

University of St Andrews

Kenly Wind Project Board

Minute of the Kenly Wind Project Board held on Wednesday 19 August 2009 at 9.00am in the Master's Room in the Heb's Block.

Present: Derek Watson (Chair), Naill Scott, Charles Warren, Graeme Scott, Stephen Magee, Roddy Yarr, John Maguire, Margaret Craig, Louise Roger, Rob Moodie, Cris Winter.

Apologies: None

1. Welcome

Derek Watson welcomed from the Boarhills and Dunino Council and the Kingsbarns Council to the meeting. This was the first time the Project Board's membership had been expanded and he indicated that he hoped that this was the start of a successful working relationship.

2. Project Update

2.1 Wind mast - It was noted that the wind monitoring mast application had been submitted in February but it was unlikely that it would be heard before the Planning Committee on 2 September 2009. It was likely that this would have a recommendation for approval from planning officers.

2.2 Radar assessment – It was noted that the site was within 15 nautical miles of Leuchars and was therefore within a 'trigger area' but not on primary approach lines. Initial assessment had been carried out of this and the University was awaiting feedback.

2.3 Ecological survey work – It was noted that the bat surveys were complete and the badger/water vole and otter surveys were also complete. The flora and fauna had been surveyed and the Kenly Burn water had been analysed. Low level bird work had been completed and the University was working with the RSBP and SMH along with a bird ringer to further investigate bird issues.

2.4 Local wind developments – It was reported that the University had been contacted by a wind developer who had been working for three years with a neighbouring site for the development of a wind farm. The University had been informed that the developer had been conducting work for three years but had not gone public and had not yet applied for a wind monitoring mast. It was noted however that the developer may take the risk and proceed without taking this stage. There was further discussion around the possibilities that this may create for both the University proposal and for the surrounding .

3. Student Dissertation

Charles Warren spoke to a summary of a dissertation carried out by a student at the University of St Andrews on the perceptions to wind farms generally and in this area and the views of those living around them. It highlighted that there was fairly strong support from the generally in the area for the proposals and that the University's policy of engagement very early had been successful. However, it was also noted that there was criticism that the University had started consulting too early before it actually had developed plans which people could comment specifically upon.

4. Next Steps

It was agreed that while the University would continue with much of the survey work that in view of the potential rival bid on the neighbouring site that the and the University would have to come to agreement as to how to work together or to agree not to work together. It was proposed that this would be the substantive item of business at the next meeting along with receiving an update on the various other survey issues.

5. AOCB

It was agreed that the University would approach the Planning Department to discuss how it deals with applications for wind developments and what steps it takes to measure the relative merits or rival bids or indeed, does it simply consider any offers that are on the table and only offers that are on the table. Rob Moodie with previous experience of planning, was invited to come along with the University to any meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 17 September 2009 at 10.00am in the Master's Room in the Heb's Block.

Derek A Watson
Quaestor & Factor