
- (i) any materials sent to consultees,*
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- (ii) any materials provided to those attending a public event, and*
- (iii) any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event,*
- (f) photographs of any display boards or models at public events*
- (g) confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority,*
- (i) a summary of—*
 - (i) the written responses to consultations, and*
 - (ii) views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events*
- (j) an explanation of how the prospective applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and*
- (k) an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the prospective applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.*

Report Structure

- 1.21 Following the criteria outlined in paragraph 1.2, this report comprises the following Sections:
- Section 2.0: Consultation Measures
Describes the various types of consultation undertaken for the Proposed Development, including a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the Applicant;
 - Section 3.0: Public Information Events
Describes the consultation process undertaken for the Public Information Events and provides results of the feedback received and how these comments have been addressed;
 - Section 4.0: Community Benefit and Investment
Describes how the Applicant is committed to investing in the local community through various benefit schemes;
 - Section 5.0: Conclusions
Describes how the consultation process has influenced the design of the Proposed Development; and
 - Appendices
Providing copies of materials which support the PAC Report requirements including newsletters sent to consultees and local councillors; and information displayed at public information events.

2.0 Consultation Measures

- 2.1 **Table 2-1** provides an overview of the stages of consultation undertaken for the Proposed Development in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management

Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021.

Table 2-1: Pre-Application Consultation Procedures

Consultation Activity	Details	Steps Undertaken by Applicant
Pre-Application Consultation (Regulation 7)	<p>Regulation 7 (1) states that:</p> <p><i>“The prospective applicant is to consult as respects a proposed application every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land on which the Proposed Development is situated”.</i></p>	<p>In accordance with Regulation 7, the following Community Councils and Community Groups were consulted during the pre-application stages of the development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carron Valley Community Council • Cambusbarron Community Council • Bannockburn Community Council • St Ninians Community Council • Fintry Community Council • Denny Community Council • Gargunnoch Community Council • Queenzieburn Community Council • Plean Community Council <p>Plean Community Council was inactive for the duration of the community consultation.</p>
Public Event (Regulation 7)	<p>Regulation 7 (2)(a) states:</p> <p><i>“The prospective applicant is to hold at least two public events where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the Proposed Development”.</i></p>	<p>During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, the Applicant held three rounds of Public Information Events; a virtual exhibition in March 2023, one in-person exhibition in March 2023 (in Bannockburn) and one in-person exhibition in April 2023 (in Cambusbarron) to allow the public to view the draft design layout as informed by the environmental survey works and make any comments or provide information or comment in relation to the layout and the EIA.</p>
Newspaper Advertisement – Public Event (Regulation 7)	<p>Regulation 7 (2) states:</p> <p><i>“The prospective applicant is to publish in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated-</i></p> <p><i>(i) a notice in respect of the first public event containing the information specified in paragraph (2A) and,</i></p> <p><i>(ii) a further notice in respect of the final public event containing the information specified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) of paragraph (2A).</i></p>	<p>The Public Information Events in March and April 2023 were advertised initially in the Stirling Observer on 10/03/2023. A screenshot of this advert is provided in Appendix 02.</p> <p>A second advertisement was booked in the Stirling Observer in advance of the virtual online and second in-person consultation events on 23/03/2023. See Appendix 02. The Applicant also issued a press release to advertise the second in-person and final consultation event in the Daily Record print edition and in the Stirling section of DailyRecord.co.uk on 12/04/2023. The Stirling Observer shared the article via social media. Screenshots of these advertisements are provided in Appendix 02.</p> <p>A poster was distributed to Carron Valley Community Council and displayed in the local area advertising the online and in-person information events. The information was also advertised in Carron Valley’s Community Newsletter. The posters are provided in Appendix 03. Leaflets advertising the March and April 2023 exhibitions were distributed to 961 addresses which included</p>

Consultation Activity	Details	Steps Undertaken by Applicant
	Regulation 7 (3) states: <i>“A public event held by the prospective applicant in accordance with paragraph (2)(a) is not to be held earlier than 7 days after notification of the date and place of the public event is given under paragraph (2)(b)(i) or (ii), as the case may be, and the final public event must be held at least 14 days after the first public event.”</i>	residents living within approximately 6km from the centre of site. These leaflets can be seen in Appendix 04 .

Scoping

2.2 In October 2020 an EIA Scoping Opinion was provided by Stirling Council in relation to the Proposed Development. The following consultees provided responses to the EIA Scoping Report:

- Stirling Council (Sustainable Development Team, Roads Service, Environmental Health);
- NatureScot;
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA);
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
- Scottish Water;
- National Air Traffic Services (NATS);
- Cumbernauld Airport;
- Ministry of Defence.

