

Garn Fach Wind Farm Community Liaison Group
6pm, Wednesday 22 September 2021
Via Microsoft Teams
MINUTES

Attendees - members

Name	Organisation
Angharad Davies (chair)	Cadno Communications Ltd
Ceri Stephens	MWMG
County Councillor David Lowde	St. Harmon Community Council
Cllr James Powell	Llanbadarn Fynydd Community Council
County Councillor Karl Lewis	Llandinam ward
Nick Venti	PAVO
County Councillor Rachel Powell	Beguilyd ward
Cllr Robin Lewis	Mochdre with Penstrowed Community Council
Cllr Roy Gardner	Kerry Community Council
Simon Morgan	EDF R

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed members to the meeting. The chair expressed heartfelt thanks to the members for their willingness to engage during the consultation, and as a result EDF Renewables had attended meetings of all Community Councils, regularly met with the County Councillors, and had been able to reach out to the third sector and business community in Powys via the PAVO and MWMG representatives. The chair noted members have been very welcoming, the tone of meetings has always been civil, and useful feedback had been received.

2. Introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed Cllr Roy Gardner who was attending his first meeting as the new representative for Kerry Community Council. Cllr Gardner represents the Dolfor area and replaces Cllr Ivor Jones who has resigned as he has a conflict of interest. All of the members introduced themselves.

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

There were no matters arising. The minutes of the last meeting had been approved by the group via email since the last meeting.

4. Project update: Simon Morgan

The 10 week Pre-application Consultation (PAC) closed 8th September 2021. The required length of the consultation is 6 weeks and was extended due to the summer holidays. The responses are currently being reviewed. The responses to date are quite positive. There are some requests for additional information and points of clarification, however there is no requirement from NRW for additional surveys which could have pushed back timescales.

EDF Renewables will seek to get statements of common ground with NRW and Powys County Council in place prior to submission of the planning application. This is not essential for the planning process but is something the Planning Inspector likes to see as it reduces issues at the examination stage.

EDF Renewables is on target to submit the planning application around November this year. A five week validation period will follow, the examination process will be in Q1/Q2 of 2022, and a decision from the Minister is expected later in 2022.

From the feedback received so far it seems that there would not be much change to the turbine

numbers and locations in the layout that was consulted on.

AD shared a slide on the consultation statistics.

Q. Have you had any contact with Fay Jones MP regarding her survey on Garn Fach?

EDF Renewables has contacted Fay Jones' office regarding the survey. SM will meet the MP's office in a few weeks' time. Fay Jones' survey ends on 7 October and was sent to all households within 5km of site. AOB

Q. Does EDF R have a view on the current energy crisis and will it affect the project timescales?

SM noted EDF Renewables' energy mix is mostly renewables and nuclear, and has just one fossil fuel power station left in the UK. SM's personal view is that current crisis exposes the need for the UK to secure homemade energy supplies by accelerating the roll out of renewables.

5. Date of next meeting

The group agreed to meet after the planning application has been submitted.

The group discussed whether to meet in person. RP advised that cases of Covid-19 are increasing locally and advised caution about meeting in person. The group agreed to meet on Microsoft Teams next time and to meet in person when it's safe to do so.