

Auchtertool Community Council Meeting

7.30pm - 30 May 2023

Attendees

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kevin Carter (Vice Chair) | Cllr Julie MacDougall |
| Gill Cura (Secretary) | Steven Livingston – Liberty One |
| Andrea Cail (Treasurer) | Clara Thompson - RenewCo |
| Debbie Scollay | Stuart Hamilton - Locogen |
| Denise Lochhead | Euan Hutchison – Locogen |

Apologies

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mike Smart | Tom Lochhead (Chair) |
| Audrey Duncan | Cllr Lesley Backhouse |
| Cllr Kathleen Leslie | Ross Mitchell |

Vice Chair's welcome

The VC welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to the teams involved in the proposed Glenniston Solar Farm project for joining to talk ACC members through the current status of the project and next steps.

Glenniston Solar Farm Project Update

SH, Locogen shared some detail into the current status of the project. He explained that there had been a pause in progress related to grid application – took 9 months longer due to massive delays with National Grid. April 2027 has been confirmed as connection date.

SH confirmed that Locogen have engaged with near neighbours, made changes and addressed Q&A from first community event (available on project website)

A map was shared with the attendees to outline the main changes since initial consultation. Available at [Glenniston Solar Project - Locogen](#) (Appendix 1)

Orange areas have been removed

1. Beside Lochend cottage – adjustment to improve
2. Little Glenniston – views facing towards west
3. Hatched green area – existing forestry plantation retained to provide screening; add more planting
4. Glenniston Cottages – prominent hillock – removed to keep things lower down from view and
5. Proposed change to main access point to site – moved into fields and away from main road. Speaking to council roads department
6. Further consultation and comments welcome

SM confirmed the purpose of the attendance at the ACC meeting was to re-engage, provide update and next steps; and arrange consultation date with the wider community.

ACC members agreed that they could see some adjustments made following near-neighbours consultation; which is all positive but reiterated that the general concerns are around scale.

A question was raised whether the changes demonstrated an overall reduction in the original scale of the proposed site. SM confirmed that it was a reduction of approximately 5% but reiterated that the driver for Glenniston as the location was the size - partly related to economics; there is a need to be larger to give ROI; but also availability; i.e. the landholding was actually available from landowner.

ACC members confirmed their understanding of the benefits to the National Grid but asked how it benefits the local community?

Locogen confirmed that the Community benefit will go up as a result of higher yield

Community Benefit £600 per MW x 39MW = £23,400 (still TBD around how it is split between CCs)

The Vice Chair asked what % of value of project does this represent?

CT stated that it was hard to say; depends on rate of electricity – lots of analysis done and its fair based on what we see in other similar projects but shared that it was around £50/year per household. The Vice Chair suggested that there was a need to define how the benefit was fair for the people it impacts; KC committed to take that away ahead of consultation.

It was also confirmed that something for consideration is whether the Community Benefit is preferable as an upfront payment or a staged payment – can look at whether it is a bigger upfront payment and smaller staged payments

ACC members confirmed that the Community will speak for itself during the consultation process however it would be good to discuss opportunity for community to share in the project; look at investing in community infrastructure rather than just providing money each year.

CT explained that it would be good to understand ideas back from the community. ACC members agreed that we can provide but it would be good to understand examples from other communities/projects to hear about other possibilities.

The meeting covered whether the project had considered other land – lots of other non-arable land available under different landowners. Locogen confirmed that no alternatives had been made available from other landowners. It was confirmed however that they wouldn't develop on grade 2 land – online listing grade it as 3.2/4 (grade 2 provided by farmers who currently farm it however scale is not a personal classification)

Land will still be used for sheep grazing; wont be taken out of agricultural use. Land use will be a decision for farmer/landowner moving forward

Type of grass will probably change; single species with little biodiversity benefit; fields will be re-seeded or replaced (crops) with better quality of grass mix and grazing at a lesser rate than you would commercially.

Consideration of the climate change crisis and nature crisis are the Government's main goals of planning system. One of project surveys would be into ecological use of site; on ground and bird species. Eventual management of this will be sensitive to the results of this survey

AC asked how do we predict affect on ground after 40-year of solar farming? EH confirmed the habitat plan would keep it under continual review and if fault were found there is recourse. During construction there is a clerk of works to ensure no conservation rules are broken. The plan will be a condition of planning consent.

Did you consider any alternative renewables on the same site? Same constraints regarding scale

It was confirmed that other sites have a dedicated Community Liaison Officer who can keep the community informed about many such questions and concerns.

EH provided an update on the Planning surveys

1. Ecology – assessing see what's there and check no impact. Informs how to take forward in a positive way. Small pond at Glenniston Quarry – will be set aside for waders; bat boxes, bird boxes, planting new and enhancing hedgerows. Steep area along Gelly burn too steep to use; will plant up and make more of a feature of this
2. Noise – main noise comes from invertors to convert from AC to DC (shipping containers) – none near houses (deliberate) and model noise to check no impact. 9 or 10 invertors across site; and battery storage area in SW corner. Discussions with EH at Fife Council to check surveys are acceptable to them
3. Landscape and Visual assessment.
 - a. Viewpoint – photo existing and then model what future state will be when panels in place. Helps to plan screening over 5, 10, 15 years etc. Planting in gaps to support visual impact – can share at next community consultation. 2m deer fence around perimeter of site which will also be set 4-5m from road edge.
 - b. Glint & Glare – you only really get G&G when you drive at low sun, it will reflect off the panel at a low angle. Not when sun is high in the sky. Panels sit between 15-25 degrees. 3 meters off ground (end) 80cm at lowest end
4. Agricultural Land survey
5. Hydrology – impact on drainage (no impact expected due to spacing between panels and rows)
6. Traffic & Transport

All of the above information will be pulled together for planning submission and will form part of the planning statement. Planning submission will be July/Aug 2023. Public consultation before this.

