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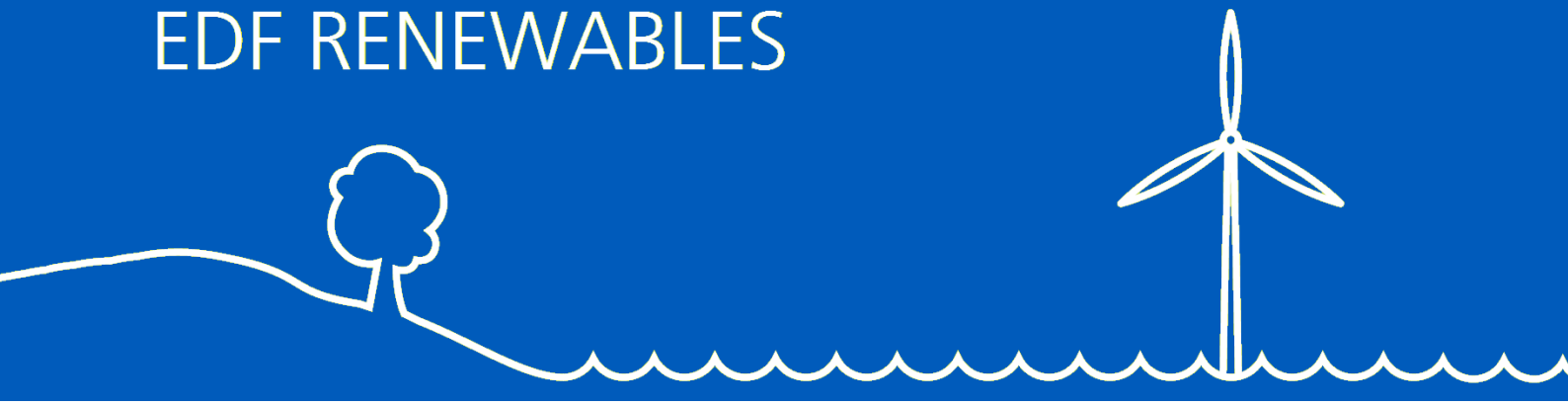

Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park

Feedback Summary on Public Information Days & Early Consultation

30th September to 17th October 2022

Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park

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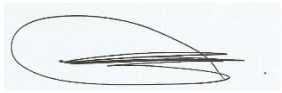
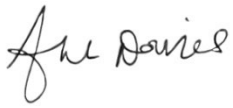
Sarah Jones (Cadno Comms Ltd) Preparation		23rd November 2022
Angharad Davies (Cadno Comms Ltd) Check		23rd November 2022
Simon Morgan (EDF R) Approval		23rd November 2022

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Executive summary

1. The Hirfynydd Energy Park is an EDF Renewables UK proposal for up to seven wind turbines, a solar array, and battery storage on land near to Crynant and Seven Sisters, in Neath Port Talbot.
2. EDF Renewables UK first publicly announced the project via a press release on 11th July 2022, following some early briefings to local elected representatives.
3. Between 30th September and 17th October EDF Renewables UK held an early consultation on the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, with information and a feedback form online at www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd as well as two face to face events.
4. The drop-in Public Information Days (PIDs) were held from 14.00 – 19.00 on Friday 30th September at Seven Sisters Community Hall and 10.00 – 14.00 on Saturday 1st October at Crynant Community Centre. Both venues are local to the proposed site.
5. Attendees at the events were invited to find out more about Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, ask questions, share their views, learn more about the local benefits and tackling climate change, view interactive 3D modelling and meet the team. Attendees were encouraged to complete a feedback form to capture their views on the project, climate change, local ownership, the Community Benefit Fund and the Public Information Days, as well as capturing demographic information.
6. The PIDs were attended by a total of 148 people, of whom 98 completed a feedback form (66.2%).
7. The online feedback form, live from 30th September to 17th October 2022, was completed by 35 people.
8. In response to the question 'Do you support the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park Proposal?' - 43.6% of respondents stated they were supportive, 34.6% stated they were not supportive, and 21.8% were unsure whether they supported the proposal.
9. Key themes raised were: visual impact and proximity to homes, environmental benefits of renewable energy, potential impact on local wildlife and biodiversity, archaeology and existing mine works.
10. Respondents overwhelmingly stated they found the information provided at the PIDs very useful or quite useful (84.7%).
11. The majority of respondents were in the 50-65 age category, with 66% of respondents aged 50 or over.
12. Overall, EDF Renewables UK found the exercise helpful and informative.
13. A second informal consultation is planned for early in 2023, when plans for the project have been developed further in light of public feedback and ongoing site assessments.

Introduction

Background

15. Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park was announced publicly on 11 July 2022. A copy of the press release is at Appendix A.

16. On 30th September and 1st October 2022 EDF Renewables UK held two drop-in Public Information Days (PIDs) to share information on Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park with local residents. Although it is not a statutory requirement to undertake this form of informal engagement, as a responsible developer, it is EDF Renewables UK's normal practice to do so, with a further informal consultation event planned for quarter two of 2023 prior to a formal statutory Pre-application Consultation taking place shortly before submission of the final planning application, later in 2023.

17. In addition, online materials and an online feedback form were live on EDF Renewables UK's website https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd/ from 30th September 2022 to 17th October 2022.

18. Feedback was collated following the close of consultation after 17th October 2022.

19. Cadno Communications Ltd (Cadno) was appointed to manage the PIDs and online consultaion. Cadno worked closely with EDF Renewables UK to plan and deliver the PIDs. 3D Webtech (3DW) provided the computerised 3D modelling software and hosted this element of the exhibition. Renewable energy consultants, Land Use Consultants (LUC) Ltd, responsible for managing the environmental assessments, also attended the events.

20. The aim of the PIDs was to provide local residents with an opportunity to:

    - Meet the team and find out more about Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park
    - View an interactive 3D virtual model of the turbines and proposed solar development area
    - Learn more about the local benefits and tackling climate change
    - Share their views and ask questions

21. There were nine members of the project team at the Seven Sisters event, and eight members of the project team at the Crynant event. The project team consisted of mainly EDF Renewables UK staff, staff from Cadno, a member of 3DW, and a member of staff from LUC.

Locations

22. The PIDs were held in two locations chosen based on their proximity to the site and advice from local key stakeholders. The venues were selected because they are well-known and well-used, are accessible in terms of car parking, access and size, and offered appropriate facilities, including refreshments.

23. The timings of the events were planned to cover the daytime, evening and weekend with the aim of being convenient for as many people as possible.

24. The events were held at:

    - 14.00 - 19.00, Friday 30th September 2022 at Seven Sisters Community Hall
    - 10.00 - 14.00, Saturday 1st October 2022 at Crynant Community Centre

25. A map of the locations in relation to the project site location is at Appendix B.

Welsh language

26. All materials were produced in a bilingual format with Welsh on one side and English on the other side, or as separate English and Welsh documents. Welsh and English-speaking members of staff attended each of the PIDs.

27. Three feedback forms were completed in Welsh.

Key stakeholders

28. Key stakeholders were approached on 22nd June 2002 in confidence and offered a briefing prior to Hirfynydd being announced publicly on 11th July 2022.
29. Jeremy Miles, MS for Neath, was briefed via Microsoft Teams on 1st July 2022.
30. Christina Rees, MP for Neath, was briefed via Zoom on 6th July 2022.
31. Councillor Steve Hunt, Ward Member for Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters, and Councillor Sian Harris, Ward Member for Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters, were briefed together via Microsoft Teams on 25th July 2022. Councillor Steve Hunt was briefed in his capacity as a local Ward Member. Cllr Hunt is also Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.
32. On 11th July 2022, EDF Renewables UK met two officers from Neath Port Talbot Council's planning department.
33. EDF Renewables UK met the Chair, Clerk and several members of Crynant Community Council in person on 30th June 2022. EDF Renewables UK subsequently attended a full council meeting in person on 29th September 2022. The meeting was attended by nine community council members and the clerk to the community council.
34. EDF Renewables UK attended a full council meeting of Seven Sisters Community Council in person on 3rd October 2022. The meeting was attended by eight community council members and the clerk to the community council.

Marketing

35. The PIDs were marketed in the following ways:
    - Postcard to households
    - Poster
    - Press release
    - EDF Renewables UK website https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd/
36. A double-sided, A5 postcard (Appendix C) was sent via Royal Mail to every household within a 2-3km radius of the site. This totalled 1,954 households. The postcard was sent second class to arrive with households from 20th September 2022 onwards. A map at Appendix D shows the households that were sent the postcard.
37. A poster was produced and printed in A4 (Appendix E). Key stakeholders were sent printed and electronic copies of the poster on 20th September 2022 and were invited to display these locally and on social media.
38. The poster was shared on Facebook by Crynant Community Council[1], Crynant Community Centre[2] and Seven Sisters Community Hall[3].
39. A press release (Appendix F) was distributed to the following media on 20th September:
    - BBC Cymru Fyw
    - BBC Radio Cymru
    - BBC Radio Wales
    - BBC Wales
    - Business Wales Insider
    - Capital FM Wales
    - Daily Post
    - ITV Wales
    - Nation Cymru
    - Nation Radio

[1] https://www.facebook.com/CrynantCommunityCouncil
[2] https://www.facebook.com/crynantcc
[3] https://www.facebook.com/SevenSistersHall

- South Wales Argus
- South Wales Echo
- South Wales Evening Post
- South Wales Guardian
- Swansea Bay Radio
- The Guardian
- The National
- The Times
- The Week
- Wales Online
- Industry press

40. The press release was published here:
    - "Public urged to have their say on plans for new renewable energy park in Neath Port Talbot"[4], Nation Cymru, 20th September 2022
    - "Renewable energy park could be built near Ystradgynlais"[5], South Wales Guardian, 21st September 2022.
41. The press release was also shared with the following key stakeholders:
    - Jeremy Miles, MS for Neath
    - Christina Rees, MP for Neath
    - Councillor Steve Hunt, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council and Ward Member for Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters
    - Councillor Sian Harris, Ward Member for Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters
    - Crynant Community Council
    - Seven Sisters Community Council
    - Tom Giffard MS, Regional MS South Wales West Region
    - Altaf Hussain MS, Regional MS South Wales West Region
    - Sioned Williams MS, Regional MS South Wales West Region
    - Luke Fletcher MS, Regional MS South Wales West Region
42. The website https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd/ and email address hirfynydd@edf-re.uk went live on 11 July 2022. Electronic versions of the exhibition materials (information boards and handout), and online feedback form were made available on the EDF Renewables UK website from 30th September 2022.
43. A dedicated project telephone number 01639 500871 was set up.
44. During the period 20th September to 17th October 2022 the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park website was viewed 732 times across both the English and Welsh versions of the site, with 344 unique users.
45. Details of the website, email address and telephone number were provided on all print collateral and press releases.
46. The feedback form asked where people had heard about the PIDs so EDF Renewables UK could evaluate the effectiveness and reach of these methods. The postcard sent to households was the most common way people found out about the events, followed by social media and word of mouth.

[4] https://nation.cymru/news/public-urged-to-have-their-say-on-plans-for-new-renewable-energy-park-in-neath-port-talbot/
[5] https://www.southwalesguardian.co.uk/news/22317673.renewable-energy-park-built-ystradgynlais/

The events

47. The events schedule is below:

SCHEDULE OF PIDs			
Date	Time	Area	Venue name and address
Friday 30 September 2022	14.00 – 19.00	Seven Sisters	Seven Sisters Community Hall Seven Sisters, Neath SA10 9BA
Saturday 1 October 2022	10.00 – 14.00	Crynant	Crynant Community Centre Woodland Rd, Crynant, Neath SA10 8RG

Table 1 : Schedule of PIDs

48. The events were attended by a total of 148 people. Seventy people attended in Seven Sisters and seventy-eight attended in Crynant.

49. Both events were attended by members of staff from EDF Renewables UK, Cadno, 3DW and LUC who actively engaged with attendees and answered questions.

50. On arrival, attendees were greeted at a welcome desk and were provided with a handout (Appendix G), a feedback form (Appendix H) and the layout of the exhibition was explained.

51. Although no Covid restrictions applied in Wales at the time, antibacterial hand gel and face masks were provided on the welcome desk for anyone wishing to use them.

52. The handouts provided attendees with a guide to the information boards (Appendix I). Attendees were encouraged to take a copy of the handout home, and to take additional copies for friends and family members.

53. Attendees were encouraged to complete a feedback form while they were at the event and to place the completed form in one of the two boxes provided. Clipboards and pens were provided for attendees.

54. Ten information boards were displayed on easels, arranged around the room. Images of how the boards were displayed are below at figure 2 to figure 7.

55. 3DW provided a virtual model of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park which enabled attendees to see what Hirfynydd could look like from anywhere within 10km of the site. This was extremely popular with attendees. Observations during the events were that people congregated around this area more than any other. This is reflected in the feedback, with the virtual model being rated as the most useful element of the exhibition.

56. Refreshments were provided at both events, and tables and chairs were set up for attendees to sit down. Observations at Seven Sisters Community Hall and Crynant Community Centre were that having viewed the information boards, people visiting the exhibition then stayed a significant length of time to have a cup of tea or coffee, complete the feedback form and speak to other attendees. EDF Renewables UK felt this was a positive feature of the events and resolved to provide refreshments and seating areas at future events. Forty people fed back that they found the opportunity to meet local people from their community one of the most useful elements of the event.

57. EDF Renewables UK is grateful to the communities for welcoming the PIDs and for engaging in discussions about the proposal. EDF Renewables UK feels the two events were very positive in terms of the level of engagement.

58. The images below show the layout of the exhibitions:

Figure 1 : Information boards at Seven Sisters Community Hall

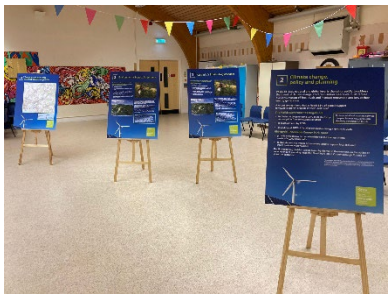


Figure 2 : Information boards at Seven Sisters Community Hall

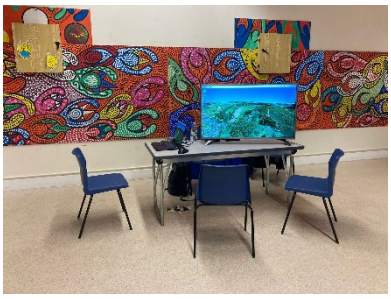


Figure 3 : 3D modelling at Seven Sisters Community Hall

Figure 4 : Information boards at Crynant Community Centre

Figure 5 : Welcome desk at Crynant Community Centre

Figure 6 : 3D modelling at Crynant Community Centre

Feedback

Methodology

59. The printed feedback form and online feedback form (Appendix J) were identical, apart from the section about the public information days where the online form had an additional box for respondents to indicate that they did not attend the public information days.

60. The feedback form was designed to obtain views under six main headings:

    - The project
    - Climate change
    - Local ownership
    - Community Benefit Fund
    - The public information days
    - About the respondent

61. A section was included at the end where respondents could provide their contact information if they wish to be kept up to date about the project.

62. A total of 133 feedback forms were completed.

63. Ninety-eight forms were completed in person at the PIDs.

64. Seventy-one people provided their contact details in order to receive future updates on Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.

65. Thirty-five forms were completed online. The IP addresses of the submitted forms were checked to monitor for multiple responses from the same individual which could skew results. No issues of this nature were found.

NUMBER OF COMPLETED FEEDBACK FORMS		
Community	Attendance at events	Feedback forms completed (% of attendees)
Seven Sisters	70	44 (62.9%)
Crynant	78	54 (69.2%)
Online	n/a	35
Total	148	133

Table 2 : Number of completed feedback forms

66. This section presents the findings from the feedback, with the main themes discussed in detail in the Key themes section.

