

Southwest Scotland
Parts B, C and D2
10 March 2016 – Nithsdale Hotel, Sanquhar

In attendance Anrdoulla Richford - Wanlockhead Community Council
Mary Leighton - Sanqhar Community Council
Pelayo Fernandez Fuente - IEC
Brendan Tinney - SPEN
Colin Wylie - SPEN

Apologies

None received

Welcome and Introduction

CW thanked everyone for their attendance and provided an overview of the role of SP Energy Networks in terms of the wider Transmission Network as the licensed Transmission Owner for Central and Southern. CW explained that all Projects are assessed for Community Impact and that the formation of a Community Liaison Group for certain projects can be of benefit to all parties, establishing a framework to share information with Community Representatives who fulfil the criteria for membership as advised by the local council. PF added that ongoing independent checks on activity ensured the completion of the different stages of the work meets the requirements of the consents and planning in place.

Project Presentation

BT delivered a presentation giving an overview of the planned activity and thereafter provided more specific information relating to the different elements of the project and the quarrying, traffic management and transport implications relating to the different stages of the work (copy of presentation accompanies minutes).

During and after the presentation general discussion took place as follows –

AR asked what type of quarrying would occur – BT explained that the quarrying for stone would involve both blasting and drilling – PF added that the blasting would be minimal.

AR enquired if underground cabling had been considered – BT responded by explaining that our starting point for any project is the use of overhead line as our guidance involves delivering an economic and efficient connection. BT added that underground cabling is at times considered in

certain circumstances, for example where a project is directly impacting on a protected or designated area.

ML commented that a lot of the roads in the area are narrow and junctions are not easy to negotiate – BT advised that we were aware of this and that our Traffic Management Plans would consider these matters, making use of Forestry Commission Tracks when possible. BT added that reduced speed limits would often be in place for the drivers involved.

AR asked if there were people living near the substations that might be effected by Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) – BT explained that the location of the substations were very rural and the EMFs were shown to dissipate very quickly over a relatively short distance. BT commented that the Health and Safety Executive decide on the safety aspects of EMF.

Community Liaison

CW added that SP Energy Networks are aware that construction projects can have an impact on communities and that every effort would be made to minimise any disruption. CW explained that the establishment of a Community Liaison Group provided a setting for information exchange, all be it further information about the project could be communicated in a way that best suits the Community Representatives or indeed the wider community members.

With no further questions or points, CW explained to ML that she may wish to speak with Sanquhar Community Council and discuss the merits of a Community Liaison Group. CW thereafter closed the meeting advising that the minutes and a copy of the presentation would be circulated in the near future.