

Info and documents available online at:

<https://livenewcastleton.com/community-services/newcastleton-and-district-community-council>

Present: Barbara Elborn (sec) Jim Lewis (acting chair), Rob Irwin, Kevin Hawkins, Lisa Rogers
Apologies from NDCC: Keith Brough

Resignation from NDCC: Iain Crosbie

Present from SBC: Councillor Annette Smart

Apologies from SBC: Councillors Watson McAteer, Jane Cox

Apologies from PC Allan Patterson

Welcome: EnergieKontor project manager Duncan Taylor and assistant project manager Eliza Tyrrel and 5 members of the public

- 1) **Declarations of Interest:** none
- 2) **Minutes** of the last meeting on 12 September 2023 were formally accepted: proposed RI, seconded KH
- 3) **Police Report:** BE reported on the 28 Sept meeting she and KB attended with Police Sergeant Alison Granger and PC Allan Patterson. One of the main focuses of the meeting was the lack of response from Police Scotland incidents reported of speeding or crimes in and around Newcastleton. A number of measures were agreed to help overcome the reduction in presence locally due to continuing cutbacks and increasing demand. The September police report noted that there were 13 calls to Newcastleton over the month of August – mostly relating to noise complaints, concern for persons and road traffic offences. These calls do not include those involving an ongoing situation which PC Patterson is currently dealing with.
- 4) **Planning**
 - a) Windy Edge windfarm proposal (Braidlee): DT from windfarm developer EnergieKontor gave a verbal presentation. The proposal is a revision of the earlier Windy Edge proposal (originally 2010), but in an expanded area and with more and larger turbines to generate 70-80 megawatts, more than twice as much as the original proposal. Although the new proposal is still in its early stages, EnergieKontor expect to move forward with development and construction toward a 2027 transmission date. The next public session planned for residents to view the updated proposal will likely be the end of 2023. There are several contentious issues to be resolved: the level of the Community Benefit Fund (shared by all the communities bordering the windfarm), amelioration of visual and economic impacts, the possibility of shared ownership with neighbouring communities, direction of transmission lines, site design to ameliorate runoff and flooding, and site access for construction and maintenance. DT offered a guided site visit, which BE accepted on behalf of the CC. DT agreed to provide copies of the planned presentation for the CC to circulate locally.
 - b) Pines Burn Windfarm: Community Benefit Fund, participating CCs met to agree steps response to revised proposal form EK which was deemed unworkable by the communities. Correspondence also sent to Capital Dynamics the site owner requesting a meeting to review.,

- c) EDF Liddesdale Windfarm: BE reported developer still not provided the benefiting CC's so no progress was possible on a wider discussion for participants on the proposed community benefit fund. Request to developer had been made to propose the host CC's sign a memorandum of understanding on behalf of the development to ensure that the offer was honoured and the index linking payments could be linked back to the date of signing. EK to confirm.
- d) Afforestation feedback: BE reported that Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform Mairi Gougeon replied to the CCs concerns without offering support to resolve them. BE said that links are being made with groups in Dumfries and Galloway to push for developers of commercial forestry to provide cumulative impact of proposals to help communities assess visual impacts. Forestation does not follow usual planning guidelines not provide any community benefit in a formal context.

5) **Matters arising**

- a) Douglas Square Crossing update: no new information from SBC – carried forward
- b) Lighting for Riverside steps feedback: no new information – Cllr AS will chase
- c) Revised bus timetable/workshops feedback: BE reported that there have been recent complaints about services between Hawick and Carlisle. She will press for a date for a meeting with SBC to discuss transport issues and forward info to Cllr AS.
- d) Dog poo bins: Cllr AS said that she is awaiting a reply from her requests.
- e) Holm Bridge damage: Some work in process again, Cllr AS will press for this to be finished before winter.
- f) Flood group update: BE reported that there are still several issues outstanding matters to be resolved prior to moving forward.
- g) Bund steps: BE expects SBC to build the steps when above resolved.

6) **Public forum/Community issues**

- a) Playpark upgrade/consultation: This is underway with relevant children's groups in Sept via school, youth club etc. Online consultation available for all, end date Nov 4th.
- b) CCTV funding: BE made a request that SBC fund the maintenance of the CCTV system.
- c) Changeworks renewables scheme recommences locally in the community. Leaflets and posters encouraging all to take up the offers to help improve warmth and reduce energy costs.

- 7) Correspondence: none other than noted above
- 8) AOB – none raised
- 9) Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14 Nov at 7pm in the Village Hall

There being no other business of note the acting chair closed the meeting at 8:50pm.