



Board Meeting 26/02/14

Present: Gordon Cowtan, David Howell, Kayt Howell (Co ordinator), Holly O'Donnell, Chrissy Pollock (Energy Advisor), Hugh Edmond, Iain Frazer, Matthew Black (Senior Energy Advisor), Kelly McIntyre, (Project Manager), Jamie Pearson.

Apologies: Pete Skabara, Gordon Murray,

Action

Previous minutes approved . Action points reviewed and agreed.

FORCE 9

The board were joined by Nick Mackay, Stephen Park and Andrew Smith of Force 9 for an update regarding the Spittalhill and Proposed wind farm development and the options regarding community benefit.

Nick provided a short background history to Force 9 and his role within the company.

The team went on to explain that the application is with Stirling Council and there has been little public objection or ground swell of anti wind farm protest. Issues raised have all been reasonable objections , not emotional but rational and Force 9 are confident in appealing these. 13 objections from this surrounding area.

Regarding statutory consultation-SNH - Scottish National Heritage, have an extension until the 4th of March so still to respond as are Historic Scotland .

SEPA have objected on the concerns of ground water ecology issues, and there not being significant detail on the environmental impact. There has been an initial response from roads and Falkirk are not choosing to engage.

National Air Traffic Service had initially stated that it wasn't a site they would normally be particularly concerned with, however radar bounce back from one turbines blades could cause an issue by being potentially mistaken for light aircraft. Consultants have been brought on board to challenge objection. Options to use 'project RM' a more sophisticated and effective system of radar. This may allow a speedy mitigation but not a cheap option.

Community benefit - F9 and EDF have been in discussion and will be consulting with the other two communities , Denny and Carron Valley. These discussions will take place within the next few weeks and then F9 will get back to all three groups with proposals.

The current rate offered is 5k per MW however do not what the installed capacity will be. Estimate- 14 MW x 5 = 70k divided between 3 communities - index linked.

Opportunity exists to capitalize some of those funds for urgent projects. F9 explained the NPV factor and how that would come into play and the difference in receiving the funds up front against receiving in chunks over time.

In addition to and unaffected by the Community Benefit, a Community Investment Fund is being offered to all Communities involved.

The principle has been approved by EDF- final details to be ratified at board level.

The wind farm proposes to have 7 turbines and the offer is to provide a notional turbine within that number .

Costs will be calculated on all the building works, pre works, construction works and against that will be how much communities are willing to invest.

Example - Building and development is 20 million. Communities invest 2 million = 10%

So communities would receive 10% of the net gross turnover minus running costs (maintenance , rent, rates etc)

DH asked how EDF/F9 would feel about subsidizing communities to make that investment through a soft loan arrangement.

F9 said they were here to find out what each community had and appetite for. 1/7 th is the maximum investment but no minimum has been set.

DH added that the kind of investment we would be looking for is one where the whole community would benefit and not just those who are able to invest.

F9 reminded the board that this was in addition to the community benefit which FCC would receive regardless .

DH stated that communities need to feel they have a stake in this and that in itself would provide excellent PR for EDF.

GC asked how the Community benefit aspect would be managed or split

F9 did not have a final solution for this but suggests stand alone company would be required.

KM asked what provisions or criteria would be put upon the agreement.

F9 suggested that Communities Scotland , what used to be CARES, who are not for profit and impartial, would do all the accountancy. Some communities do not have the appropriate bodies to manage the funds.

DH emphasized how beneficial it would be to EDF to be seen to be enabling communities with an opportunity to invest .It should be easy to set up the soft loan finance and gain the benefits of the associated PR.

GC asked if the capitalizing of funds could be used to invest in the wind turbine.

F9 suggested that all though this process in theory could work in the communities favour - that it would be cleaner , financially, to keep the different elements of Community Benefit and Community investment completely separate .

It was agreed in discussion that FDT s experience would be beneficial to all communities involved and if the Trust was able to act as a catalyst with the other groups - then this may provide more coherent understanding and negotiation. F9 did state that if it boils down to just FDT being interested in investment then so be it.

JP asked what was the timescale in returning with proposals - F9 said it would be this side of summer. F9 want to be able to draft options suitable to all communities following these visits and consultations in an aim to meet all concerns.

IF asked how EDF would view this in result of a yes vote in the referendum. F9 said it would make no difference as its a property development which is 95% complete. If EDF were to pull out for any reason F9 would facilitate arrangements in a way to survive the transfer of ownership. This is not the plan however, and we should have the comfort that all agreement will be held.

The group discussed the unfair publicity regarding subsidies for renewables against those of oil and gas.

Board thanked F9 for their attendance and looked forward to hearing their proposals.

PV - NURSERY

Now that it has been confirmed that the nursery and the building have been saved from closure it was agreed to pay the outstanding bill for the PV installation. FDT will manage the RHI income as a separate fund for educational purposes for the school and nursery. Parent Council will decide on the spend needs.

GREATER GOOD FUND

Conditions for application have been agreed by the Fintry Community council. Forms for application are available at the FCC notice board in the foyer of the sports club. These will be managed by FCC.

JP

EARTH HOUR

It was suggested that FDT participate in some suitable event in the village for Earth Hour on the 29th March - 8.30 -9.30.

KH

DRT BUS SERVICE

JP reported that application has been made by FCC to try and secure funding to maintain the service

STAFF REPORT

KH ran through the staff activities. -

FRESH is the big one - everyone focussed on creating framework

Next 4 day workshop plans-

Friday 4th of April 10am – 4pm

Woodland Management

Saturday 5th of April 11am – 3pm

Foolproof food

Sunday 6th of April 11am – 3pm

Cycle Fintry, Bike Dr & Cycle skills

Monday 7th of April 7pm – 8.30pm

Bill Busters

External wall insulation underway at last. CP keeping a handle on that.

District heating proposals - MB managing that.

EV charging point - almost complete and ready for use.

Delegate packs - on going

Graphics - hopefully found solution for needs.
Sports club support work for CCF.
University visits.

KM reported on wider spread of research and activities.

Colleges - ongoing work with Chris Smith and Peter from Inverness and the 'remote' project. Dependent on what funds are available and how they can be channelled.

Funding application being prepared with Lateral North and Anne Winther to produce a 20 year plan for Fintry and mapping out the possibilities.

Discussion with Pam McLean from Transition Stirling regarding possibilities of partnership and putting in a joint application for funding to CCF. KM has a meeting on 19th to discuss shared resources and how it would work in principle.

Does not rule out taking on a fledgling group through the ideas bank. **KM**

FINTRY SPLITTERS

Board agreed that it makes sense to become a company member of the Fintry Splitters in order to access the splitter by FDT staff for workshops rather than taking advantage of the generosity of the splitters time to assist us for free - as has happened on a number of recent occasions.

CP KH MB

AOB

Board agreed membership to Social Enterprise Scotland.

KM KH

Date of next meeting - 26/03/14