2.3 Stirling Council issued their scoping opinion on 23rd October 2020. Consultation responses received as part of the Scoping process have been considered in the EIA and are discussed in **Chapter 2: EIA Approach and Methodology** of the EIA Report, as well as in the individual topic Chapters of the EIA Report as relevant.

Pre-Application Advice Meeting

2.4 A formal written request for Pre-Application Advice was submitted to Stirling Council on 12 May 2020 regarding the proposed Drummarnock Wind Farm. The Pre-Application Enquiry Form requested that Stirling Council and the relevant consultees provide information and advice in relation to the planning application requirements, the relevant policies in relation to the Proposed Development key issues and other important topics relating to the Proposed Development and the EIA.

2.5 Key points raised by Stirling Council in their Pre-Application Advice Response (reference: PREAPP-2020-0093) included:

- relevant planning policy and material considerations;

- previous planning history on the Proposed Development Site;
- consultation responses from each of the following consultees:
 - Transportation Development Management;
 - Access and Sustainable Travel;
 - Biodiversity;
 - Scottish Water;
 - SEPA;
 - Environmental Health; and
 - NatureScot (Previously Scottish National Heritage).
- the potential layout of the Proposed Development and how it relates to the existing wind farms in the area from a landscape and visual perspective, particularly Craigengelt Wind Farm;

Community Council Consultation

- 2.6 An introductory email was sent to local community councils between January and February 2023 to introduce the project and advise of upcoming steps in the project's development. An offer was also made to meet with the local community council regarding the project (see example email in **Appendix 06**).
- 2.7 The Applicant has consulted ten community councils local to the Proposed Development, on the project progress and sent emails to confirm dates of the Public Information Events held on the dates (see example email to the community councils in **Appendix 06**). The community groups are:
- Carron Valley & District Community Council;
 - Valley Renewables Group;
 - Cambusbarron Community Council;
 - Bannockburn Community Council;
 - Fintry Community Council;
 - St Ninians Community Council;
 - Denny Community Council;
 - Queenzieburn Community Council;
 - Plean Community Council (inactive);
 - Gargunnock Community Council.
- 2.8 The Applicant was invited by Carron Valley Community Council to attend the Carron Valley Community Open Day in August 2023. This provided an excellent opportunity to meet many members of the community who didn't or were unable to attend the Public Information Events. The Applicant displayed a pull-up banner with most relevant visualisations, a booklet containing a copy of the public information event banners and a ZTV board at the event.
- 2.9 Several meetings have taken place throughout 2023 and 2024 with members of both the Carron Valley & District Community Council and Valley Renewables Group to discuss the

proposed Community Benefit Fund distribution model in more detail and to provide any updates on the progress of the application. The Applicant has also met with the Cambusbarron Community Council in January 2024 to provide an update on the project and discuss potential models for the Community Benefit Fund distribution.

Consultation with Other Organisations

- 2.10 Emails providing introductory project details and confirmation of the dates of the virtual and in-person exhibitions in March and April 2023 were sent to the following Councillors, MPs and MSPs (an example of one of the emails is provided in **Appendix 07**):

- MP (Stirling) – Alyn Smith;
- MSP (Stirling) – Evelyn Tweed;
- MSPs (Regional) – Mark Ruskell, Murdo Fraser, Dean Lockhart, Alex Rowley, Elizabeth Smith, Alexander Stewart and Claire Baker.
- Ward Councillors (Stirling West) – Neil Benny, Scott Farmer and Jen Preston.

- 2.11 A meeting was also held on Microsoft Teams with the project team and Mark Ruskell MSP on 16th March 2023.

Public Information Events

- 2.12 Public Information Events were undertaken in March 2023 (one in-person and one online) and April 2023 (in-person), to establish dialogue with the local community regarding the Proposed Development.

- 2.13 Further information on the Public Information Events is presented in Section 3 of this report.