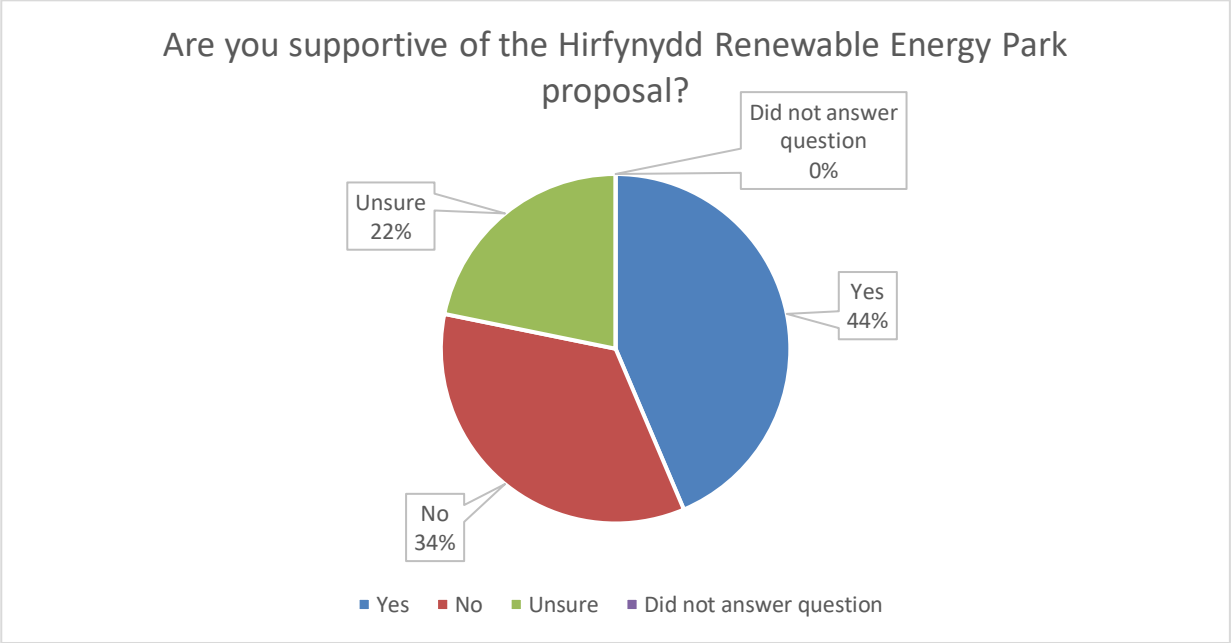
67. The qualitative information presented here refers to written comments provided by attendees using the feedback forms. The issues raised within the feedback forms were also discussed verbally with event staff.

Support for Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park

68. In total, 43.6% of respondents stated they were supportive of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park. 34.6% were not supportive, and 21.8% stated they were unsure whether they support the proposal.

ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF THE HIRFYNYDD RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK PROPOSAL?				
	Number of responses	Seven Sisters	Crynant	Online
Yes	58 (43.6%)	19	28	11
No	46 (34.6%)	13	13	20
Unsure	29 (21.8%)	12	13	4
Did not answer the question	0	0	0	0
Total	133	44	54	35

Table 3 : "Are you supportive of the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park proposal?"



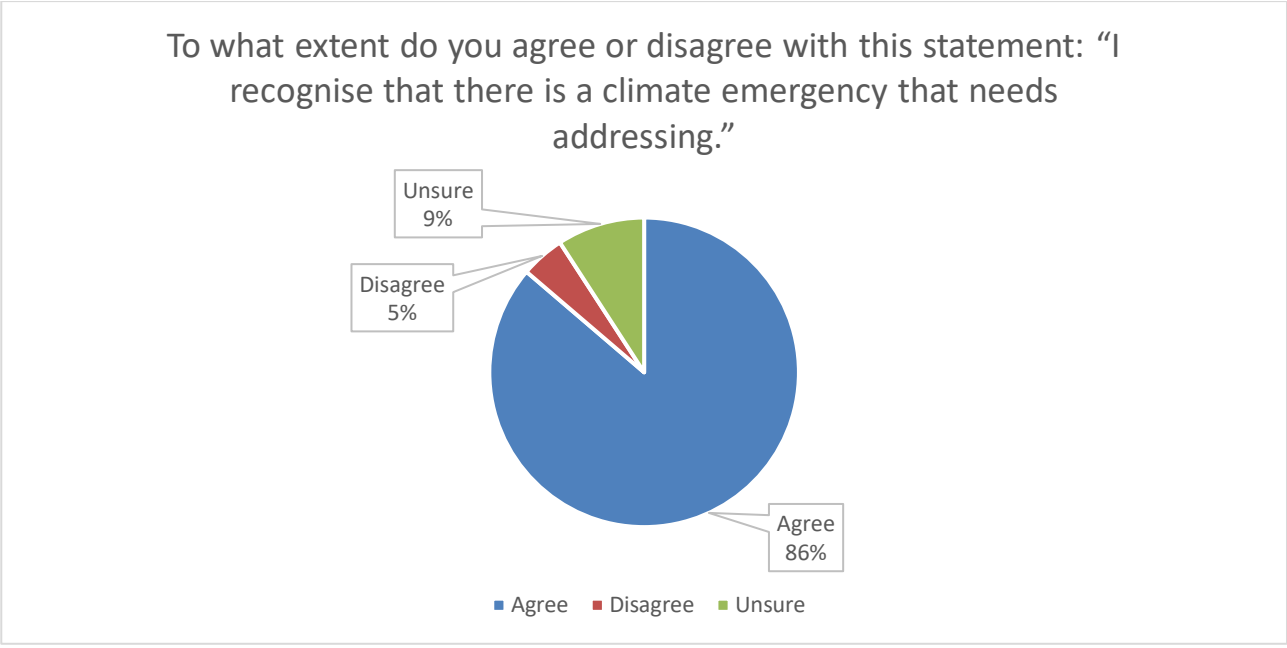
69. Attendees at the PIDs were more positive about Hirfynydd than people who responded online. 47.9% of attendees at the events stated they were supportive of Hirfynydd, compared with 31.4% on online respondents.

70. 57.1% of online respondents stated they did not support Hirfynydd, compared with 26.5% of people who attended the PIDs.

71. Attendees at the events were also more undecided about Hirfynydd than people who responded online. 25.5% of people who attended the PIDs stated they were unsure whether they were supportive of Hirfynydd, compared with 11.4% of people who responded online.

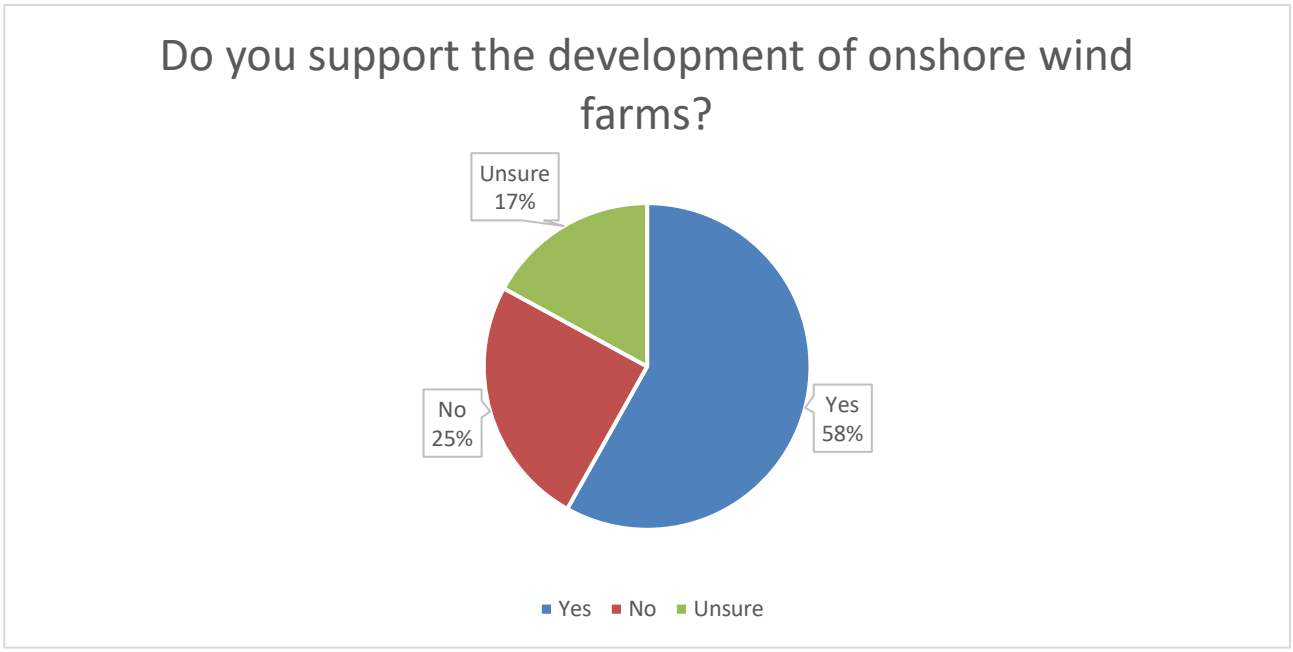
Climate change

72. 86% of respondents agreed with the statement, "I recognise that there is a climate emergency that needs addressing."

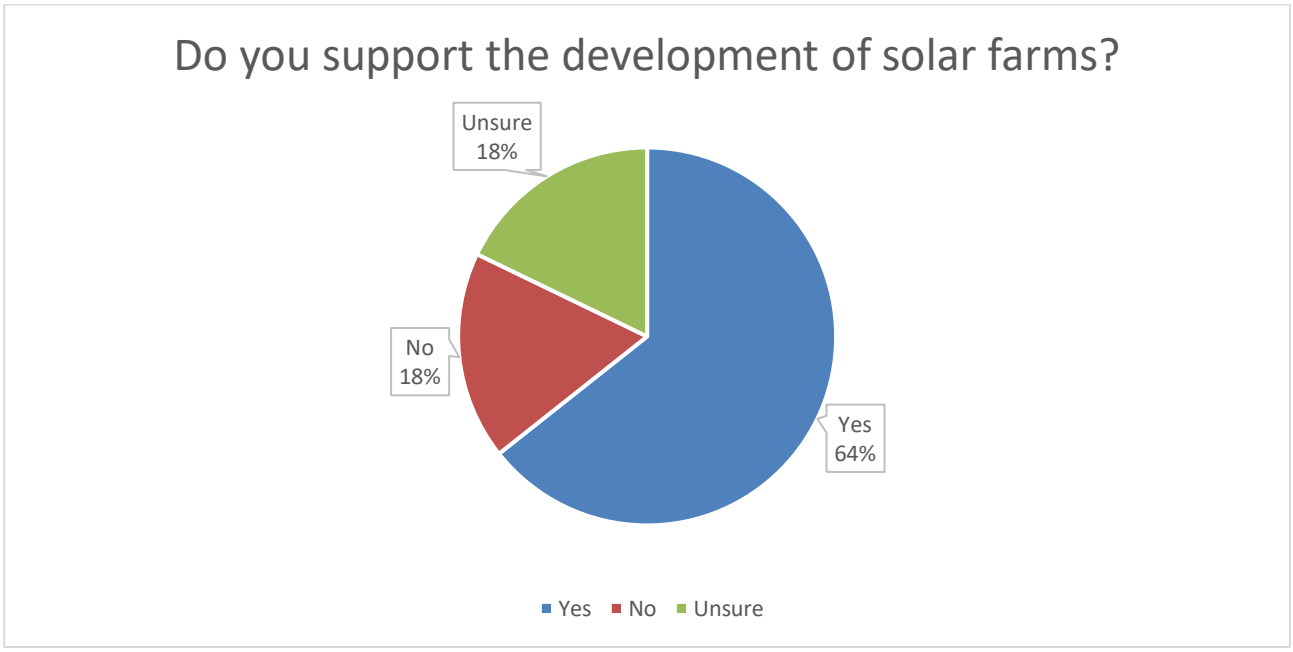


73. 58% of respondents stated they support the development of onshore wind farms. 25% stated they did not support the development of onshore wind farms.

74. This is significantly lower support for onshore wind than was shown in the Renewable UK Topical Poll conducted by Survation on behalf of RenewableUK (September 2022) which found 84% of Neath residents support onshore wind as energy generation[6].



75. 64% of respondents stated they support the development of solar farms. This is significantly lower than was found in the Renewable UK Topical Poll conducted by Survation on behalf of RenewableUK (September 2022) which found 91% of people in Neath support solar power as energy generation[7].



[6] https://www.survation.com/polling-in-every-constituency-in-britain-shows-strong-support-for-building-wind-farms-to-drive-down-consumer-bills/renewableuk-mrp-constituency-topline/
[7] https://www.survation.com/polling-in-every-constituency-in-britain-shows-strong-support-for-building-wind-farms-to-drive-down-consumer-bills/renewableuk-mrp-constituency-topline/

Local ownership

76. The feedback form asked respondents, "What do you think of local ownership?" The majority of responses (42) were neutral or unsure about local ownership, with many people stating they did not understand what local ownership is:

"Would want to know more about what it entails for the community."

"Not enough information on this for me to consider in any meaningful way at this point."

77. Forty positive comments were received, stating they believed it was a good opportunity for the community, or that they may be interested in investing personally.

"Fantastic idea, local residence (sic) should be able to buy into the project & benefit financial outside of any community fund, which may not specifically benefit them."

"Would be interested and would like to see some figures."

78. Twenty-eight negative comments were received, reflecting the respondent's general opposition to the project, or questioning whether local people would either wish to, or be able to afford to invest.

"Local ownership of what???? The land that we are going to destroy."

"I have doubts whether it is practical and workable and whether there will be sufficient local interest."

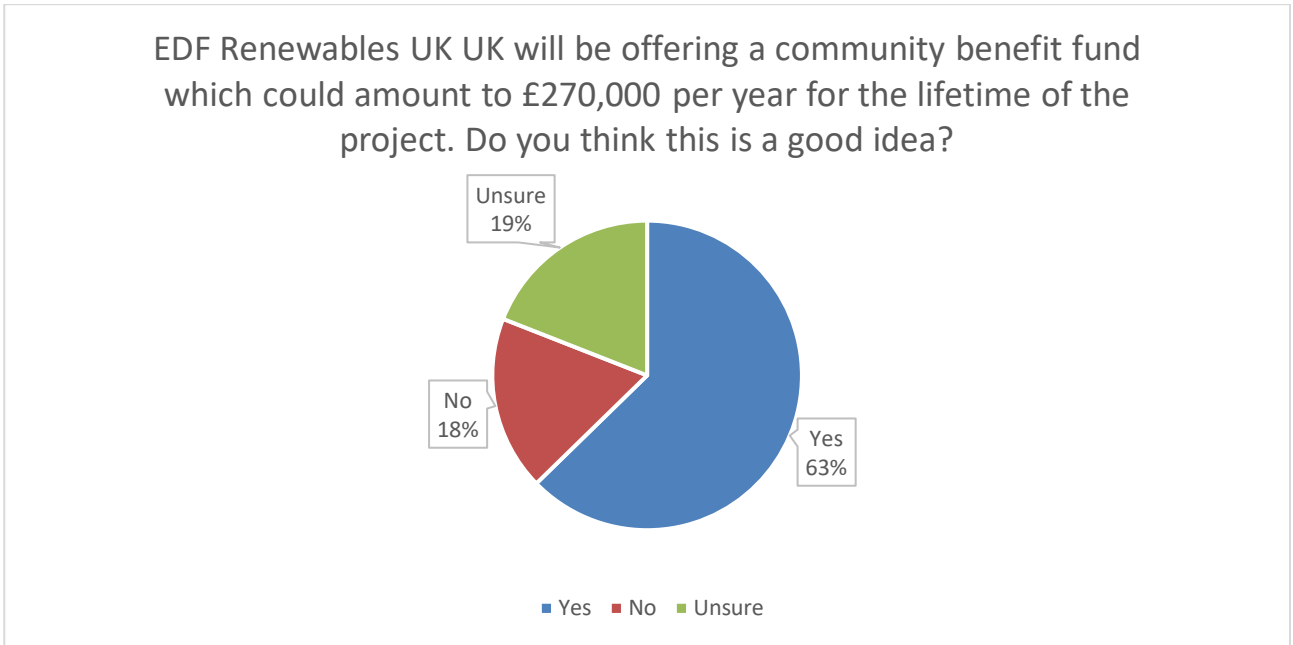
79. EDF Renewables UK recognises that residents need more detail about local ownership.

