



SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND CONNECTIONS PROJECT

COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

6.00 PM – 27 FEBRUARY 2018

PROJECT SITE OFFICE – NEW CUMNOCK

1. ATTENDANCE

Eric Bennett, Robert Laurie, Jerry Mulders, David Rush (New Cumnock Community Council) - Christine Morris (East Ayrshire Council) - Robert Russell (AMECFW) - John Markey, Brendan Tinney, Karen MacGregor, Colin Wylie (SPEN).

2. APOLOGIES

Les Campbell – SPEN.

3. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Karen MacGregor (KM) welcomed all attendees thanking everyone for taking the time to come along – previous minutes were accepted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

KM explained that points regarding deliveries, signage and litter had been dealt with as they came in and an email updating group members had been circulated previously – all present accepted these matters were now in order.

Brendan Tinney (BT) and John Markey (JM - SP) explained that in terms of the pylon access roads - discussion was ongoing with land owners and council regards any that may potentially remain.

5. PROJECT UPDATE / DISCUSSION

KM and BT explained that there was little by way of project update.

Jerry Mulders (JM) then asked about the completion of the project. JM -SP explained that the **ENGA** land should be completed in around 3 months, weather permitting, adding further that one circuit on route D is already energised and route C is planned to go live in April. KM reminded all that in terms of project terminology – SPEN often refer to the date of energising the project as completion,

however the reinstatement process can often take a significant period of time after this point in time.

JM commented that when driving south on the A713 he had observed certain bends on the road had been eroded by traffic – potentially project vehicles connected with the Blackcraig Project. JM – SP confirmed that SPEN are liaising with the council on this matter.

Robert Laurie (RL) asked if any notice about the ongoing local road closure had been provided to the project. BT and JM – SP confirmed that advance notice was provided by the council.

KM thereafter introduced a short film clip of a flyover of the route which was watched by all present who commented that the footage clearly demonstrated the scale of the project.

RL enquired if the project was running behind. JM – SP confirmed the programme was a little behind and efforts were being made to catch up.

6. AOB

JM asked about details of stone removal / transport arrangements. BT explained that that this information is unknown at this stage as landowners potentially are still considering retaining some sections, adding that details will be confirmed in due course. JM – SP added that some stone may be used on Forestry Commission Roads.

RL asked about public access for walking on forestry land around the project and getting passed security. JM – SP confirmed that public access is allowed and the purpose of the security in this respect was to advise members of the public to stay safe in terms of the ongoing work.

RL enquired about peat movements. BT confirmed these were completed.

KM confirmed that an invite to take part in a drive around the project would be extended in the relatively near future.

JM asked if Afton Wind Farm is connected. JM – SP informed all that it was.

RL enquired if there were plans to extend New Cumnock Substation in the future. KM advised that there were no current plans and any future plans would again have to go through the consents process.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

KM thanked everyone for their participation and explained that the date of the next meeting would be arranged in due course, adding that it may be beneficial depending on how work was progressing to extend the normal 3 month period slightly.