Website

- 2.14 The Applicant hosts a website dedicated to the Proposed Development to allow people to view details about the development and includes contact details for the project team: <https://drummarnockwindfarm.co.uk>
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3.0 Public Information Events

Location

- 3.1 Details of the Public Information Events held are set out in **Table 3-1**. The first Public Information Event was held, in person, at the King Robert Hotel in Bannockburn on Thursday 23 March 2023 from 4-8.30pm.
- 3.2 The second round of Public Information Events was held virtually via an online platform on 30 March 2023 from 3-7pm so that people who could not or did not want to attend an in-person event, could still interact with the project team and see the proposals for the Drummarnock Wind Farm.
- 3.3 The third round of Public Information Events was held at Cambusbarron Community Centre on 18 April 2023 from 4-8.30pm.
- 3.4 The King Robert Hotel, Bannockburn, and the Cambusbarron Community Centre were chosen because of their proximity to the Proposed Development, accessibility, booking availability, and suitable capacity. There are currently no suitable locations to host Public Information Events within the Carron Valley community council area. Carron Valley Community Council recommended the King Robert Hotel in Bannockburn for the first Public Information Event. The choice of locations, dates and times were selected to maximise opportunities for people to attend.

Table 3-1: Public Information Events

Venue	Day	Date	Time
King Robert Hotel, Bannockburn	Thursday	23 March 2023	4 – 8.30pm
Virtual / Online	Thursday	30 March 2023	3pm – 7pm
Cambusbarron Community Centre	Tuesday	18 April 2023	4 – 8.30pm

Notification

- 3.5 In keeping with Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the Applicant advertised that pre-application public consultation events were being arranged. The Public Consultation Events were advertised in several ways to help ensure as many local residents as possible were made aware of the Proposed Development.

Newspaper Adverts

- 3.6 A public notice was placed in the Stirling Observer for the March and April 2023 exhibitions. The public notices set out the purpose of the public events and provided details of the events.
- 3.7 The public notice was published more than seven days prior to the event with the notice being published in the Stirling Observer on Friday 10 March 2023 (Virtual and In-Person Exhibitions – both Bannockburn and Cambusbarron). Although there is no requirement to re-notify or re-advertise the second and third events seven days prior to the event, the Applicant wanted to maximise awareness of the event and drive attendance where possible. Therefore, a 2nd notice was published in the Stirling Observer on Friday 24 March 2023 (Virtual and Cambusbarron events). Copies of the notices are provided in **Appendix 02**.

- 3.8 The Applicant issued a press release to the Daily Record which appeared in the Daily Record Print Edition and the Stirling section of DailyRecord.co.uk on 12 April 2023. Copies of the further notice and press release are provided in **Appendix 02**.

Leaflets

- 3.9 In advance of the March and April 2023 Public Information Events, the Applicant distributed leaflets to 961 households within approximately a 6km radius of the centre of the site. The leaflets set out the purpose of the public events, provided details of the event and contact details of the Applicant. The leaflet also provided information in relation to the online Virtual event with the relevant website address. A copy of the leaflet is provided in **Appendix 04**.

Posters/Social Media

- 3.10 Carron Valley Community Council were provided with a poster to advertise the Public Information Events. The posters were displayed on information boards locally, and the project team brought copies to the first Public Information Event in Bannockburn and invited members of the local community to take a copy away with them.
- 3.11 The Valley Renewables Group advertised the Public Information Events in their Carron Valley & District Community Newsletter in February 2023. A copy of the advertisement is provided in **Appendix 05**.
- 3.12 The Stirling Observer shared the Daily Record press release (published 12 April 2023) via Facebook to its 21,000 followers. A copy of the social media post is provided in **Appendix 02**.

Exhibition Material

- 3.13 The exhibition boards on display (at both the in-person March and April 2023 events) are contained within **Appendix 08** and example photographs of the venues containing the Public Exhibition material are provided in **Appendix 10**. The information presented included plans for the Proposed Development, an outline of the planning process including details about an environmental impact assessment and survey work, and information about community and local economic benefits.
- 3.14 The Applicant also provided a 3-D Model of the Proposed Development site, covering the majority of the LVIA Viewpoints (VP) and most of the Stirling Council area. The primary purpose of the 3D model was to provide local communities and stakeholders with an opportunity to visualise the Proposed Development from any area within the model, including households, recreational areas of interest, and historic assets. The 3D digital model was developed from geographic data and represented the Proposed Development using a 3D terrain derived from a detailed Digital Terrain Model and further draped with aerial photography. A screenshot example from the 3D Model are provided in **Appendix 11**. The 3D model included the following features:
- Basic representations of existing buildings and areas of trees/forestry defined in Ordnance Survey Vector Data.
 - Navigation aids, including a mini-map overview of the area, showing the viewer's location and orientation.
 - Hot keys to automatically move the viewer to LVIA VP Locations. It was also possible to select any location on the mini map.
 - Cumulative wind farm developments (consented and operational) including:
 - Shelloch Wind Farm;