Community Benefit Fund

80. Two questions were asked in relation to the community benefit fund:

- EDF Renewables UK will be offering a community benefit fund which could amount to £270,000 per year for the lifetime of the project. (£5,000 per MW for wind, and £400 per MW for solar). Do you think this is a good idea?
- Do you have any suggestions how the fund should be administered and how the fund should be spent?

81. Of the 126 people who answered the question, 63% (79 individuals) thought the community benefit fund was a good idea. 18% (23 individuals) did not think it was a good idea. 19% (24 individuals) were unsure whether it was a good idea.



82. In response to the question, 'Do you have any suggestions how the fund should be administered and how the fund should be spent?', respondents provided lots of valuable information. The most frequently mentioned issue was the fair administration of the fund, which was mentioned 34 times. This included queries about which areas would benefit from the fund, and who makes the decisions about how the fund is spent:

"My worry is the administration of this fund. Who will administer it? Who will decide who is on the Community Liaison Group."

"All the community should have a say in how the fund is spent and not just a few chosen individuals making decisions!"

83. Lots of suggestions were received about how the fund should be spent. These are listed below in order of how frequently they were mentioned:

84. General regeneration of the area was mentioned most frequently. This was often mentioned in general terms, e.g. "Development and investment in the local area affected", "Improving the local area with local initiatives". More specific suggestions were:

- Invest in the community hall
- Activities for children and young people
- Local playgrounds and parks
- Local groups: sports clubs, community groups, choirs
- Warm banks and lunch clubs in community centres
- Upgrade paths and tracks on the mountain
- Install defibrillators
- Improve public transport
- Support local businesses, provide training and jobs

85. The following comments are illustrative of feedback received:

"Invest in the community hall to further and maintain its good work in the community."

"Help for warm banks and lunch clubs in community centres will help the most needed and the community as a whole."

"Improve facilities throughout the valley for all ages, and organisations. The decisions need to be made locally and additional, not replacement funding."

"Walking/hiking trails with information boards and interactive stations."

"Develop 'The Tips' area incorporating nature, fun and friends and healthy activities"

86. Sixteen people referred to the cost of energy and felt that the fund should be used for lower energy prices for local people: Using the fund for fitting solar panels to local houses and insulating homes were also suggested. The following comment is illustrative of feedback received:

"Better to give direct discount off of local energy bills."

87. Nine people questioned the size of the fund and believe more should be offered. The following comment is illustrative of feedback received:

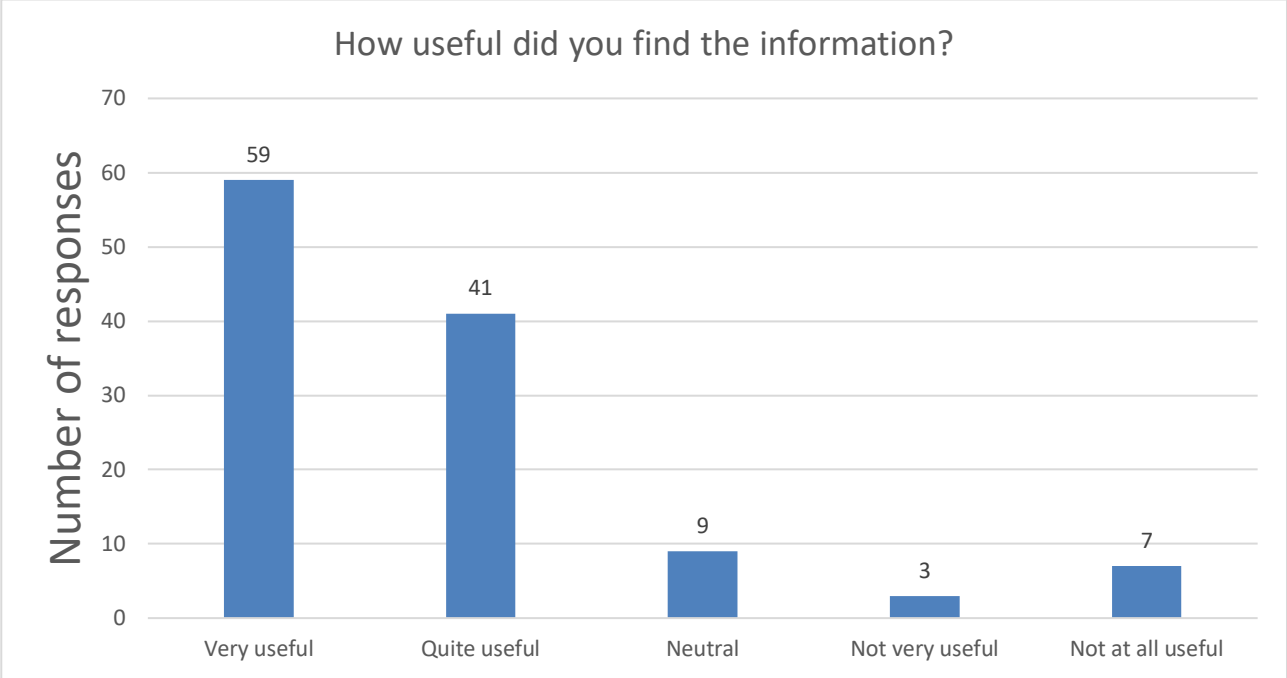
"270 K sound (sic) low when energy prices are so high disproportionately."

88. Eight people felt the Community Benefit Fund is a bribe. The following comment is illustrative of feedback received:

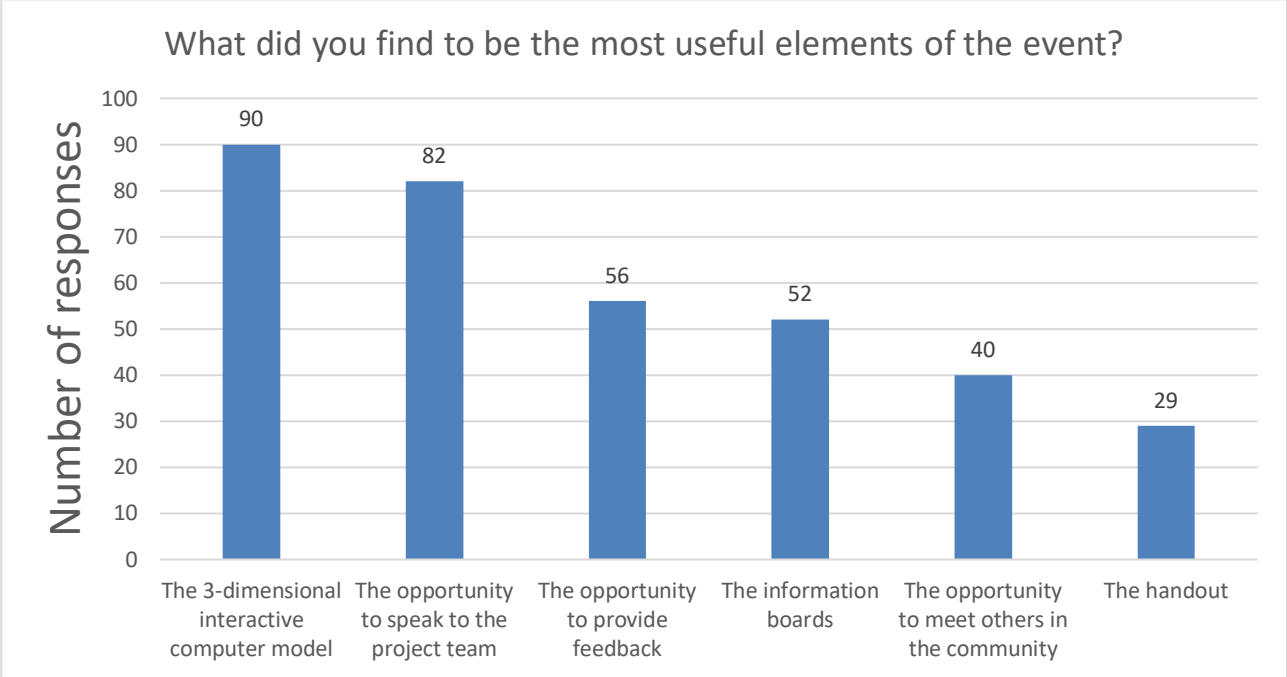
"Its a buy off for the village."

About the Public Information Days

89. Respondents overwhelmingly stated they found the information 'very useful' or 'quite useful'. Of the 118 people who attended the events and responded to the question, 100 (84.7%) stated the information provided at the events was very useful or quite useful.



90. Respondents fed back that they found the 3-dimensional interactive computer model the most useful element of the event, followed by the opportunity to speak to the project team.



91. Positive comments reflected that the information was well presented and that the members of the project team were helpful.

92. There were some suggestions for how the events could be improved in the future, including:

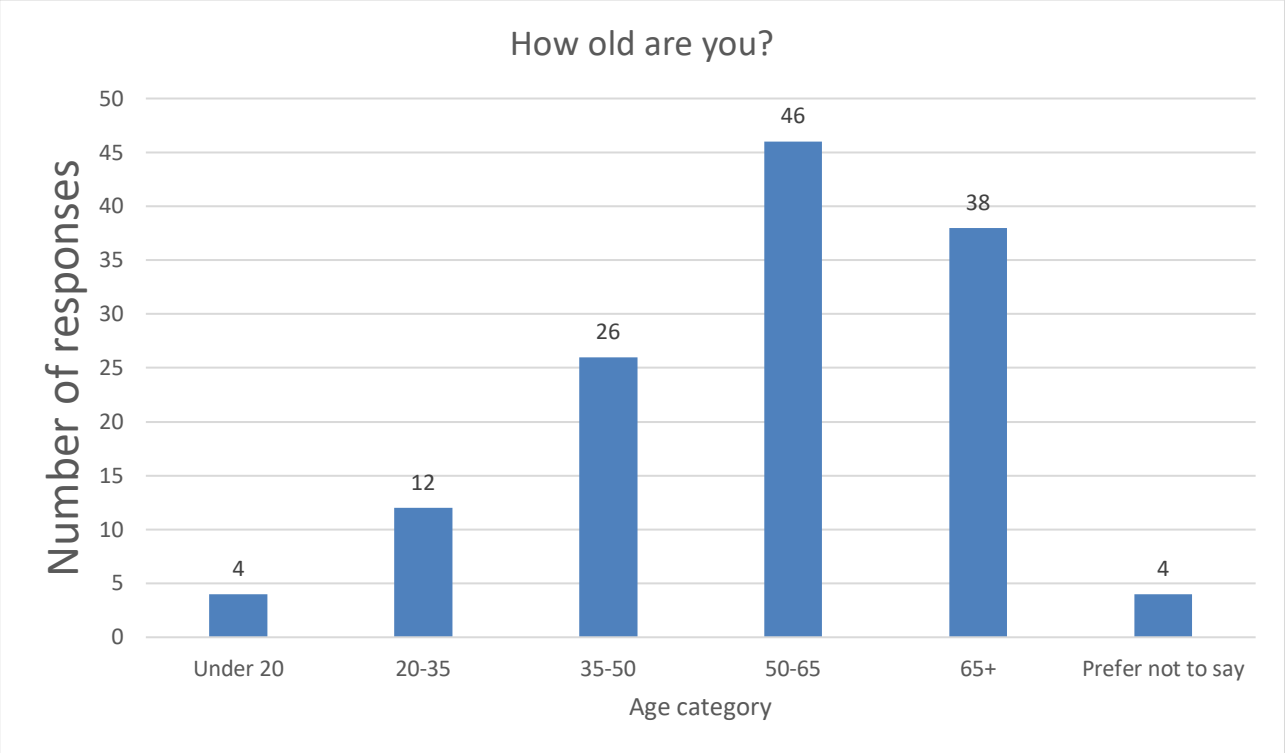
93. One person commented that there should have been "Better informed staff". Some people asked explicitly for more information about the environmental surveys, noise, potential for turbines to explode, visual renders and a video or presentation.

94. A small number of people asked for the consultation zone to be broadened, suggested that the postcards to households had not reached relevant communities:

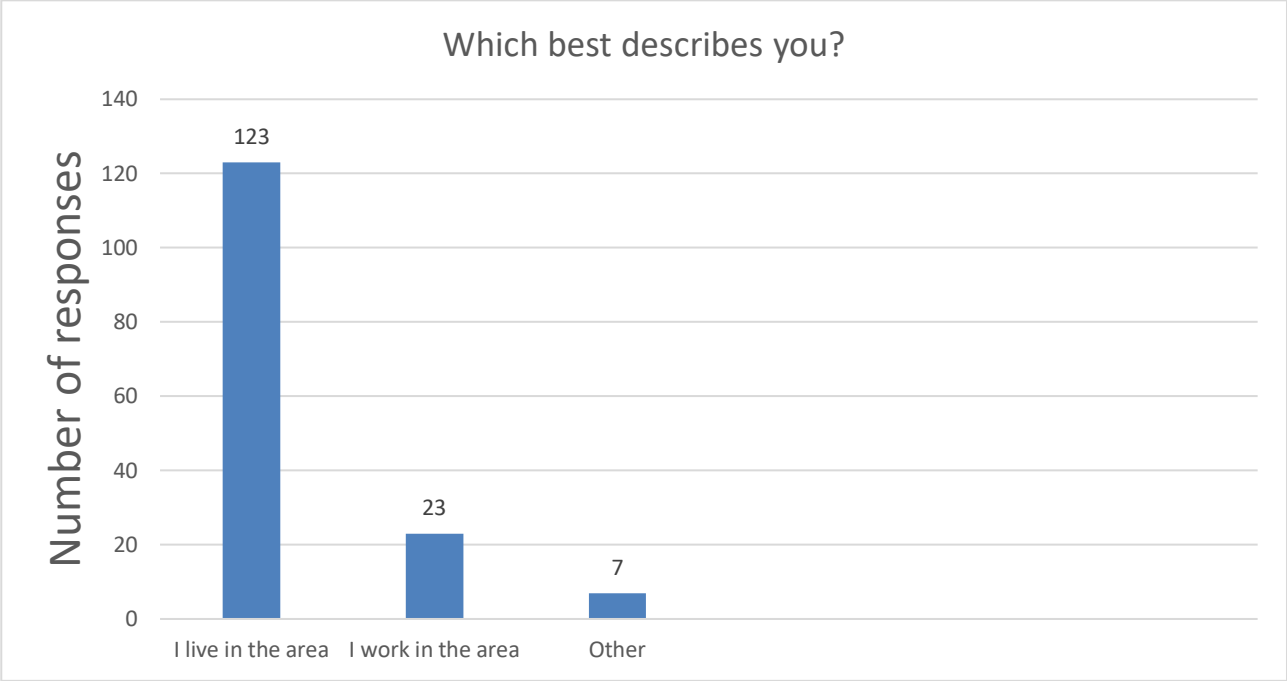
"A number of my neighbours living the other site received no notification of the public information day found this very disturbing."