22nd June 2023 – provisional date for community consultation. Drop-in session format to include the following

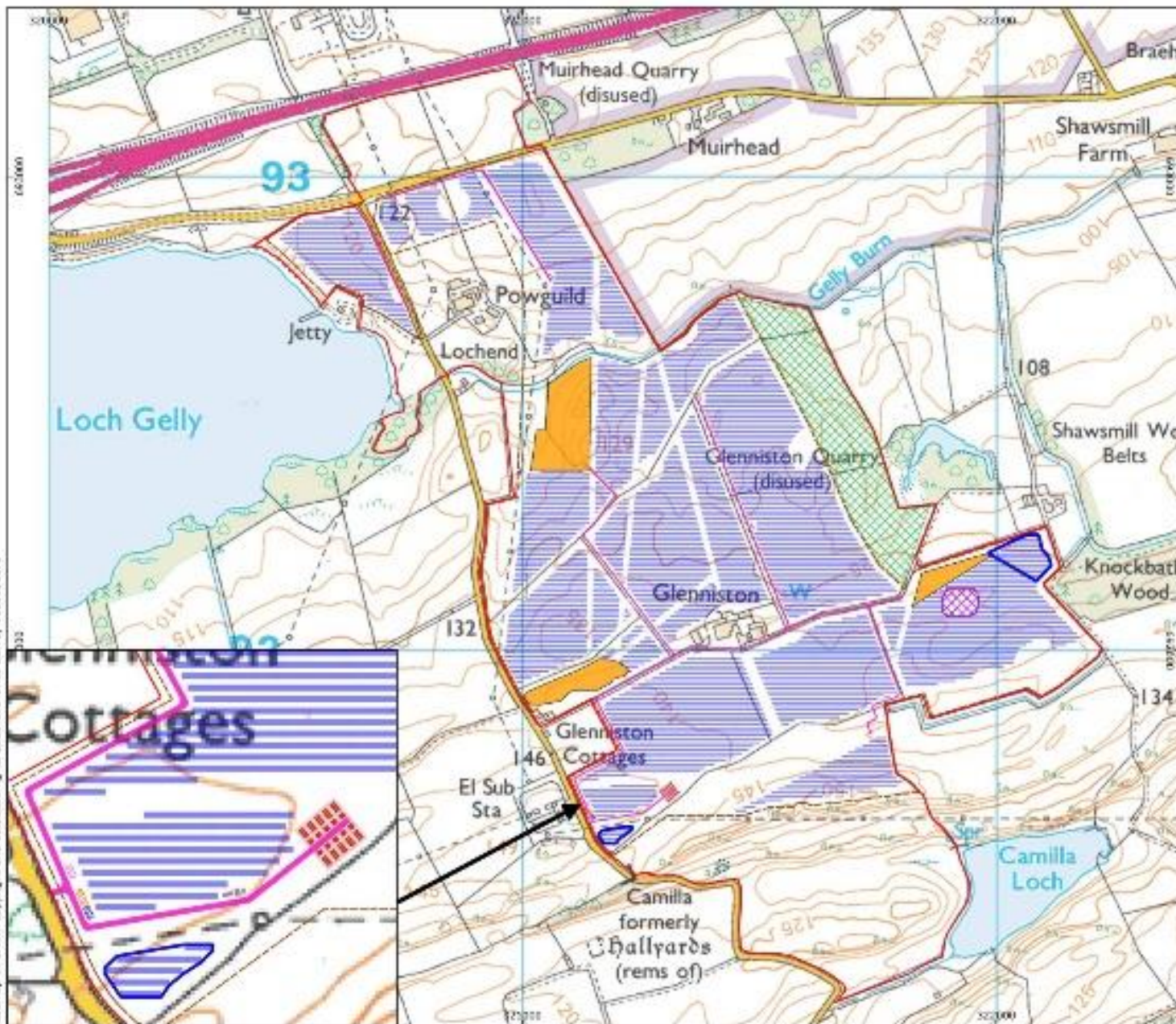
- Stations – opportunity for individual Q&A
- Handouts
- Feedback forms
- Mechanism to gather ideas for community benefit/investment

It was noted that Battery storage for Glenniston Solar Farm project is completely separate to Little Raith (should be made clear to community)

A.O.B

Gardener – It was confirmed there had been no response from Four Winds Trust therefore an application had been submitted to ACT as an alternative.

DL passed all Treasurer's paperwork to AC on behalf of the Chair.





Locogen

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Legend

Key Layout Changes

- Relocation of existing panels
- Removal of panels - to protect residential amenity
- Removal of panels - due to ground conditions

Solar Layout

- Land Boundary
- Panels
- Access Track and Cable Route
- Customer Substation
- DNO Substation
- Communication and Storage Building
- Inverter and Transformer Stations
- Security Fencing
- Battery Container and Transformer units
- Existing Recently Established Tree Plantation - to be retained

Note: Hedgerow enhancement and biodiversity gain is currently under review by our Biologist and we are keen to get the community's view and suggestions on this.



0 200 400 m

A3 Horizontal Scale 1:7,500
 CRS: British National Grid (EPSG:27700)

Produced: Jessica Lewis
 Reviewed: Stuart Hamilton
 Approved: Stuart Hamilton

Date: 18/04/23 Revision: 6.0

8094-DROW-DES-0004-Key Layout Changes-v6.0

Glenniston Solar Farm
Key Layout Changes

Locogen Ltd

