

**From:** James Lithgow [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 16 August 2019 16:33  
**To:** Kinniburgh, David <David.Kinniburgh@argyll-bute.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Airigh Wind Farm - Section 36 Consultation

Dear Cllr Kinniburgh,

Given the misleading advice to Members provided by the previous Head of Planning, I understand the Airigh project is to be again considered by the Planning Committee next Wednesday.

Regrettably our South Knapdale Community Council has a history of NIMBY objection to any development that a small number of mostly settlers, consider may impact upon what they regard as the "correct" rural land use ( not withstanding that the surrounding blanket of Sitka has only been around for forty odd years - even if they haven't ).

A number of the same individuals previously campaigned to derail our own community wind farms, until the indigenous and working population asked for a vote in a secret ballot and proved categorically that the "silent" majority of local people were in favour of these wind farms.

Whilst certain members of the SKCC might have tried hard to muddy the waters, the SKCC have not objected to Airigh and it was entirely wrong of the previous Supplementary Report (No:3) to suggest that they had. Indeed from the outset the grounds for the planning officers' objections have been weak, and for them to exercise their "professional judgement" to advise members that the local community as a whole had objected to the project (whilst failing to mention that neighbouring Ardrishaig had firmly reiterated their support for the project), and then state that in his opinion the distant view of these wind farms would harm the tourist economy (without any evidence or expertise), would suggest that members have been led and misinformed.

It would be unusual for the incoming staff to counter the line of their previous colleagues.

I hope Committee Members will have the chance to weigh the Airigh project again, and consider the real benefits in terms of jobs and local investment this development might deliver for rural Argyll, against some distant views of wind turbines.

Despite what a certain Councillor for our ward might assert, the majority of the South Knapdale community are not opposed to Airigh and a number of us are actively in favour of the project, not because we particularly like wind turbines, but because we understand the benefit this type of investment has on the local economy and believe renewable energy is important for our future.

Aye

James F. Lithgow  
Ormsary Farmers

[REDACTED]

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19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Cllr George Freeman  
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Dear Cllr George Freeman,

## AIRIGH WIND FARM

We are pleased to note that PPSL committee members are being given an opportunity to reconsider the Council's position on Airigh wind farm at next week's PPSL Committee. However, having had an opportunity to review the Committee Report, we are disappointed that there are still serious flaws in the manner in which the application, and in particular consultation responses, are being reported to members.

In their report to committee, Officers appear to be seeking to draw a distinction between the reasons for reporting the South Knapdale Community Council (SKCC) representation to committee and not the Ardrishaig Community Council letter of support, on the basis that the former wrote to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and the latter wrote directly to the Council.

In fact, Officers Supplementary Report to Committee 3, prepared for committee on 22 May, was drafted prior to the SKCC response being received by the ECU. The only conclusion which can be drawn is that both Community Councils provided representation directly to the Council, but officers chose to report the South Knapdale representation (*incorrectly as an objection*) and either chose not to, or simply forgot to, report the Ardrishaig Community Council position to committee. This has ultimately led to an unbalanced picture of community attitude to the proposed development, which as you will appreciate was a key consideration when the proposals were discussed by the PPSL on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

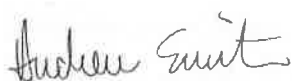
It is also important to note that none of the points of concern raised by SKCC in its response of 16<sup>th</sup> May (*that land value may be affected and grid connection is not confirmed, that there are no guarantees or commitments for anything and there may be uncertainty for years leaving the prospects for the community blighted*), are substantive planning and policy matters, as claimed by the report to committee. Indeed, all of these points were previously confirmed as being non-material to the determination of the application in the officers' presentation to Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Further, none of these points relate to landscape and visual matters which are the stated recommended reasons for objection and officers cannot therefore draw any support or otherwise from the SKCC response for their recommendation.