About respondents

95. The majority of respondents were in the 50-65 age category, with 66% of respondents aged 50 or over. Only 3% of respondents were aged below 20 years of age.

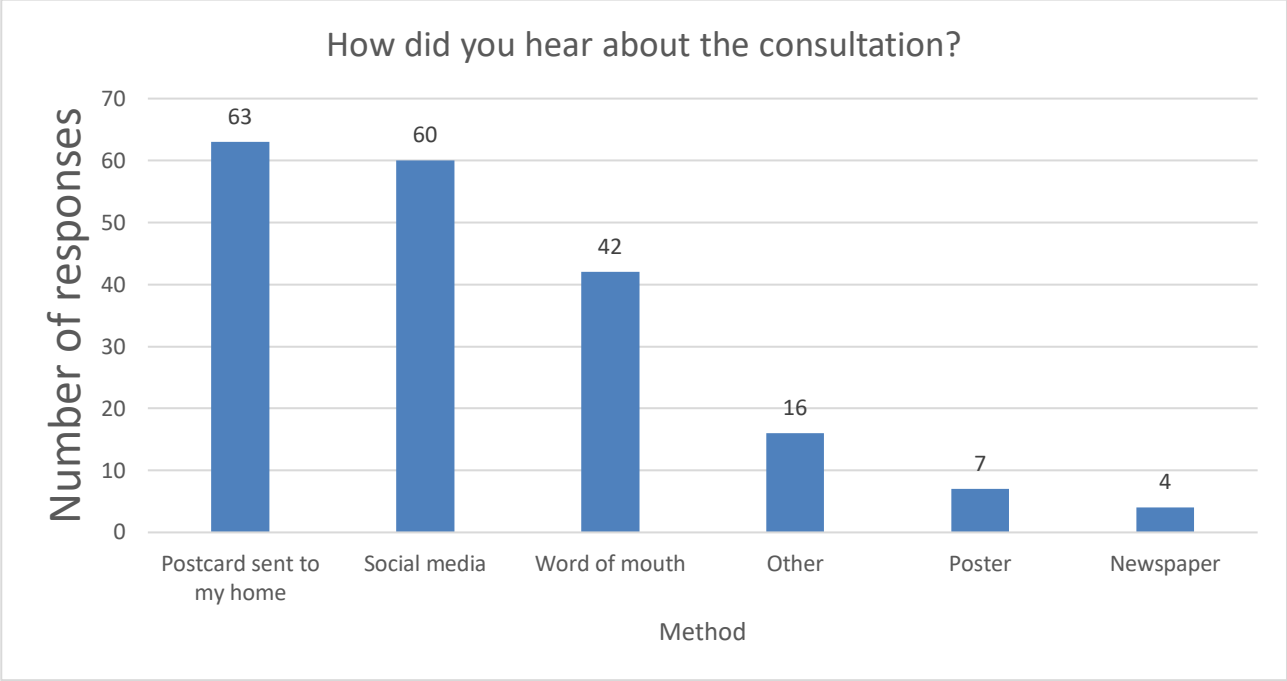


96. The vast majority of respondents live in the area. Of the 132 responses to the question, 93.2% indicated that they live in the area.



97. Three people stated they were responding on behalf of an organisation, namely Trynewydd farm/Aberpergwm Colliery, Call of the Wild (Development) Ltd and Neath Port Talbot Council.

98. The postcard to households and social media were the most common ways people heard about the consultation.



99. Four people had heard about the events from their local councillor, four people mentioned Facebook, including the community Facebook page, two people mentioned the Community Council and two people heard about the consultation from online news, with one person naming Wales Online specifically.

100. Seventy-one people provided their email address to receive updates on the project.

Key themes

101. This section analyses the key themes raised in the feedback form, organised by the frequency with which they were mentioned.

Visual impact and proximity to homes

102. The main issue, raised by 57 respondents, was the potential visual impact of the project. Concerns were focused on the height of the turbines and the proximity of the site to Crynant and Seven Sisters. Respondents expressed strong concerns that turbines will be highly visible to local residents.

103. Of particular concern was the westernmost turbine, which was mentioned specifically by five people who stated that it would be very close to and visible from Crynant.

104. Some people expressed concern about the size of the solar development area.

105. Thirteen respondents recognised the need for renewable energy production but expressed a preference for other renewable technologies including offshore wind, tidal and solar panels on roofs which they felt would not impact views of the natural landscape.

106. Two people raised concerns of turbine collapse, noting the recent case in South Wales.

107. Two respondents raised concern about the potential visual impacts of cables and pylons.

108. The following comments are illustrative of the negative feedback on visual impact:

"Visual impact for the community and tourists."

"Too close to people's houses. This seems to be a very big site which will impact our environment. The most westerly turbine is very much in your face from where we live in Nant Celyn. Nature will most definitely be affected."

"Please reconsider the most westerly turbine as it impacts Crynant too much."

Environment and climate change

109. A large number of responses (50) acknowledged climate change and the need for renewable energy production. Responses mentioned the positives of producing green energy, reducing use of fossil fuels, and moving towards modern energy production methods.

110. Nine respondents raised concerns about the environmental impact of the development itself and possible pollution the project would produce. This included questions regarding the carbon footprint of sourcing parts and components, along with querying the how environmentally friendly the decommissioning and waste management processes would be.

111. Two respondents noted that energy park would align with wider policy objectives in Wales at Neath Port Talbot Council and Welsh Government levels.

112. The following comments are illustrative of feedback received on environment and climate change:

"Renewable energy is vital in the fight against climate change, so it is great to see a project which has wind, solar and storage, Brings money, attention and jobs in Wales."

"Basically, if we don't want fracking or nuclear power or fossil fuels this is the only way forward."

"Our planet needs us to go green so renewable energy is a must for our children's future."

"Big question mark about the size of the carbon footprint and will it be ever repaid."

Wildlife and biodiversity

113. Thirty eight respondents expressed concern about potential negative impacts on local wildlife, biodiversity and the environment in general.

114. Respondents discussed protected species and wildlife including birds in the local area they felt would not be protected or would be inadvertently affected. In addition, respondents felt natural habitats would be lost including wetlands and some of the last remaining untouched areas of the local environment.

115. The following comments are illustrative of feedback received on wildlife and biodiversity:

"Loss of nesting place for larks as this mountain is full of their nests usually. Red Kites, herons and goshawks are also nesting on the mountain and large flocks of fieldfares use the mountainsides each year."

"Nature will most definitely be affected."

"We need to keep what is left of our natural habitat… The environmental impact is too much for our valley to cope with again!"

"Destruction of the remaining untouched part of the mountain."

"Leave us the only little bit of beautiful countryside we have left."

Community Benefit Fund

116. In addition to the feedback provided to the direct questions about Community Benefit Funding, the Community Benefit Fund was mentioned by 25 people as a positive element of the renewable energy park.

117. An additional six respondents expressed concern about the Community Benefit Fund. Some felt the proposed sum is not large enough, stating that the amount was small in relation to the overall profits of the development. Others stated that they felt the fund was a bribe to encourage support from local residents.

118. The following comments are illustrative of feedback received on the Community Benefit Fund:

"Potential survey of villages to highlight what needs they perceive is required to be in community fund deleivery (sic) plan. This can be achieved quickly and is only a starting point but can highlight short and long term plans and identify quick hits (wins)."

"Who controls/decides the benefit fund usage, Can local businesses/clubs etc access money available."

"Any monetary incentives are negligible when broken down and placed into the context of lifespan of the proposed energy farm."

Archaeology

119. Twenty-eight respondents raised concerns over the possible negative impact or destruction of local historical sites. In particular, respondents mentioned burial cairns beneath the site, the Roman road and a Roman fort that are in close proximity to, or beneath the site.

120. The following comments are illustrative of the feedback on archaeology:

"Danger to history and historical route of St Illtud and the Roman Road of St Helen along with numerous burial Cairns of the Celts. Danger to historical sight of Gellibenuchel farm and a valley of outstanding beauty."

Traffic and access

121. Twenty-seven respondents cited concerns about construction traffic. There were concerns expressed about the narrowness of the roads locally and the size of vehicles that would be used to bring deliveries to site. Concerns were raised about the use of

the A4109, with residents stating it has sharp bends and often floods. Other concerns related to congestion of roads during peak times, and the potential damage to the road infrastructure.

122. One respondent alerted EDF Renewables UK that large HGVs often use the old Glyneath road when transporting logs from the forest and suggested this may be a more suitable route. Another respondent suggested reconsidering site access from Resolven.

123. Some respondents also mentioned concern about pollution from traffic.

124. The following comments are illustrative of feedback received on transport and access:

"Road access and disruption after leaving A 465 frequent flooding on A 4109 making the road impassable."

"Revisit access from Resolven. Yes there is the Roman road to deal with but that can be overcome."

"Major traffic disruptions as work having to be done to get the equipment up to the site but also the main A4109 is only a small rural road and no matter what anybody says when those turbine parts are transported to the site this will have a big effect on the local area.

"The link from the A4109 to the forestry road should avoid the sharp turns identified on the map and take a more direct route."

Public Rights of Ways (PROWs)

125. It is apparent from the feedback and from speaking with attendees at the PIDs that local residents enjoy using the area recreationally for walking and horse riding. Twenty-two respondents expressed concern that developing this site would restrict access to the existing public rights of way and bridleways both during construction and afterwards.

126. Some people suggested that as part of the development of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park EDF Renewables UK could provide additional footpaths for the benefit of local people.

127. Three respondents raised the possibility of car parking provision to be provided at the forestry entrance.

128. The following comments are illustrative of the feedback on PRoWs:

"Following construction will access routes to the sites and the site be returned to a visually pleasing state and not left looking like a construction site?"

"How much of the countryside will become inaccessible to the public?"

"Car park facility at Crynant Forest East access to site"

"Existing area is well used by walkers and horse riders. There was concern the area won't be accessible to members of the public during construction."

"Want more access tracks for walking and running"

"The project site is on the only unspoilt part of Hirfynydd mountain."

Noise

129. Twenty-seven people raised concerns about the potential impact of noise, both in terms of the operation of the turbines, and during construction.

130. Respondents expressed concern about the potential impact of noise on health and the proximity to homes.

131. The following comments are illustrative of the negative feedback on noise:

"…noise from this and other eight turbines could cause serious damage to hearing and health."

"Noise, humming, what data is there on this!"

"Concerns with noise from turbines as we live in Nant Celyn and that would be close enough to hear them on a day with wind in a certain direction."

Local energy bills

132. There was particular interest in the topic of energy bills, including subsidised tariffs or free energy for the village, with 21 respondents raising the topic. This was expected, given the current cost of living crisis and high energy bills.

133. Of these respondents, 11 were negative in their views and felt strongly that there should be an offer of reduced energy bills to compensate local residents due to the proximity to the development and potential disruption they may encounter during construction. Four people were under the impression that they would receive a reduction in their energy bills, whilst six suggested in a neutral way that a benefit of the project should be reduced energy bills.

134. The following comments are illustrative of the mixed feedback on local energy bills:

"The only benefits will be to EDF and nothing in it to reduce our massively over costed energy bills."

"No benefits to the local community. We have to look at them and yet we don't reap the benefits in terms of our energy costs."

"With 40% of UK producing renewable energy, why are we not seeing any benefits on our bills?"

"The local area could benefit from cheaper electricity produced by the energy park if it was sent directly to the community and not the National Grid."

"The community should benefit from a fund they should also benefit from receiving a lower cost to their bills from locally produced electricity."

Local economy

135. There was particular interest in the possible positive impact Hirfynydd Renewables Energy Park could have on the local economy. Overall, 29 respondents expressed positive feedback, welcoming job opportunities for local people and supply chain contracts for local businesses. A further six respondents noted the possible educational benefits to young people within the local community that could arise in the form of apprenticeships, learning centres or school trips.

136. Meanwhile, 21 respondents expressed negative feedback in relation to the possible impact on the local economy, expressing concern for tourism, and local businesses.

137. Thirteen people were highly concerned about potential negative impact on their house prices.

138. The following comments are illustrative of the positive feedback received on the impact to the local economy:

"You visit all lesson (sic) on renewable energy scouts schools youth club."

"Site visit for children to understand more about the project I.E. schools, scouts and other groups."

"Collocated renewables would increase the job prospects within the area."

"Consideration should be given to local communities benefiting from construction jobs as well as long term roles through maintenance roles of the equipment."

"There is evidence house prices decrease after visible wind turbines are constructed in an area so there are concerns our houses and the rest of the houses in the village would decrease in price."

"There has been considerable private investment in tourism in the valley and this development will detract from that investment."

"Consideration should be given to local communities benefiting from construction jobs as well as long term roles through maintenance roles of the equipment."

Mining

139. There was a concern expressed by 16 respondents regarding the working mine beneath the site. Many felt this was dangerous and could lead to increased flooding, subsidence issues, a risk to life for miners below and could threaten the livelihoods of those working at the mine.

140. The following comments are illustrative of the feedback on mining:

"Impact on the coal mine substrate below surface levels could be catastrophic."

"Has anybody taken into consideration that the whole mountain area is riddled with old mine workings and also current mining, which this project was turned down for before several years ago but the mine work is still there."

Energy security

141. Eight respondents stated that one benefit of the development would be increased energy security and self-sufficiency, in light of the current global energy crisis.

142. The following comments are illustrative of the feedback on energy security:

"The UK needs to increase its renewable energy sources so that we can become self sufficient with regards our energy needs."

"Make Britain more energy and less reliant on foreign energy."

"Secure, emission free energy which reduces reliance on expensive imports."

Other issues

143. Eight respondents raised concerns regarding the negative health impacts or a possible danger to life. This included concerns regarding stress, shadow flicker and possible dangers arising from the solar farm.

144. Seven respondents felt concerned that the profits from the development would leave Wales and go to France, as EDF Renewables UK is a French company.

145. Six people raised concern about potential malfunctions resulting in battery fires or turbines exploding or falling down.

146. Five respondents raised concerns regarding existing flooding issues and water run off that could potentially be made worse by the development and/or impact of construction.

147. In addition to the feedback received in response to the direct question about local ownership, four respondents mentioned the possibility of local ownership. Three were positive about the possibility, while one respondent was unsure of what this meant.

Conclusions & Recommendations

148. The conclusions are listed below with an accompanying recommendation.

Conclusions and Recommendations		
Reference	Conclusion	Recommendation
1.	Overall, EDF Renewables UK felt the PIDs were very worthwhile. Attendees provided positive feedback on how the events were run.	Hold future events (informal consultation early 2023 and PAC in autumn 2023) at the same venues and at similar times of the day.
2.	The materials provided were well received by attendees. Attendees made suggestions about having a project video or presentation at future events.	Maintain range and quality of materials at future events. Consider producing a project video/presentation.
3.	Attendees particularly appreciated the 3-dimensional model of the proposed energy park.	Maintain this element at future events and make fly-throughs available online at the next consultation.
4.	EDF Renewables UK is pleased with the level of support for Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.	Continue engagement with local communities and stakeholders.
5.	Residents have concerns about the potential visual impact and proximity of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.	Consider location of turbines and feedback any changes to residents at future events.
6.	Residents have concerns about the potential impact of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park on wildlife and biodiversity.	Report findings of assessments at future events.
7.	Residents have concerns about the potential impact of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park on archaeology in the area.	Report findings of assessments at future events.
8.	Residents have concerns about the potential impact of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park on traffic and access.	Report findings of assessments at future events.
9.	Residents have concerns about the potential impact of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park on PROWs.	Report findings of assessments at future events.
10.	Residents have concerns about the potential impact of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park on noise.	Report findings of assessments at future events.
11.	Residents have concerns about existing mine works.	Report findings of assessments at future events.
12.	Many concerns raised by attendees are addressed in the Scoping Report which outlines EDF Renewables UK's approach to developing the project.	Produce a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) based on the issues raised providing information from the Scoping Report in relation to each topic.

