



Strathdearn Community Council

To all Residents of Strathdearn Community Council Area

Background

1. As you will know Strathdearn is attractive to wind farm developers due the wind blowing 'smoothly' over our hills and the A9, grid connections and Inverness port make access possible.
2. Six new wind farms are in different stages of planning for our area. Balnespick, Clune, Lynemore, Highland, Kyllachy and Carn na Saobhaidh.
3. Geographically, they surround the community area and will have an impact on many aspects of our community life.
4. Because of their size (50MW plus), in Section 36 of the Electricity Act the decision to approve, modify or refuse lies with Scottish Government Ministers through their Energy Consents Unit (ECU). If a planning authority (like Highland Council) submits an objection a public inquiry maybe held, and the application then passes to the Scottish Government Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA).
5. Developers officially notified people (including the SCC) last year on the scale and extent of the wind farms when they submitted their first phase Scoping Studies on possible effects and residents were invited to comment. The studies were all approved.
6. We are now faced with the main second phase. Developers must submit Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to support each of their formal planning applications. These are lengthy and complex documents. A third phase of planning (Section 37) covers overhead wires connecting to the grid.

Community Council Role

7. Strathdearn Community Council is a statutory consultee (in law) on all planning applications in our community area – IV13 - including wind farm developments. **PLEASE NOTE COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENT SCHEMES ARE SEPARATE FROM PLANNING.**
8. Our task (in law) is to provide those making the decisions on applications with an **informed local view** on the proposal. We do this by asking all local residents to give us their considered opinions relevant to the national guidance used to approve, modify or refuse the application.
9. Community Councillors are non-expert volunteers with very limited resources. Hence, we commissioned a short term subgroup – Strathdearn Windfarm Interim Windfarm Group (SWIAG) in October 2024. SWIAG reports to the Community Council monthly.
10. SWIAG employed an Independent Consultant to summarise and report on each of the six proposed developments in order that the **community may be better informed and be able to find relevant information on planning policy and development impact in one place.**
11. We are expecting to see planning applications for six wind farms over perhaps the next 12 months.



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Your role

12. The Summary Report is now complete and the Strathdearn Community Council wish to share it with all residents.
13. The report is available on the website at www.strathdearn.org and a link to it has been posted on our Strathdearn People Facebook page. Paper copies are available at The Strathdearn.
14. If you are still unable to access the report, a copy can be provided to you individually by contacting strathdearnccsecretary@gmail.com or by phoning the Strathdearn enquiries number 01808 511700.

What next

Further consultation and community feedback will be gathered through an 'Open Day' and another survey and this will take place over the next month or so.

The Community Council needs to get resident views on the six applications to submit them to both the Scottish Government and to the Highland Council. To carry weight community views need to reflect the application's fit with relevant planning policy. The more feedback we receive the more weight our response will carry so please do all you can to ensure those living in the area fill in the survey when it is available.

Within the planning timescale we hope to be in a position for each development to

- **Submit a response tailored to that development**
- **Submit a response for each development that sets out the cumulative effect on our community when all developments are considered together**

We need your help and input to do this!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'B. MacAskill'.

Barbara MacAskill

Chair of Strathdearn Community Council