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- Tod Hill Wind Farm;
 - Craigengelt Wind Farm;
 - Earlsburn Wind Farm;
 - Earlsburn North (Kingsburn) Wind Farm;
 - Craignannet Wind Turbine.
 - Toggle functions to switch between different weather conditions, and to toggle between the cumulative operational and consented projects (including the Proposed Development) and the Proposed Development alone.
- 3.15 The virtual Public Exhibition consisted of a virtual room containing information displays, a fly-through video of the 3D Model and the ability to chat to members of the project team who were available throughout the duration of the Exhibition to answer any queries. The virtual exhibition can still be viewed at: <https://consult-me.uk/DrummarnockWindFarm/>.
- Consultation Feedback**
- 3.16 For the online information event held in March 2023, 2 people attended during the specified running time. The online 'virtual room' has remained live for the public since March 2023, and up to end of June 2024, there were an additional 54 visitors to the website.
- 3.17 In total, 33 people attended the in-person Public Information Events:
- Bannockburn – 20 people; and
 - Cambusbarron – 13 people.
- 3.18 Attendees at the Public Information Events were invited to complete a feedback form (**Appendix 09**) about the Proposed Development. It was made clear that these were not formal representations to Stirling Council. It was advised that formal representations could be made to Stirling Council once a formal planning application had been submitted. A total of 5 feedback forms were returned, which represents approximately 14% of all attendees (across three events).
- 3.19 All of those who completed feedback forms identified themselves as local residents living within approx. 10km/6 miles of the proposed wind farm site. Two people identified themselves as local business owners and there was also one person who identified themselves as a member of a community council.
- 3.20 The question on the view of respondents on the proposals for the Drummarnock Wind Farm was answered by all 5 respondents:
- One respondent is 'strongly supportive';
 - Four respondents are 'somewhat supportive';
 - No respondents selected the options of 'neutral', 'somewhat opposed' or 'strongly opposed'.
- 3.21 A summary of comments received from both verbal feedback and the feedback forms and how these have been addressed are presented in **Table 3-2**.
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Table 3-2: Public Exhibition Consultation Feedback

Topic	Comment	How Comments have been Addressed
Transport/Wind Farm Access	<p>Queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What route has been selected for the wind farm access during construction and operation Will it be the same route that was used for the neighbouring Craigengelt Wind Farm Which properties or land will be needed for access Will there be disruption to the local community during construction of the wind farm 	<p>The proposals for Drummarnock Wind Farm consider the use of 2 different onsite access options. Only one of these will be ultimately selected.</p> <p>The route utilised for the construction and operation of Craigengelt Wind Farm was suited to much smaller turbines. Whilst it would be still possible to utilise this route, the proposed route is more suited to specifications of the proposed Drummarnock Wind Farm components. The Applicant is in discussions with the neighbouring Craigengelt Wind Farm Operators to consider sharing existing access infrastructure.</p> <p>Some land will be required to facilitate limited areas of overrun and oversail for the delivery of the turbine blades. The land rights are currently being secured by the Applicant for the relevant areas. The Applicant's approach to minimising potential disruption during construction are addressed in Chapter 9: Transport and Access of the EIA report. A road condition survey of the haulage route would be undertaken prior to the construction as part of any planning condition and any direct damage caused by the construction vehicles would be repaired.</p>
Impacts on Wildlife	<p>Queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that Ospreys tend to fly from the North Third Reservoir to the Carron Valley Reservoir – will their population be affected by the turbines? 	<p>A full ornithological assessment has been undertaken and is presented in Chapter 7: Ornithology of the EIA Report. Any mitigation measures required to protect bird species during construction and operation are documented in the EIA Report.</p>
Planning Policy & Site Suitability	<p>Queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the proposals comply with local planning policy (i.e. the Local Development Plan) 	<p>The main EIA report and associated Planning Statement addresses the proposal's compliance with planning policy in detail. It was explained at the public exhibitions that the site is located wholly within a 'Group 3' area, which are described as "Areas with potential for wind farm development - Beyond groups 1 and 2, wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria" in the Stirling Council Local Development Plan (October 2018).</p>