13.	Understanding of shared ownership is low.	At future events provide information about the opportunities are for local people, organisations, and Neath Port Talbot Council. Signpost local people to further independent sources of information such as Community Energy Wales and the Welsh Government's Energy Service.
14.	Low attendance at events and low rate of feedback from younger people.	EDF Renewables UK to engage with more young people at the next informal consultation and throughout development of the plans by exploring potential opportunities with schools.

Table 4 : Table of conclusions and recommendations

Appendices

Appendix A: Press release 11th July 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDF RENEWABLES UK REVEAL PLANS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK IN NEATH PORT TALBOT

EDF Renewables UK is planning to develop a renewable energy project in Neath Port Talbot, near to Crynant and Seven Sisters. The project – Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park – could have an installed capacity of 100 MW, enough green electricity for over 40,000 households*.

EDF Renewables UK is looking to develop a mix of technologies at the site, including a wind farm of up to seven turbines, a solar farm and battery storage. Having a breadth of technologies increases the amount of energy that can be generated at the site in different weather conditions, with battery storage allowing surplus energy to be stored to provide grid balancing services.

Simon Morgan, Principal Project Development Manager at EDF Renewables UK, said: "Hirfynydd would make a positive contribution to our efforts to tackle climate change and at a time of global uncertainty over energy supply and costs, renewable energy projects are vital to dealing with these challenges. We are pleased to be developing Hirfynydd in partnership with three local farming families and we will work with the community to ensure that the project can deliver local benefits, such as a community fund and local ownership."

EDF Renewables UK has been carrying out early ecological and other feasibility studies. Events to share information and obtain early feedback from people living locally will be held in Crynant and Seven Sisters in September, and in the meantime, EDF Renewables UK will submit a scoping report to Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales. An application to erect a meteorological mast – to collect wind speed data – will also be submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Council.

EDF Renewables UK hopes to submit a planning application for Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park towards the end of 2023. The application will be assessed by Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales, with a final decision being taken by the Welsh Government.

Ends

Notes to editors

In September, Public Information Days will be held by the EDF Renewables UK project team in communities near to the proposed wind farm site for local people to gain a better understanding of the proposals and provide initial feedback. Interactive 3D visual software modelling will be available at the exhibition so that residents can get an impression of what the proposed development might look like from different angles and viewpoints.

Onshore wind and solar are now the most cost effective ways of generating electricity.

*Average household consumption from Energy consumption in the UK 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), ECUK 2021: Consumption data Tables (OCU), table C9 - Domestic; average consumption (2020) of 3,954 kWh (temperature corrected). https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland (www.edf-re.uk) is a subsidiary of EDF Group, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies, and our investment and innovation is bringing significant benefits for communities. With our operating portfolio of 38 renewable energy sites including battery, onshore and offshore wind (together totalling 1 GW) we are providing much needed low carbon electricity. We have an expanding portfolio with almost 5 GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar PV.

For more information

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07813 230379

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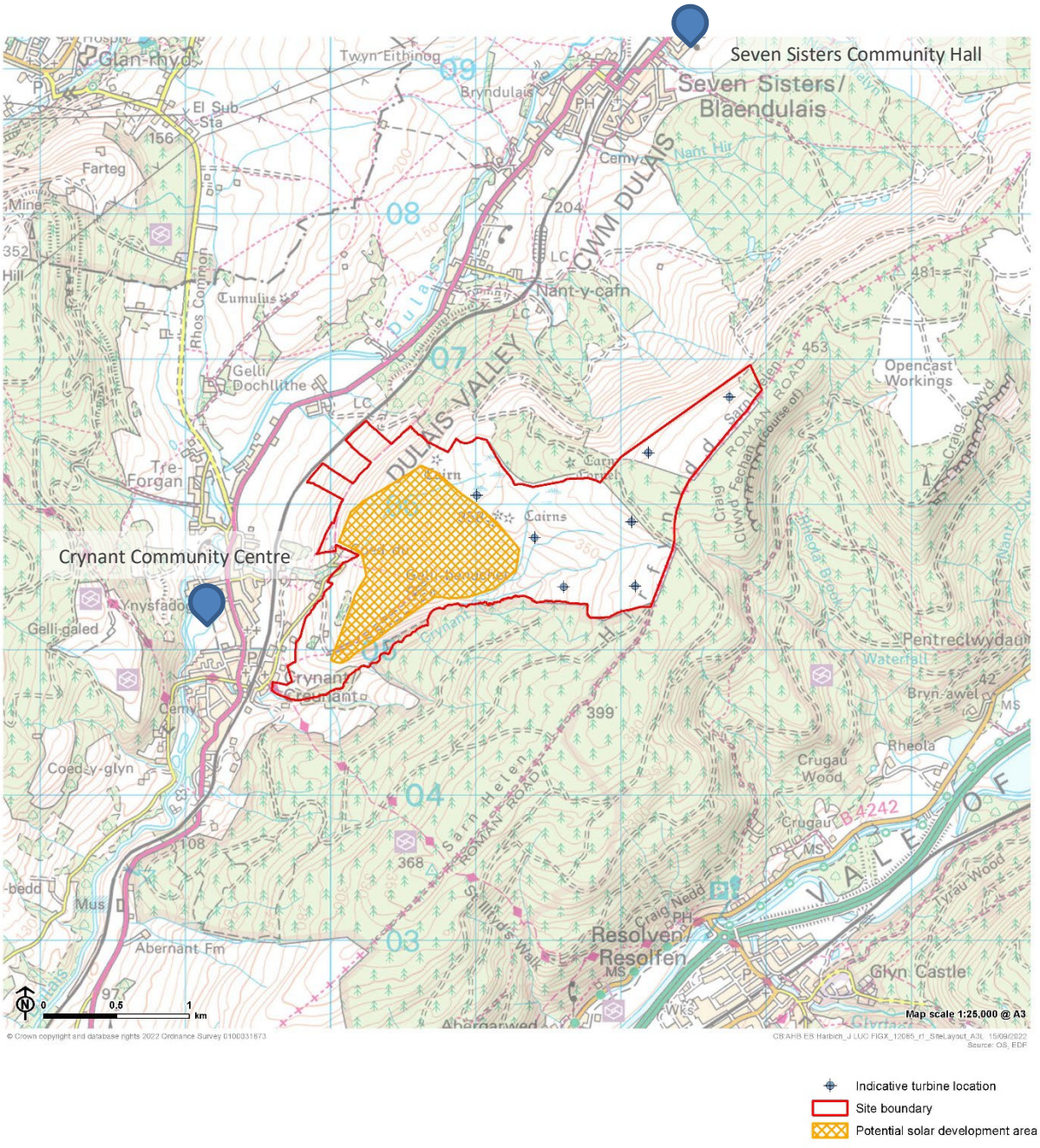
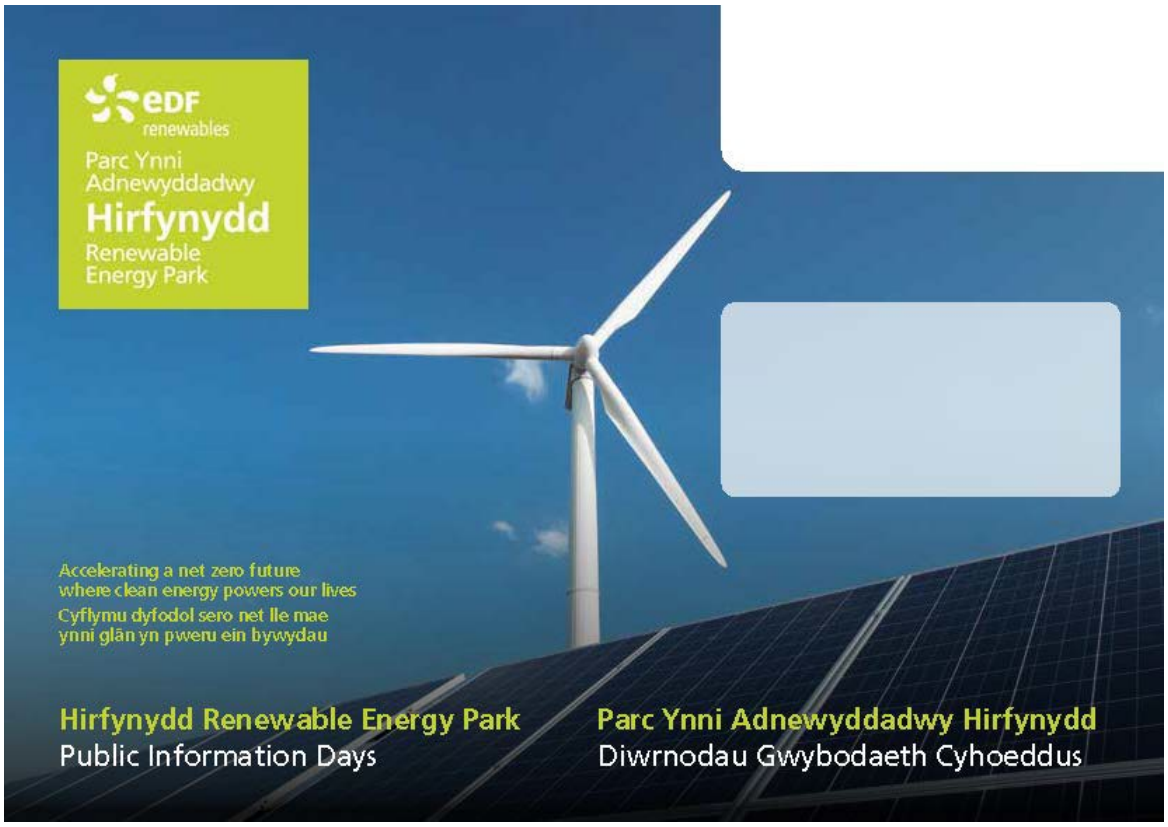
Director, Cadno Communications
07918 722080

http://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd

Appendix B: Map of PIDs venues



Appendix C: Postcard



Public Information Days

EDF Renewables UK is proposing to develop a renewable energy park at Hirfynydd, near to Crynant and Seven Sisters.

The proposal includes:

- up to seven turbines, solar PV & battery storage, with a potential installed capacity of 100 MW
- a community benefit fund
- local ownership

Come along to one of the drop-in public information days to:

- meet the team and find out more
- share your views and ask questions
- learn more about local benefits
- view interactive 3D computerised models of the energy park

Dates / Dyddiadau

Seven Sisters Community Hall, Seven Sisters SA10 9BA
2.00pm - 7.00pm Friday / Dydd Gwener 30.09.22
Crynant Community Centre, Woodland Road, Crynant SA10 8RF
10.00am - 2.00pm Saturday / Dydd Sadwrn 01.10.22

For further information and to provide feedback:
Am wybodaeth bellach ac i roi adborth:
www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd
hirfynydd@edf-re.uk
01639 500871

Diwrnodau Gwybodaeth Cyhoeddus

Mae **EDF Renewables UK** yn cynnig datblygu parc ynni adnewyddadwy yn Hirfynydd, ger Creunant a Blaendulais.

Mae'r cynnig yn cynnwys:

- hyd at saith tyrbin, PV solar a storfa batris, gyda chapasiti gosodedig posibl o 100 MW
- cronfa budd cymunedol
- perchnogaeth leol

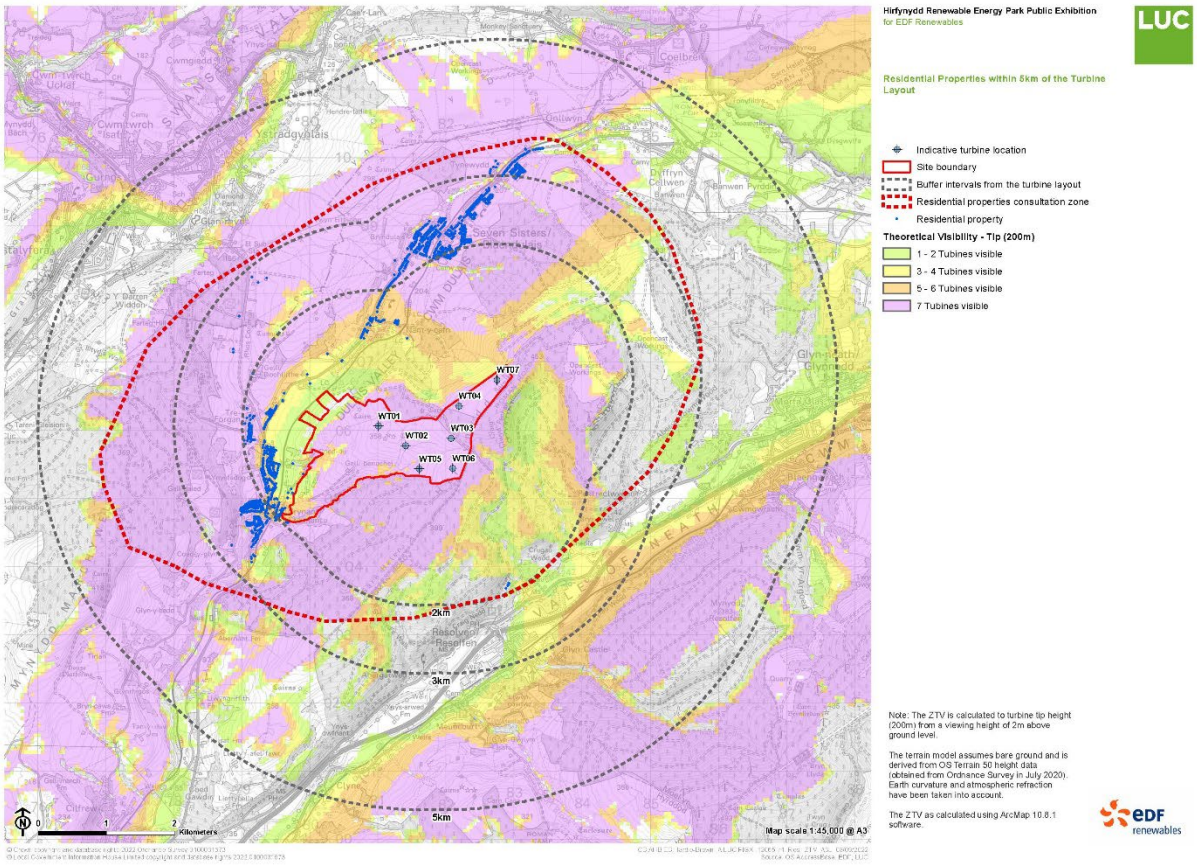
Dewch i un o'r diwrnodau gwybodaeth cyhoeddus galw heibio i:

- gwrdd â'r tîm a darganfod mwy
- rhannu eich barn a gofyn cwestiynau
- dysgu mwy am fuddion lleol
- gweld modelau cyfrifiadurol 3D rhyngweithiol o'r parc ynni