We would reiterate that in our view reports to committee have consistently exaggerated the landscape and visual effects of the wind farm and go well beyond the Council's own landscape review, which as we have stated before:

- **agrees** that the Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study identifies the scope for large wind turbines in this area;
- **agrees** that the location of the site benefits from screening so the development is not seen in key views;
- **agrees** there would be no significant effects on the A83 and the Knapdale National Scenic Area
- **agrees** that whilst there are no recorded 'special qualities' of the Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ), these are likely to relate to the coast, seascape and views out toward Jura and Islay. The review agrees that the "The proposal would not significantly affect the character of the diverse coast and settled fringes (due to distance and relatively limited visibility from these parts of the APQ). It would also not affect views to Jura and Islay from the APQ";
- **agrees** that there would be limited cumulative effects from the development, particularly on the A83, because of its location;
- suggests that there are **no significant effects** from the development from Gigha.
- acknowledges that no windfarm can come forward without any landscape and visual effects and the landscape effects from the development alone are not sufficient reasons for objection

All of this is occurring as the Scottish and UK governments accept the report of the Climate Change Committee to strive for 'Net Zero' carbon emissions by 2050 and many Authorities across Scotland are calling a Climate Emergency. The material weight of these matters continues to increase in any wind farm decision and in all the circumstances we would ask members of the PPSL committee to carefully weigh up the positive contribution that Airigh can make to sustainable economic development in Argyll, the opportunities it could bring to local communities and its contribution to climate change mitigation against its limited landscape and visual effects.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Smith  
Head of Planning and Development  
Force 9 Energy

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 19 August 2019 15:45

**To:** 'anne.horn@argyll-bute.gov.uk'; 'Sandy Taylor'; 'Douglas Philand'; 'alastair.redman@argyll-bute.gov.uk'; 'Robin Currie'; 'donald.macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk'

**Subject:** Airigh Windfarm proposal before A&B Council PPSL Committee on Wednesday (21st August).

**Importance:** High

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of Port Ban Holiday Park and as active members of the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance and British Holiday & Home Parks Association, may we say how thankful we are to hear that the Airigh Windfarm application will come back before Argyll & Bute Councils PPSL Committee on Wednesday (21st August). You might expect that from the tourism point of view that we would be objecting to another windfarm in South Knapdale but we feel that the positive effect on local employment and injection of funds into the Community, not to mention the environmental advantages of renewable energy, far outweighs any negative effects. Indeed considering the depopulation of the area it is almost essential to the future viability of the South Knapdale community. The future of Achahoish School, Kilberry Church, Crear Concerts (who are hosting the Scottish Ensemble next week, Thursday 29th) and possibly even the MacPool and Kilberry Castle hang in the balance and could be preserved by the injection of funds from the Windfarm.

All the Windfarm information has been available at the Holiday Park since 2017 and to date not one of our tenants or visitors (many of whom live in Argyll) has expressed any concern whatsoever. One of us had protested against the Freasdale Windfarm because of its prominent location in an area of scenic beauty but in this case the Windfarm will be almost invisible. And having lived here as a child before the hills were planted with Sitka Spruce, it is hard to argue that that the commercial pine forests are not a more serious blot on the landscape than windfarms.

We do feel that the views of the whole South Knapdale Community have not been represented by its current councillors, who for lack of any dissenting voices at the meetings and pressure of time (who can blame them) have naturally put their own views forward **but** without sufficient consultation with the Community or the representatives of the Windfarm. They have up till now been unduly cautious and even negative. So whilst Ardrishaig Community Council and Tarbert and Skipness Community Council had given their approval and signed the Memorandum of Agreement to community ownership of the Windfarm long ago, SKCC risks history repeating itself and missing out yet again on the Windfarm bonanza (a possible £250,000 p.a. plus 10% of net profits!). Thankfully, at the last minute dissenting voices have been raised, SKCC has revised its opinion (albeit grudgingly only to "neutral") and you have been given another chance to give this project the go ahead. We hope that you will make a decision that will give the South Knapdale Community (not to mention Ardrishaig and of course, Tarbert & Skipness), and our grandchildren who are taking the momentous step of leaving Glasgow to live in South Knapdale, hope for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Sheldrick & Tim Jackson  
Directors

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