

Have your say on north Lowther energy proposals

- Drop in sessions on the North Lowther Energy Initiative
- Events in Wanlockhead and Sanquhar give chance to find out more and offer feedback

September 19, 2016

People living in and around the Lowther Hills are being invited to find out more about plans for a major renewable energy and habitat improvement scheme in the area.

The proposal – known as the North Lowther Energy Initiative – has been put forward by Buccleuch and 2020 Renewables, and currently comprises 35 wind turbines between the villages of Sanquhar and Wanlockhead. The scheme has been adapted to reflect views submitted to the project team.

The project is now hosting two public consultation drop-in days later this month – at Sanquhar on September 28 and Wanlockhead on September 29.

Commenting on the events, John Glen, Chief Executive Officer of Buccleuch, said.

“The drop-ins will be an opportunity to find out more about the proposal and to meet and ask questions of the project team, and we are keen to hear as many local views as possible. There will be the chance to see potential layouts of the scheme, find out how the turbines would look from various locations and find out more about the environmental and community benefit aspects of the proposal.

“If this scheme did go ahead, communities in the surrounding area could take advantage of a community benefit fund which would generate £750,000 annually. This fund accords with the best practice guidelines set out by government for renewable energy schemes

“We have already sought views from the community councils of Leadhills, Sanquhar, Kirkconnel & Kelloholm and Duneaton together with Wanlockhead Village Council on the administration of such a fund, and have engaged the independent charity Foundation Scotland to work with all local groups, businesses and individuals in developing ideas on how such a fund might be used.

“In addition, if any community organisation or body, or indeed individuals, are interested in shared ownership of the project and would like to discuss this further, we would be happy to work together to explore ways in which the community could invest, in line with Scottish Government good practice principles,” Glen concludes.

The events will be held at the following locations and times:

Wednesday 28th September
2:00 pm – 7:30 pm at Sanquhar Town Hall
Church Road
Sanquhar
DG4 6DE

Thursday 29th September
2:00 pm – 7:30 pm at
Wanlockhead Community Centre
Former Primary School
Wanlockhead
ML12 6UT

It is expected a planning application will be submitted early next year and will be determined by the Scottish Government thereafter.

Information on the proposal will be provided and members of the project team will be available throughout the day to discuss the proposals and answer questions. The events are open to all members of the public at any point during the above times.

If you are unable to attend but would like further information about the proposals, please contact the team by any one of the means outlined below.

By post: NLEI, 27 Silvermills Court, Henderson Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5DG.

By telephone: 0131 524 0910.

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