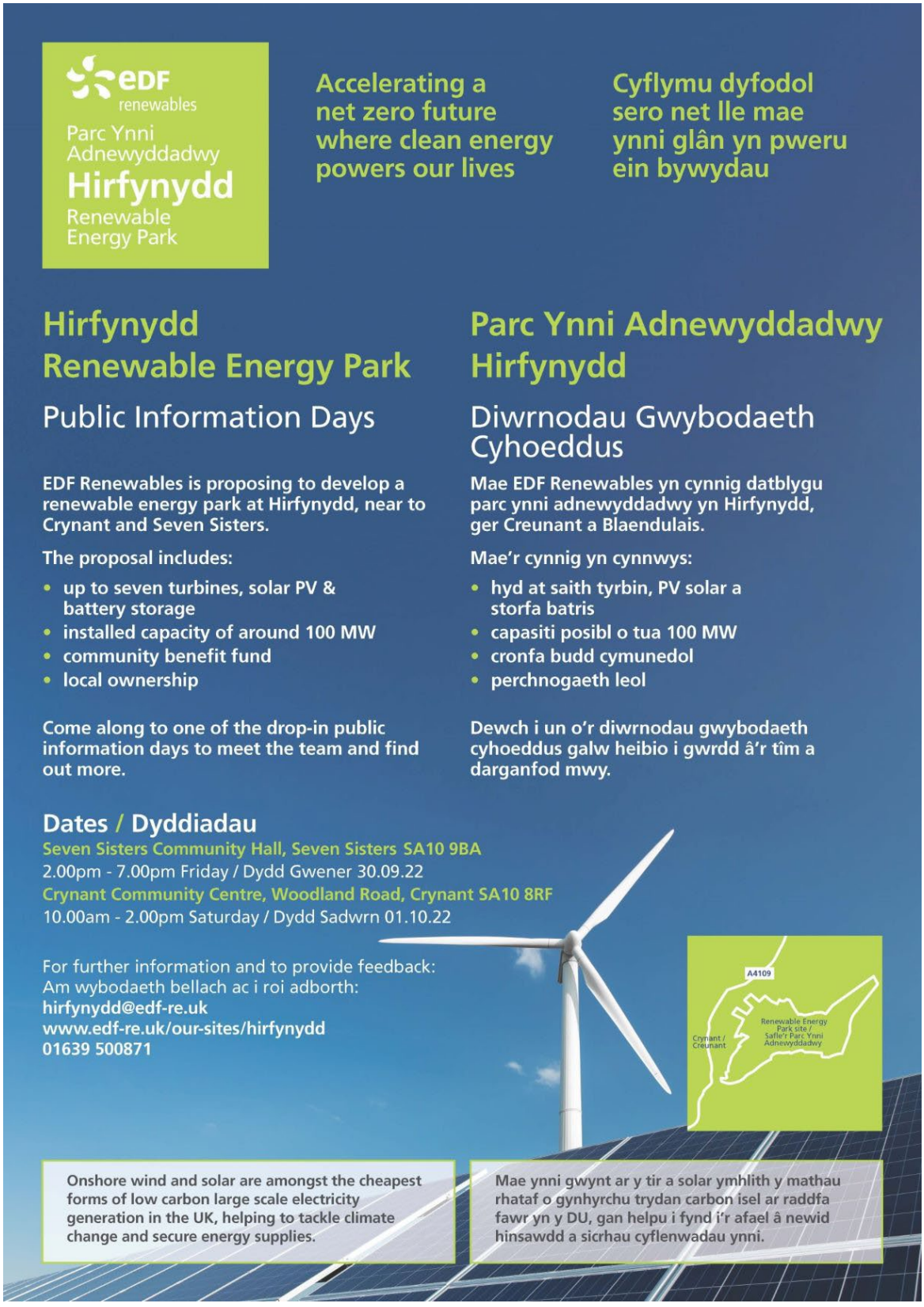
Onshore wind and solar are amongst the cheapest forms of low carbon large scale electricity generation in the UK, helping to tackle climate change and secure energy supplies.

Mae ynni gwynt ar y tir a solar ymhlith y mathau rhataf o gynhyrchu trydan carbon isel ar raddfa fawr yn y DU, gan helpu i fynd i'r afael â newid hinsawdd a sicrhau cyflenwadau ynni.

Appendix D: Consultation zone



Appendix E: Poster



Appendix F: Press release 20th September 2022

INFORMATION DAYS ANNOUNCED FOR HIRFYNYDD RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

20th September 2022

EDF Renewables UK is launching the first phase of community consultation for a new renewable energy project near to Crynant and Seven Sisters, Neath Port Talbot. The project, Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, could have an installed capacity of 100MW and generate enough green electricity to meet the equivalent needs of over 40,000* average UK homes. The proposal includes a wind farm of up to seven turbines, a solar array and battery storage.

Representatives from the project team will be on hand to answer questions at two information days. A 3D computerised model of the energy park will also be available.

The information days will be held on the dates and times listed below:

Friday 30th September - 2.00pm – 7.00pm at Seven Sisters Community Hall, SA10 9BA
Saturday 1st October - 10.00am – 2.00pm at Crynant Community Centre, SA10 8RF

Simon Morgan, Principal Development Manager at EDF Renewables UK said: "We are keen to share as much information as possible at this early stage and encourage feedback which will help shape our plans. The project is likely to evolve as plans develop so please do take part in the consultation and share your views."

No booking is required to attend these events. Information and the opportunity to provide feedback will also be available online for those unable to attend in person.

EDF Renewables is one of the UK's leading renewable energy companies, specialising in onshore wind amongst other technologies which will help accelerate a net zero future. In Wales, EDF Renewables has an ambitious 2GW target pipeline which includes a mix of technologies and would put Welsh communities at the heart of the UK's drive to deliver net zero. EDF Renewables is also the partner developer behind Eirlys Solar Farm which is being brought forward by Octo Partners.

Ends

* Average household consumption from Energy consumption in the UK 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), ECUK 2021: Consumption data Tables (OCU), table C9 - Domestic; average consumption (2020) of 3,954 kWh (temperature corrected).
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021

*The proposed Development (up to 50MW wind and up to 50MW solar) will contribute to renewable energy and decarbonisation targets for Wales, as follows:

- Estimated wind annual electricity output of 123,078 Megawatt Hours using a capacity factor of 28.1%[1] ;
- Estimated solar PV electricity output of 49,494 Megawatt Hours using a capacity factor of 11.3%[1] ;
- Total electricity output of 172,572 Megawatt Hours
- Clean electricity generation equivalent to the domestic requirements of 40,000 homes annually[2]

[1]Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy (www.gov.uk), Load factors for renewable electricity generation (DUKES 6.5) - Onshore wind load factor of 28.1% (2020) and solar PV load factor of 11.3% (2020).
[2]Average household consumption from Energy consumption in the UK 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), ECUK 2021: Consumption data Tables (OCU), table C9 - Domestic; average consumption (2020) of 3,954 kWh (temperature corrected). https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021

For further information please contact:

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About EDF Renewables

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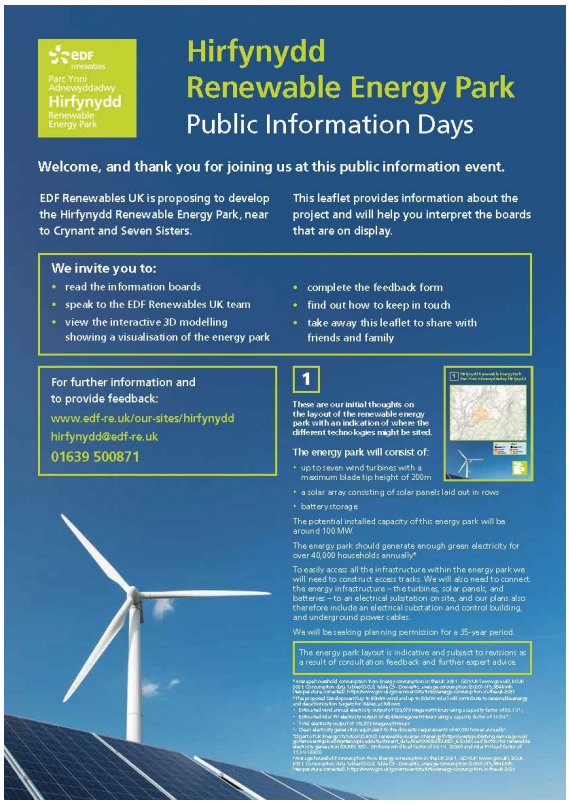
Appendix G: Handout



Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park
Public Information Days

Welcome, and thank you for joining us at this public information event.

EDF Renewables UK is proposing to develop the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, near to Crynant and Seven Sisters.

This leaflet provides information about the project and will help you interpret the boards that are on display.

We invite you to:

- read the information boards
- speak to the EDF Renewables UK team
- view the interactive 3D modelling showing a visualisation of the energy park
- complete the feedback form
- find out how to keep in touch
- take away this leaflet to share with friends and family

For further information and to provide feedback:
www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd
hirfynydd@edf-re.uk
01639 500871

1

These are our initial thoughts on the layout of the renewable energy park with an indication of where the different technologies might be sited.

The energy park will consist of:

- up to seven wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200m
- a solar array consisting of solar panels laid out in rows
- battery storage

The potential installed capacity of this energy park will be around 100 MW.

The energy park should generate enough green electricity for over 40,000 households annually*

To easily access all the infrastructure within the energy park we will need to construct access tracks. We will also need to connect the energy infrastructure – the turbines, solar panels, and batteries – to an electrical substation on site, and our plans also therefore include an electrical substation and control building, and underground power cables.

We will be seeking planning permission for a 35-year period.

The energy park layout is indicative and subject to revisions as a result of consultation feedback and further expert advice.

2

EDF Renewables UK's goal is to combat climate change – we are passionate about creating a net zero future where clean energy powers our lives. Tackling climate change is what motivates us – it spurs us on to seek out and bring forward the right projects and to develop the most creative solutions for communities.

We also need to secure our energy supplies. This can only be done by increasing the amount of home grown renewable energy generated in the UK. By building more onshore wind and solar – some of the cheapest of all large scale energy technologies – we can also start to stabilise costs to the consumer.

The Welsh and UK Governments recognise the need to increase the amount of renewable energy generated, and there is legislation and policy in place to support developments such as Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.

The most recent Energy Generation in Wales report (May 2022) estimated that in 2020 Wales was only meeting the equivalent of 56% of its electricity demand and only 33% of total electricity generation was from renewable sources.*

Planning

Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park is considered a Development of National Significance (DNS) and will be subject to policies set out in Future Wales – The National Plan 2040.

The planning process is rigorous and the benefits of each project are balanced against the likely impacts according to a number of criteria before a final decision is made about its suitability.

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) is the division in Welsh Government that assesses this kind of application. Their role is to consider the planning application that we submit and provide advice and recommendations to the Welsh Government Ministers, who take a final decision.

"The challenges of the climate emergency demand urgent action on carbon emissions and the planning system must help Wales lead the way in promoting and delivering a competitive, sustainable decarbonised society"
Future Wales – The National Plan 2040, Welsh Government

You can find out more information about the planning process on the PEDW website
www.gov.wales/planning-and-environment-decisions-wales

3

We are seeking a scoping opinion from Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) covers the correct information. The Scoping Report prepared by EDF Renewables UK will be available to read on the PEDW website in due course.

To establish the information we need, desk research is undertaken; we then carry out field surveys that consider the landscape, the number and type of animal species on site, plant species, birds, archaeological features, water courses, peat and many other important characteristics. At the same time, we consult with Government and Council experts in the different specialisms to ask for their advice.

The overall objective is to design a scheme that has the least impact on people living locally, the land and the environment – so we will try to avoid impacts where possible, for example by carefully siting the infrastructure. We can also mitigate for any impacts the scheme may have, for example, by enhancing biodiversity across the site.

The site

The proposed development is within the Dulais Valley and is mostly open grassland used for farming.

The site has been subject to extensive coal mining. EDF Renewables UK is using existing mine reports to understand the extent of previous coal mining in the area and has commissioned a mining consultant to engage with Energybuild, the licence holder / operator of the Abergwm coal mine, and The Coal Authority.

*https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/energy-generation-in-wales-2020.pdf

Landscape and visual

An important consideration for all energy projects is how the infrastructure will look from where people live and the places that people like to visit and we will look to site the energy park infrastructure as sensitively as possible. In addition to the interactive 3-dimensional modelling that you can view at this exhibition, we will also produce photomontages of the site from different viewpoints. These are 'before' and 'after' photos showing how the view might change once Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park is constructed.

Habitats for animal species

There are different species of animals present and our initial surveys have found water vole in the western part of the site and common lizard. We believe that different parts of the site provide suitable habitats for adders and dormouse and our surveys will determine whether populations of these animals exist here. We have also surveyed for bats and great crested newts. The results from these surveys will feed into our plans.

Birds

During our survey work we found that red kites were the most frequent visitors. Although the honey buzzard is a rare breeding species nationally, several pairs are known to breed in the Neath Valley with flights being observed during the survey effort. Other species including goshawk, peregrine, hobby, hen harrier, and barn owl were recorded at intermittent and low levels. We know that birds can and do coexist and the survey results will feed into our plans to ensure our infrastructure is considerately sited.

Improving biodiversity

We don't want our development to negatively impact plants and animal species and where possible we want to create improved habitats for these to thrive. We will put a plan in place to ensure we minimise any impact whether that's during the construction period or during the operational life of the project. Our survey work and advice from those who are experts in ecology and ornithology will help us to plan properly.

Our aim is to enhance the biodiversity on the site overall. We will produce a Habitat Management Plan and our plans to bolster biodiversity will be set out clearly in this document.

We want to hear from you:

- Are you interested in any specific aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment?
- Please tell us about any local groups who would like to know about our plans and may want to provide feedback.
- Can you please make any suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be used?
- Are you a local business? You can make us aware of your services by registering your interest at www.edf-re.uk/working-with-communities/working-with-suppliers/

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

4

We will carefully plan how turbine components, solar panels, and construction traffic travel to and access the site. We will also carefully consider how to safely manage public access during construction.

Transport – construction and deliveries

It is likely that abnormal load vehicles which transport the larger turbine components will travel from the port of Swansea, along the A483, M4, A465 and A4109 to the south of Crynant and then on to the site via an access located on the A4109 south of Crynant. The transportation of turbines will be managed in consultation with the police.

All other construction and delivery traffic will also use the A4109 to the site access.

No traffic associated with the construction of the project will come through the village of Crynant or Seven Sisters; there will also be no impact on the Sarn Helen Roman Road.

During busier construction periods; and when large turbine components are being delivered, there may be some disruption to other road users. We will try to minimize disruption by restricting delivery times and providing clear advice in advance to local road users.

Once on site, traffic will use a network of new and existing tracks. Tracks will have a maximum width of 5m (wider on bends), and it is likely that cabling connecting turbines and the control building will be laid in trenches running alongside these.

A Traffic Management Plan which includes all the detail of vehicle movements, timings, and vehicle sizes, will be agreed with the highway authorities.

Public Rights of Way

There is a footpath and a bridleway within the site, with a portion of open access land in the east. Although access to parts of the site might be restricted during construction for safety reasons, once the energy park is completed public access to the area will be restored.

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

5

All these impacts are assessed in accordance with relevant legislation, policy and guidance which will be outlined in the Scoping Report. Following these assessments the layout of the infrastructure on site will be designed in such a way as to reduce the impacts as far as possible. Additional measures can also be put in place to reduce any remaining impacts that have not been eliminated through careful site design, for example biodiversity net gain, whereby measures are proposed to improve upon existing ecological conditions.

We want to hear from you:

- Speak to us if you live nearby or use the site for recreational purposes, or if you have questions about any of these issues.
- Are there any impacts that we've not covered that you have questions about?

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

6

Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park community benefit fund will be £5,000 per MW for wind, and £400 per MW for solar, which could be up to £270,000 each year the energy park is operational. The community will administer the fund and decide what local good causes will benefit.

EDF Renewables UK is committed to providing opportunities for the community to have a stake in Hirfynydd – this could be via local ownership. The Welsh Government has issued guidance and has a target that, by 2030, 1 GW of all new energy projects will be locally owned. We will offer up to 10% of the overall project.

Communities can get further independent advice from the Welsh Government's Energy Service.

Many local businesses already supply the renewables industry in Neath Port Talbot. We will ensure that Hirfynydd delivers contracts to local suppliers by working with local business groups and the local authority. A socio-economic impact report will be produced outlining the value of the likely opportunities.

We also plan to establish a Community Liaison Group as a forum for sharing information and good ideas.

