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Kilmaronock Community Council

Sent: By Email

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Dear Kilmaronock Community Council

VALE OF LEVEN WIND FARM - UPDATE/PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

We are writing to provide a short update on the Vale of Leven Wind Farm and to outline that the application will now proceed to Public Local Inquiry (PLI).

The PLI process involves a Reporter from the Scottish Government's <u>Planning and Environmental Appeals Division</u> to be appointed to conduct the inquiry (ref: WIN-160-1). We expect the PLI will take place in mid 2026 - with a pre determination hearing later this year or early 2026. The Reporter will consider all the evidence and will then provide a report and recommendation to the Scottish Ministers to assist in their eventual determination of the application. Due to the PLI process, we expect a determination to be made in mid 2027 although we have based this on estimates of other PLI processes for S36 applications.

We have provided a summary of the application process below and more information can be found on the project website: www.valeoflevenwindfarm.com

Planning Timeline Summary

We submitted a S36 application for our Vale of Leven Wind Farm project to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in October 2023 - the original application was for 10 turbines to 250m to blade tip in height.

In March 2025, we submitted 'Additional Information' to the Energy Consents Unit to address consultee responses regarding the proposed development. As part of the Additional Information submission, we amended the application to reduce the height of the turbines - all turbines are now proposed to be up to 220m to blade tip in height. The number of turbines stays the same at 10 turbines and the capacity of the project remains unchanged at 70MW.

As statutory consultees such as West Dunbartonshire Council maintained their objection following the Additional Information submission, it means the project will now go to the PLI stage, which allows for further examination of the application.

Vale of Leven Wind Farm Summary

The proposed development is located on rough grazing moorland east of the Vale of Leven area. It is estimated that the wind farm, if consented, would generate the electricity equivalent demand of over 59,000 homes each year.

The Vale of Leven Wind Farm project includes a proposed community benefit package of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity (index linked) per annum. Although the turbine height has reduced, the installed capacity of 72MW remains the same - this means the proposed Community Benefit Fund of £360,000 per annum for the lifetime of the project remains unchanged. In addition to community benefit, we are committed to offering shared ownership of the project, giving the local community the opportunity to invest in the wind farm.

We are a member of the Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce and we are committed to working with local businesses and commissioned the Chamber to produce a Local Supply Chain paper - we want to ensure that the project's environmental and economic benefits stay in the local area should the project be consented.

Next Steps

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update on the Vale of Leven Wind Farm proposal and we would welcome the opportunity to meet and/or answer any queries on the proposed development.

We would like to put on record our thanks to residents and the local and neighbouring Community Councils for their input into the planning process to date.

Yours sincerely

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