

Countryside Access Forum
Thursday 28th October 2010
11.30am Grantfield Conference Room, Lerwick

Minutes

Present:

Jonathan Duncan	Outdoor Access Officer, SIC
Claire Linton	SIC, Administration (Minutes)
Ian Walterson	A.S.C.C (Chair)
Steve Mathieson	Visit Scotland
Austin Taylor	Heritage Manager

Apologies:

Jill Blackadder	Shetland Field Studies Group
Abigail Robertson	Equestrian Association
Alec Miller	Shetland Anglers Association
Paul Harvey	Shetland Amenity Trust
Denise Woodford	SNH

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

This meeting was called to discuss the windfarm addendum and nothing else is on the agenda. The forum sent a response last year to the original Viking Energy application for the windfarm. There isn't much in the addendum about access and a response has to be sent before the 19th November 2010. Austin said that the forum has been formally consulted as they submitted comments last year but it might be a case that the forum doesn't have anything to add on their comments. Steve asked if anyone from Viking Energy came to any access forum meetings to discuss the windfarm? As this would have been useful. No one had come to any of the meetings.

Austin asked if this application is clear and is it going to have an impact on the forum? Jonathan has asked David Thomson for clarification but hasn't heard anything back from him and Sheila has spoken to him before as well. Iain has had a look at section 19 which looks at access and he read out parts of it including the visibility of turbines, how it will be different for residents and how it would create additional amenity with the roads they propose to build but there will be restricted areas. The forum would need to seek clarification and more details on access. Steve asked how restricted will these areas be? Are they going to be fenced? Austin said that we need more clarification and some of the statements are very vague. Jonathan said that during construction you would hope that there are restricted areas.

Iain said that he had read that the land proposed to be used isn't a priority for tourists, walkers and cyclists. There currently isn't any route for cyclists and it isn't an easy place to get to. Iain asked if it would be possible if we could add more routes to the CPP? Austin said that this would make the council liable and funding would need to be found and maintenance but there could be a condition that Viking Energy would need to do this and it would need to be

clear. Steve asked what kind of roads are they going to make? Austin said that it would probably be stone gravel. Iain mentioned that if it were just going to be a stone gravel road then with the weather and the steepness of some of the hills then they would get damaged. Viking Energy also has ideas to floating roads similar to what the army use for when there is flooding in bad weather. Austin said that it would be possible that areas have restricted access for 3 months for construction and maintenance and it would be useful to know this for sure. Iain said that construction will be over 5 years and only in the summer months.

Steve asked if we could ask someone from Viking Energy to come to one of the forum meetings? Before the 19th November if possible? Austin said that it would be a good idea to use previous minutes of the forum and comments by forum members to send away to Viking Energy for clarification. Iain said that if we send them questions and have a meeting after their closing date then we should have more clarification or have someone from Viking Energy to come and speak to the forum.

Steve said that they haven't specified where their visitor centre will be or if it will even be a building etc. Jonathan said that the number of local people using these access routes would increase if there are roads/tracks. Iain said that there needs to be clarification of there is an access management plan.

The next meeting of the forum will be in the first half of December 2010.

Iain thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.