We want to hear from you:

- Do you have thoughts on what else a development like this might bring to the area?
- What other benefits would you like to see?
- Do you have ideas on how we should engage with local businesses and the supply chain?
- How should the Community Liaison Group be run and who should represent the community on it?
- Do you like the idea of local ownership? Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

7

These are indicative timescales and as we develop the project we will have a clearer idea of the exact timeline.

We want to develop a project that optimises the renewable electricity that is generated and stored on site, and at the same time deliver as many benefits as possible to the local community.

We will work with the community at all times.

We want to hear from you:

- Please let us have your thoughts on what you've seen and heard today.
- Tell us what you'd like to learn more about.
- If you think we can present the information differently, let us know how.
- If there are local groups and societies who you think would like to hear from us, please let us know.
- If you have any questions – just ask!

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

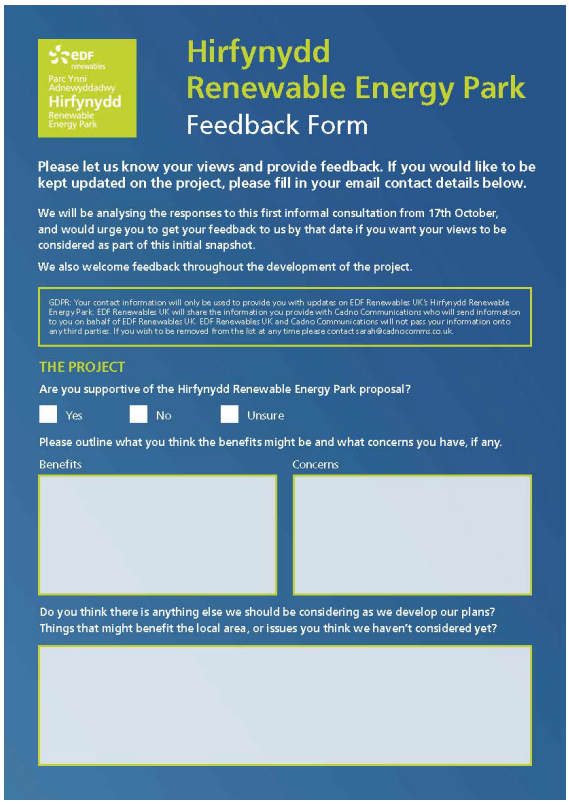
Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland (www.edf-re.uk) is a subsidiary of EDF Group, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies, and our investment and innovation is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits for communities.

With our operating portfolio of 38 renewable energy sites including battery, onshore and offshore wind (together totalling more than 1 GW) we are providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity.

We have an expanding portfolio with almost 5 GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar PV. We have 700 MW in construction.

Appendix H: Printed feedback form



Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park
Feedback Form

Please let us know your views and provide feedback. If you would like to be kept updated on the project, please fill in your email contact details below.

We will be analysing the responses to this first informal consultation from 17th October, and would urge you to get your feedback to us by that date if you want your views to be considered as part of this initial snapshot.

We also welcome feedback throughout the development of the project.

GDPR: Your contact information will only be used to provide you with updates on EDF Renewables UK's Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park. EDF Renewables UK will share the information you provide with Cadno Communications who will send information to you on behalf of EDF Renewables UK. EDF Renewables UK and Cadno Communications will not pass your information onto any third parties. If you wish to be removed from the list at any time please contact sarah@cadnocomms.co.uk

THE PROJECT

Are you supportive of the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park proposal?

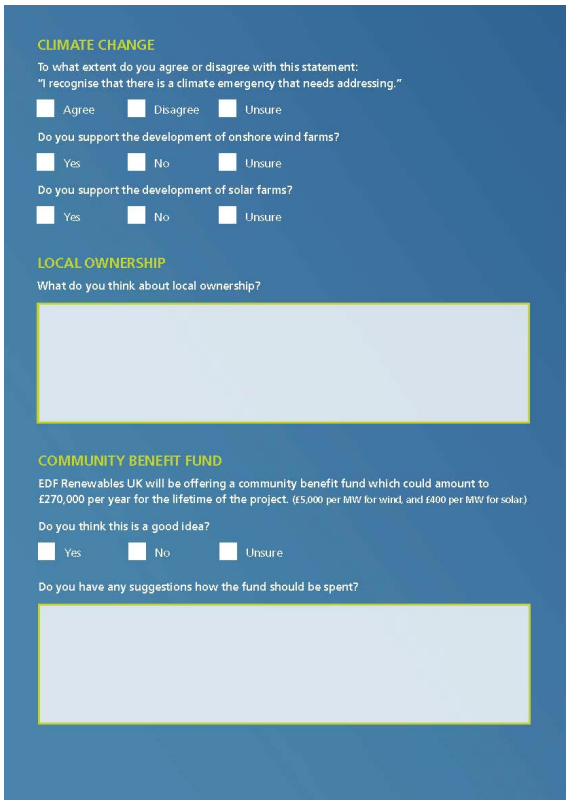
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Please outline what you think the benefits might be and what concerns you have, if any.

Benefits

Concerns

Do you think there is anything else we should be considering as we develop our plans? Things that might benefit the local area, or issues you think we haven't considered yet?



CLIMATE CHANGE

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement:
"I recognise that there is a climate emergency that needs addressing."

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Unsure

Do you support the development of onshore wind farms?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Do you support the development of solar farms?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

What do you think about local ownership?

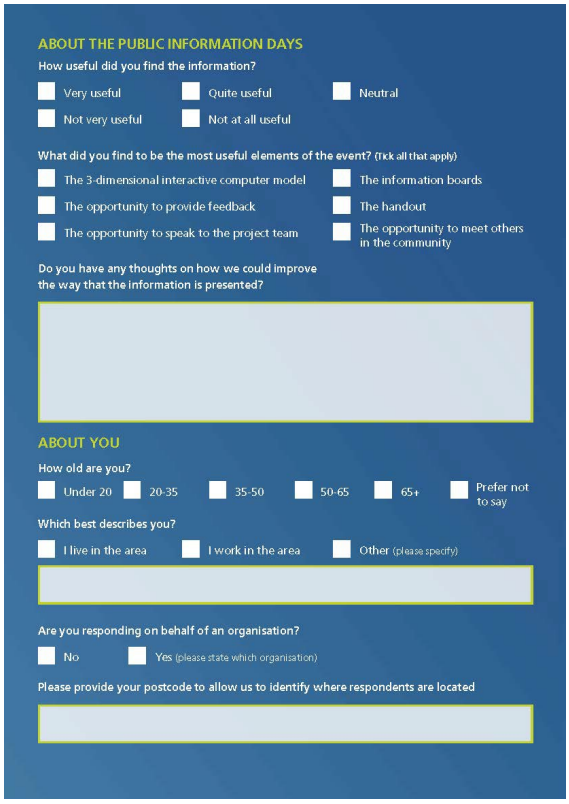
COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

EDF Renewables UK will be offering a community benefit fund which could amount to £270,000 per year for the lifetime of the project. (£5,000 per MW for wind, and £400 per MW for solar)

Do you think this is a good idea?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Do you have any suggestions how the fund should be spent?



ABOUT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION DAYS

How useful did you find the information?

☐ Very useful ☐ Quite useful ☐ Neutral
☐ Not very useful ☐ Not at all useful

What did you find to be the most useful elements of the event? (Tick all that apply)

☐ The 3-dimensional interactive computer model ☐ The information boards
☐ The opportunity to provide feedback ☐ The handout
☐ The opportunity to speak to the project team ☐ The opportunity to meet others in the community

Do you have any thoughts on how we could improve the way that the information is presented?

ABOUT YOU

How old are you?

☐ Under 20 ☐ 20-35 ☐ 35-50 ☐ 50-65 ☐ 65+ ☐ Prefer not to say

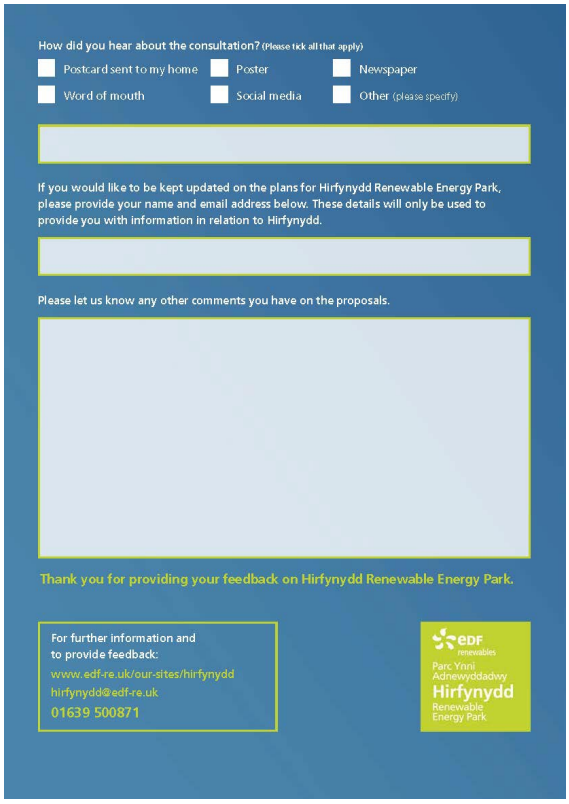
Which best describes you?

☐ I live in the area ☐ I work in the area ☐ Other (please specify)

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

☐ No ☐ Yes (please state which organisation)

Please provide your postcode to allow us to identify where respondents are located



How did you hear about the consultation? (Please tick all that apply)

☐ Postcard sent to my home ☐ Poster ☐ Newspaper
☐ Word of mouth ☐ Social media ☐ Other (please specify)

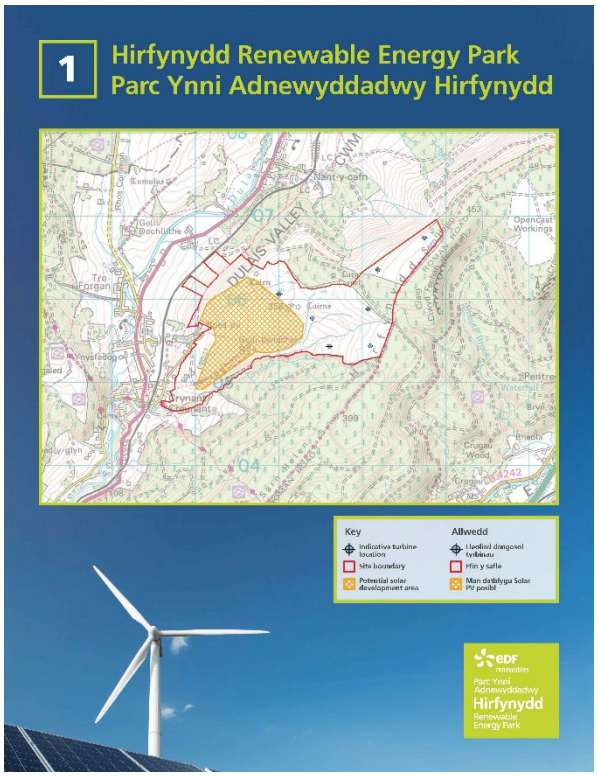
If you would like to be kept updated on the plans for Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, please provide your name and email address below. These details will only be used to provide you with information in relation to Hirfynydd.

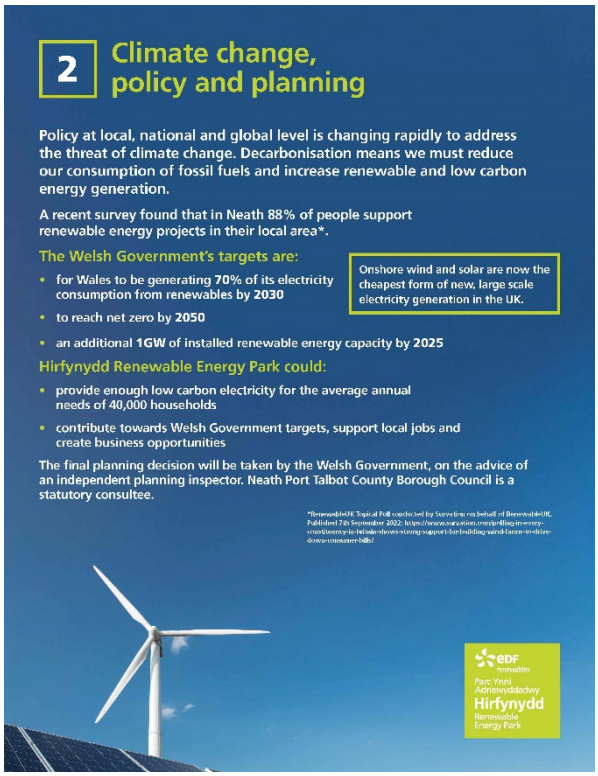
Please let us know any other comments you have on the proposals.

Thank you for providing your feedback on Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.

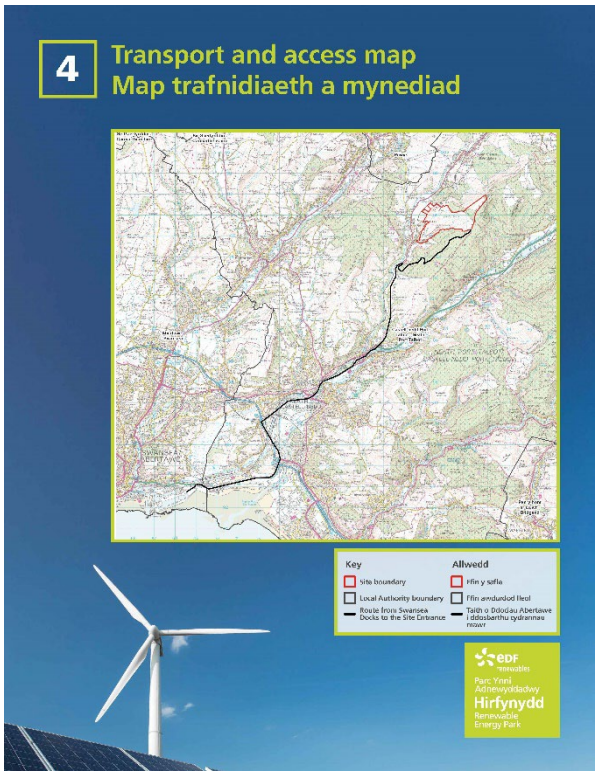
For further information and to provide feedback:
www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd
hirfynydd@edf-re.uk
01639 500871

