



Durness Renewable Energy Project Newsletter 2

PLANNING AND SCHEDULING A RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME FOR DURNESS

Early March was the first screening meeting with the planning department of the Highland Council in Dornoch with Alan Todd, Scottish Natural Heritage Renewable Energy casework advisor Roger McMichael, Renewable Devices, Technical Consultant Stuart Hamilton - currently carrying out studies for the Durness Community - Hi Community Energy Company Jon Priddie and Durness renewable Community Animator Ronnie Lansley. At this meeting a step by step analysis of the draft Environmental Overview for Durness was taken and discussed as a screening exercise prior to a formal request for a Scoping Opinion which is likely to call for a full Environmental Impact assessment, and a bird study. Anyone interested, and with the appropriate experience, should contact Ronnie regarding the bird study

A Scoping Opinion is required for all aspects of planning to discover what information is required prior to submission of a formal planning application. The meeting proved very positive and the scheme is on track for a planning application to be submitted approximately one year from now.

A grant application has been submitted to commission Scottish Southern Electricity Board for a budget line feasibility study to determine the connection options available and line reinforcements that may be necessary.

In the near future there will be a public meeting - the date yet to be arranged with a day or so of having displays available in the hall for folk to have a look at, pictures, maps, and examples of places like Ghiga and ideas for inclusion in a community investment plan. The results of the Environmental overview and technical studies will form the basis of the information provided. Also at this public meeting formal approval will be sought from the community to continue with the development on their behalf.

Ronnie

Ronald Lansley
Secretary
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