Topic	Comment	How Comments have been Addressed
		<p>Furthermore, Stirling Council's Supplementary Guidance on Wind Energy Developments (February 2019) notes that "Limited expansion of the Craiggelt development, of say 2-3 turbines closely related to the existing layout, may be capable of being absorbed into the area without substantially altering the existing balance between developed and undeveloped areas". Whilst the Proposed Development comprises of up to 4 turbines, the Applicant has carefully designed the turbine layout so that it can be perceived as a limited expansion of the existing Craiggelt Wind Farm.</p>
Community Benefit Fund	<p>Queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much will the Applicant contribute to a local Community Benefit Fund How will the Community Benefit Fund be distributed between the host and neighbouring Community Councils 	<p>The Applicant has committed to a voluntary contribution of £5,000/MW (index linked) of installed capacity per annum into a community benefit fund. The Applicant has also prepared a Community Benefit Fund Distribution Methodology. A preliminary version of this has been discussed with both host and neighbouring Community Councils to establish an objective and fair split of the Community Benefit Fund. The exact distribution and annual contributions to each Community Council will be finalised pre-commencement of operation, should the Proposed Development be granted planning consent.</p>
General /Other	<p>Queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and visual impact; Noise; Shadow flicker; Impact on wildlife; Impact on habitats; Impact on road infrastructure; Disruption during the construction phase; Opportunities to improve local walking routes. <p>Recognitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information presented at the Public Information Events was good and informative. 	<p>A full EIA following the scope agreed with Stirling Council and key stakeholders is presented in the EIA Report accompanying the planning application. The following topics are covered and will address all concerns noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 – Landscape and Visual Impact; Chapter 6 – Ecology; Chapter 7 – Ornithology; Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils; Chapter 9 – Transport and Access; Chapter 10 – Cultural Heritage and Archaeology; Chapter 11 – Noise; and Chapter 14 – Other Issues.

- 3.22 In addition to the written responses noted above, verbal discussions and feedback between project team members and members of the local community took place at each of the Public Exhibitions.
- 3.23 All topics and questions raised through the consultation have been addressed in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development.
- 3.24 Over the course of the project's development, conversations have taken place with local residents over a variety of means including in person, via e-mail, video calls and telephone conversations. Topics covered and how these have been addressed are also noted within **Table 3-2**.

4.0 Community Benefit and Investment

- 4.1 The Public Exhibitions also included information on community benefit, potential part community shared ownership and options for Near Neighbour Energy Contribution Scheme. Feedback received on these topics is set out in **Table 4-1**. These ideas are being further explored by the Applicant and liaison with the community will continue throughout project development and beyond planning submission.

Table 4-1: Feedback received on Community Benefit, Shared Ownership and Near Neighbour Energy Contribution Scheme

Topic	Comment
Community Ownership & Benefits	<p>The Applicant asked the local community and representative organisations what their priorities and suggestions would be for the proposed community benefit fund. Their feedback was collected verbally, through feedback forms and in formal meetings.</p> <p>Ideas for use of Community Benefit Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport; • Social amenities; • Affordable housing; • Employment opportunities; • Tackling fuel poverty; • Support and opportunities for young people; • "Lifetime homes" for the D.A. sector; • Improving health service standards; • Improving the local road network; • Community hall for Carron Valley; • Retrofitting local homes with energy efficiency measures. <p>Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefit fund amount should be increased and should be index linked to future inflation <p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of community benefit should be dependent on distance from the wind farm, level of visual impact and level of disruption as a result of the project

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 An extensive programme of pre-application consultation activities has ensured maximum awareness within the community of the Proposed Development. The Applicant has also focused on making sure that residents and community groups could comment on the Proposed Development and receive feedback if requested throughout the process via several different channels.
- 4.1 The Applicant consulted with the general public, local councillors, MPs and MSPs, and community groups within the local area. The consultation programme has included regular meetings, household visits, emails, phone calls, and correspondence as well as household and business newsletter distribution, press releases, newspaper advertisements, posters, social media and website updates. The website will continue to be maintained providing up to date news on the project as it develops: <https://drummarnockwindfarm.co.uk>
- 5.3 The Applicant has maintained a flexible and pro-active approach to the public consultation programme and exceeded the minimum statutory consultation requirements. This approach has helped ensure that the community has remained consistently well-informed and been given regular opportunities to provide feedback.
- 5.4 The Applicant engaged with the local community at an appropriate stage in the development process. This facilitated a constructive consultation process which has helped the developer to understand and attempt to address any concerns raised as the project developed. This has resulted in a high-quality development proposal that represents a careful balance between the views of the community, environmental impacts, views of statutory consultees and the economic viability of the project.
- 5.5 Community Shared Ownership has been discussed at a high level with local community organisations. Consultation on the Community Shared Ownership offering will be undertaken with local community organisations, in conjunction with Local Energy Scotland, as a separate exercise. This consultation process regarding the potential for community shared ownership will continue while the Application is being considered.
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