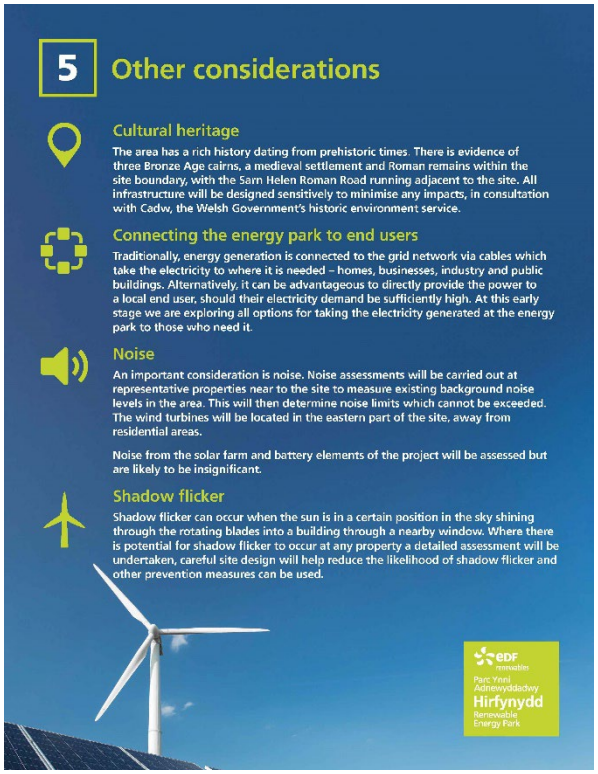
Appendix I: Information boards






3
Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol
Mae'r Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol (AEA) yn cynnwys asesiadau o'r effeithiau posibl y gallai'r cynnig eu cael ar:
bobl sy'n byw gerllaw
y dirwedd a mwynhad pobl o'r ardal
ecoleg ac adareg – planhigion sy'n tyfu yn yr ardal ac adar a rhywogaethau eraill sy'n byw yno neu'n pasio trwodd
hydroleg, daeareg a mawn – ffynonellau dŵr ar y safle, dyddodion mawn ac effaith doddio glo
treftadaeth ddiwylliannol – olion archeolegol a nodweddion hanesyddol
Barcud Coch
Y nod cyffredinol yw dylunio cynllun sy'n cael yr effaith leiaf ar bobl sy'n byw'n lleol a'r amgylched, tra'n gwneud y gorau o'r ynni adnewyddadwy a gynhyrchir ar y safle.
Bydd y tyrbinau wedi'u lleoli i'r dwyrain o'r safle, sydd bellaf i ffwrdd o ble mae pobl yn byw, bydd dylunio gofalus yn sicrhau y bydd y fferm solar a seilwaith arall yn cael eu cuddio cymaint â phosibl.
Gwneir llawer o fonitro ecoleg ac adareg o rywogaethau a chynefinoedd o fewn ac o amgylch y safle.
Model rhithwir o gynllun dangosol Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd
Mae model 3-dimensiwn o'r safle wedi'i baratoi sy'n dangos sut y gallai'r parc ynni edrych o wahanol leoliadau a golygfannau. Mae'r model hwn yn seiliedig ar y cynllun dangosol. Bydd unrhyw newidiadau i'r cynllun yn cael eu cyfathrebu'n glir mewn digwyddiadau ymgynghori yn y dyfodol. Ewch i weld ein cydweithwyr o SDW ac edrychwch ar y model rhithwir.
Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park


4
Transport and access map
Map trafnidiaeth a mynediad
Key
Site boundary
Local Authority boundary
Route from Swansea Docks to the Site Entrance
Allwedd
Ffin y safle
Ffin awdurdod lleol
Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park

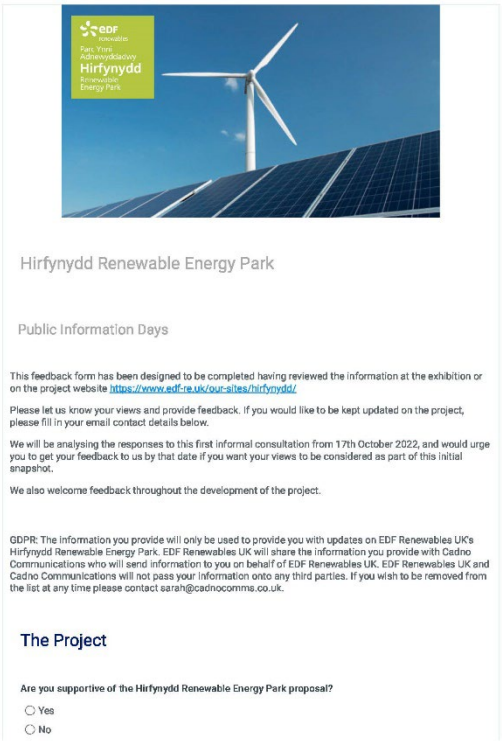

5
Other considerations
Cultural heritage
The area has a rich history dating from prehistoric times. There is evidence of three Bronze Age cairns, a medieval settlement and Roman remains within the site boundary, with the Sarn Helen Roman Road running adjacent to the site. All infrastructure will be designed sensitively to minimise any impacts, in consultation with Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service.
Connecting the energy park to end users
Traditionally, energy generation is connected to the grid network via cables which take the electricity to where it is needed – homes, businesses, industry and public buildings. Alternatively, it can be advantageous to directly provide the power to a local end user, should their electricity demand be sufficiently high. At this early stage we are exploring all options for taking the electricity generated at the energy park to those who need it.
Noise
An important consideration is noise. Noise assessments will be carried out at representative properties near to the site to measure existing background noise levels in the area. This will then determine noise limits which cannot be exceeded. The wind turbines will be located in the eastern part of the site, away from residential areas.
Noise from the solar farm and battery elements of the project will be assessed but are likely to be insignificant.
Shadow flicker
Shadow flicker can occur when the sun is in a certain position in the sky shining through the rotating blades into a building through a nearby window. Where there is potential for shadow flicker to occur at any property a detailed assessment will be undertaken, careful site design will help reduce the likelihood of shadow flicker and other prevention measures can be used.
Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park


5
Ystyriaethau eraill
Treftadaeth Ddiwylliannol
Mae gan yr ardal hanes cyfoethog yn dyddio o'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol. Mae tystiolaeth o dair carnedd o'r Oes Efydd, anheddiad canoloesol ac olion Rhufeinig o fewn ffin y safle, gyda Ffordd Rufeinig Sarn Helen yn rhedeg gerllaw'r safle. Bydd yr holl seilwaith yn cael ei ddylunio'n sensitif i leihau unrhyw effeithiau, mewn ymgynghoriad â Cadw, gwasanaeth amgylchedd hanesyddol Llywodraeth Cymru.
Cysylltu'r parc ynni â defnyddwyr terfynol
Yn draddodiadol, mae cynhyrchu ynni'n cael ei gysylltu â'r rhwydwaith grid trwy geblau sy'n mynd â'r trydan i'r mannau lle mae ei angen - cartrefi, busnesau, diwydiant ac adeiladau cyhoeddus. Fel arall, gall fod yn fanteisiol darparu'r pŵer yn uniongyrchol i ddefnyddiwr terfynol lleol, pe bai eu galw am drydan yn ddigon uchel. Yn y cyfnod cynnar hwn rydym yn archwilio pob opsiwn ar gyfer mynd â'r trydan a gynhyrchir yn y parc ynni i'r rhai sydd ei angen.
Sŵn
Mae sŵn yn ystyriaeth bwysig. Bydd asesiadau sŵn yn cael eu cynnal mewn adeiladau preswyl cynrychioliadol ger y safle i fesur lefelau sŵn cefndir presennol yn yr ardal. Bydd hyn wedyn yn pennu terfynau sŵn perthnasol na ellir mynd y tu hwnt iddynt, bydd y tyrbinau gwynt yn cael eu lleoli yn rhan ddwyreiniol y safle, i ffwrdd o ardaloedd preswyl.
Bydd sŵn o'r fferm solar ac elfennau batri'r prosiect yn cael eu hasesu ond maent yn debygol o fod yn ddi-nod.
Cysgodion Symudol
Gall cysgodion symudol ddigwydd pan fo'r haul mewn safle arbennig yn yr awyr yn disgleirio trwy'r llafnau sy'n cylchdroi i mewn i adeilad trwy ffenestr gyfagos. Lle mae potensial i gysgodion symudol ddigwydd mewn unrhyw eiddo, cynhelir asesiad manwl, bydd dylunio'r safle'n ofalus yn helpu i leihau'r tebygolrwydd o gysgodion symudol a gellir defnyddio mesurau atal eraill.
Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park


6 Community
Cymuned
EDF Renewables UK is committed to delivering local benefits and working in partnership with local communities.
Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park could deliver:
Community Benefit Fund
£5,000/MW wind
£400/MW solar
Overall – up to £270,000 every year for the lifetime of the project
Local ownership
Up to 10% of the project
Helping to meet Welsh Government's 1 GW of energy projects to be locally owned by 2030
Local businesses
Contracts and opportunities for local suppliers
Community Liaison Group
EDF Renewables UK will establish a Community Liaison Group
Made up by members of the community
Share information
Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park will benefit the wider Wales and UK community by providing clean, green electricity that can help secure our energy supplies and over time bring down costs to the consumer.
Mae EDF Renewables UK wedi ymrwymo i ddarparu buddion lleol a gweithio mewn partneriaeth â chymunedau lleol.
Gallai Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd ddarparu:
Cronfa Budd Cymunedol
£5,000/MW gwynt
£400/MW solar
Ar y cyfan – hyd at £270,000 bob blwyddyn am oes y prosiect
Perchnogaeth leol
Hyd at 10% o'r prosiect
Helpu i gyflawni 1 GW o brosiectau ynni Llywodraeth Cymru i fod yn eiddo lleol erbyn 2030
Busnesau lleol
Contractau a chyfleoedd i gyflenwyr lleol
Grŵp Cyswllt Cymunedol
Bydd EDF Renewables UK yn sefydlu Grŵp Cyswllt Cymunedol
Wedi'i ffurfio gan aelodau o'r gymuned
Rhannu gwybodaeth
Bydd Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd o fudd i gymuned ehangach Cymru a'r DU drwy ddarparu trydan glân, gwyrdd a all helpu i sicrhau ein cyflenwadau ynni a thros amser ddod â chostau i lawr i'r defnyddiwr.
Parc Ynni Adnewyddadwy Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park


7 Next Steps
Y Camau nesaf
2022
More desk research, surveys and assessments on site as we refine our plans
Submit the Scoping Report to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
Further engagement with local communities & informal consultation events
Refine the grid options
Mwy o ymchwil desg, arolygon ac asesiadau ar y safle wrth i ni fireinio ein cynlluniau
Cyflwyno'r Adroddiad Cwmpasu i Benderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgylcheddol Cymru
Ymgysylltu pellach â chymunedau lleol a digwyddiadau ymgynghori anffurfiol
Mireinio'r opsiynau grid
2023
Draft the Environmental Statement
Statutory pre-application consultation
Submit the planning application
Drafftio'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol
Ymgynghoriad statudol cyn ymgeisio
Cyflwyno'r cais cynllunio
2024
An independent inspector examines the application
The examination will take the form of written representations, a hearing or inquiry
Recommendations are made to the Welsh Government Minister who takes the final decision
Arolygydd annibynnol yn archwilio'r cais
Bydd yr archwiliad ar ffurf sylwadau ysgrifenedig, gwrandawiad neu ymchwiliad
Gwneir argymhellion i Weinidog Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n gwneud y penderfyniad terfynol
For further information and to provide feedback:
Am ragor o wybodaeth ac i roi adborth:
hirfynydd@edf-re.uk
www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd
01639 500871

Appendix J: Online feedback form



Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park

Public Information Days

This feedback form has been designed to be completed having reviewed the information at the exhibition or on the project website https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd/

Please let us know your views and provide feedback. If you would like to be kept updated on the project, please fill in your email contact details below.

We will be analysing the responses to this first informal consultation from 17th October 2022, and would urge you to get your feedback to us by that date if you want your views to be considered as part of this initial snapshot.

We also welcome feedback throughout the development of the project.

GDPR: The information you provide will only be used to provide you with updates on EDF Renewables UK's Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park. EDF Renewables UK will share the information you provide with Cadno Communications who will send information to you on behalf of EDF Renewables UK. EDF Renewables UK and Cadno Communications will not pass your information onto any third parties. If you wish to be removed from the list at any time please contact sarah@cadnocomms.co.uk.

The Project

Are you supportive of the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park proposal?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Unsure

Please outline what you think the benefits might be and what concerns you have, if any.

Benefits

Concerns

Do you think there is anything else we should be considering as we develop our plans? Things that might benefit the local area, or issues you think we haven't considered yet?

How useful did you find the information on the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park website?

- ○ Very useful
- ○ Quite useful
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Not very useful
- ○ Not at all useful

Do you have any thoughts on how we could have made the information more useful?

Climate Change

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement: "I recognise that there is a climate emergency that needs addressing."

- ○ Agree
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Unsure

Do you support the development of onshore wind farms?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Unsure

Do you support the development of solar farms?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Unsure

Local Ownership

What do you think about local ownership?

Community Benefit Fund

EDF Renewables UK will be offering a community benefit fund which could amount to £270,000 per year for the lifetime of the project. (£5,900 per MW for wind, and £400 per MW for solar.) Do you think this is a good idea?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Unsure

Do you have any suggestions how the fund should be spent?

About the Public Information Days

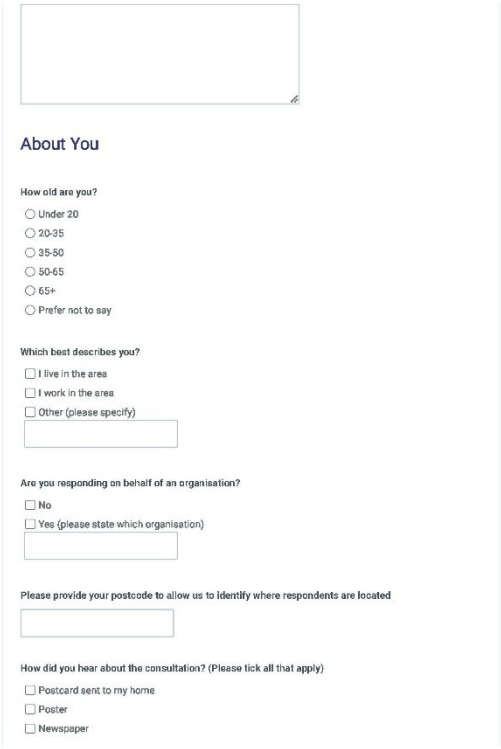
How useful did you find the information?

- ☐ Very useful
- ☐ Quite useful
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not very useful
- ☐ Not at all useful
- ☐ I did not attend the Public Information Days

What did you find to be the most useful elements of the event? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ The 3-dimensional interactive computer model
- ☐ The information boards
- ☐ The opportunity to provide feedback
- ☐ The handout
- ☐ The opportunity to speak to the project team
- ☐ The opportunity to meet others in the community
- ☐ Not applicable

Do you have any thoughts on how we could improve the way that the information is presented?



About You

How old are you?

- Under 20
- 20-35
- 35-50
- 50-65
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

Which best describes you?

- I live in the area
- I work in the area
- Other (please specify)

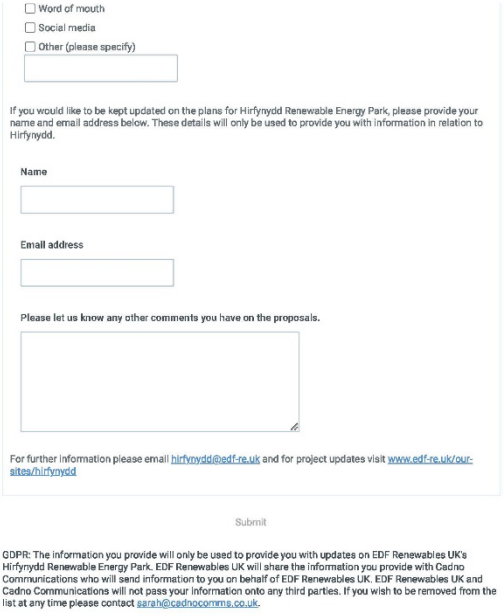
Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

- No
- Yes (please state which organisation)

Please provide your postcode to allow us to identify where respondents are located

How did you hear about the consultation? (Please tick all that apply)

- Postcard sent to my home
- Poster
- Newspaper



- Word of mouth
- Social media
- Other (please specify)

If you would like to be kept updated on the plans for Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, please provide your name and email address below. These details will only be used to provide you with information in relation to Hirfynydd.

Name

Email address

Please let us know any other comments you have on the proposals.

For further information please email hirfynydd@edf-re.uk and for project updates visit www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd

Submit

GDPR: The information you provide will only be used to provide you with updates on EDF Renewables UK's Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park. EDF Renewables UK will share the information you provide with Cadno Communications who will send information to you on behalf of EDF Renewables UK. EDF Renewables UK and Cadno Communications will not pass your information onto any third parties. If you wish to be removed from the list at any time please contact sarah@cadnocomms.co.uk.