



## **SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND CONNECTIONS PROJECT**

### **COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP**

**6.00 PM – 19 JUNE 2017**

### **PROJECT SITE OFFICE – NEW CUMNOCK**

#### **1. ATTENDANCE**

Eric Bennett, Robert Laurie, Ian Howat, Jerry Mulders (New Cumnock Community Council), Councillor Jim McMahon – East Ayrshire Council, David McDonald (AMECFW), Denis O’Kane, Brendan Tinney, Karen MacGregor, Colin Wylie (SPEN).

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Christine Morris – East Ayrshire Council Planning Department, Les Campbell IEC

#### **3. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**

Karen MacGregor (KM) opened the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance particularly commenting on Davy McDonalds attendance at short notice due to IEC Operational Commitments.

#### **4. PROJECT UPDATE / DISCUSSION**

Brendan Tinney and Denis O’Kane then provided a project update in relation to parts B,C,D and D2 which included information regarding vehicle movements, stone movements and restoration / reinstatement.

During the update various questions were asked prompting wider general conversation as below

Jerry Mulders (JM) enquired about dates for completion – Brendan Tinney (BT) confirmed that the programme completion dates were Part B – June 2018 Part C – Q2/3 of 2018 Dunhill – towards end of 2017.

JM asked what the expected level of vehicle movements relating to stone removal would be. BT explained that the Traffic Management Plans had not been agreed with the Council at this stage so no figures were available.

JM remarked that a positive use of stone hopefully in the local community would be well received as opposed to going to landfill. BT explained that all stone may not necessarily be removed as some landowners such as Forestry Commission seek permission to keep tracks adding that outwith that the removed stone may be used to reinstate quarries, however SEPA have strict guidelines regarding the use of stone removed in such circumstances and contract agreements are also in place outlining removal. JM suggested that the Community Council could lobby SEPA in support of a positive use of stone. BT and Denis OKane (DO) confirmed that SPEN are open to positive reuse of stone where it is

Practical to do so within legislation. BT also explained that only a 2 metre depth of reinstatement can be used which is obviously limiting.

Ian Howat (IH) raised the subject of the local flood alleviation scheme as worth keeping in mind depending on SEPAs response.

David McDonald (DM) commented that AMECFW would be happy to put stone to positive use however the restrictions are in place as mentioned.

JM asked if the stone under the towers in Part A would all be removed. DM explained that there would likely be a mixture of removal and remaining, subject to consent position and that discussion with the Forestry Commission is currently taking place to establish this matter along with timescales.

JM asked if the timescales would be impacted by bird nesting season. DM responded that the restrictions around nesting season would be respected.

JM commented that his understanding of the timescales agreed with the council for restoration to take place were completion within a fixed twelve month period. BT and DO were not aware of any rigid timescale expanding further that the project teams are in regular contact with the council and their monitoring officer on project delivery, with restoration as part of this.

DM added that winter conditions can be a poor time for such activity, however all areas would be inspected and surveyed by specialists prior to work taking place. BT confirmed this would be the case.

JM again stated he would be keen to fro a timeline around stone movements at Part A. DM explained that this would depend on the forestry commission getting permission to keep any tracks they feel would be of benefit to them which would then determine the level of associated vehicle movements.

IH asked why the two metre limit for reusing stone. BT commented this was SEPAs approach. JM again offered a letter of support from the Community Council regards using the stone locally.

JM commented that in the bigger picture of various projects using local roads it was good to know the number of vehicle movements from each project which would allow the cumulative number to be known. BT confirmed that in terms of SWS Project, the number of vehicle movements locally was reducing and that further discussion with the council was necessary before accurate figures for future movements would be available.

BT explained that there would be further peat removed from certain locations. JM asked how many vehicles this would involve. BT stated he did not know at this time and would need to find out, however routes are envisaged to not impact on New Cumnock. Robert Laurie (RL) commented that in his opinion moving peat in these circumstances was ludicrous when you take into account all that is involved. BT explained that again the project team were keen to make beneficial use of peat as opposed to landfill. **Action – BT to supply number of peat movements when available.**

JM asked if towers can be sited on peat. DM confirmed they can, however substation sites cannot due to the ground work requirements.

JM enquired about local use of fibre optic cable and sharing a cabinet situated nearby his home. DO explained that the cable is dedicated for network communications and that sharing such equipment is, however will query if a separate BT cabinet is also being installed. KM confirmed this has been raised a number of times and due to specific agreements around such lines their wider use has not been possible.

JM stated that he has been personally affected since the project commenced by site deliveries attending at his house by mistake due to site having the same project and that this had occurred twice over the last few days. DO explained that it has been raised with the post office and that site have given clear instructions to contractors and implemented a firm approach with contractors who do not comply. DO added that the East Ayrshire Council street name team have been contacted to resolve the issue with the Post Office. The Project Manager will be informed that the issue around deliveries is continuing.

JM asked if the restoration around New Cumnock Substation was complete. DO confirm landscaping work was due to commence in the next planting season, later this year..

RL asked if there was still capacity at New Cumnock Substation for future connections as the community has heard of other potential connections. BT noted that the system design team look at the transmission network and calculate the connection point from various options available. DO commented that contracted windfarm connections may not all get to construction which can leave additional capacity at substations.

Councillor McMahon (JMC) commented that the meeting had been both positive and beneficial.

## **5. AOB**

There was no other business raised.

## **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

KM thanked everyone for their participation and explained that the date of the next meeting would be circulated in due course.