

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Gavin Parker - Chair
Tweedsmuir Community Council
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Tweedsmuir
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Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government
Glasgow
G2 8LU

24.02.23

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Planning application: Oliver Forest Windfarm Land North of Menzion Farm, Scottish Borders
Ref: SBC 22/01924/SCO Scottish Gov:ECU 00004669

We are writing in response to the above proposals to develop a windfarm in Tweedsmuir.

Our comments are as follows-

- The community recognises the significant contribution wind generated energy can make to achieving carbon neutral energy production.

Tweedsmuir is a small, geographically dispersed community. There are already 2 established windfarms in the Tweedsmuir Community Council area – Glenkerie (Ventient Energy) and Clyde Borders (SSE) within the Tweedsmuir Community Council area. A third windfarm Whitelaw Brae (BayWa r.e.) is currently under construction.

The recently updated Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan highlighted that local residents really value the beauty of the landscape and stressed the importance of retaining the unspoilt and special landscape of the area. These proposals will site an additional windfarm in a prominent, central position within the community. A majority of households will have sight of some if not all of the proposed turbines, in addition to those already visible. These turbines will therefore have a significant visual impact across the community, substantially altering the nature of the views of the landscape currently enjoyed by residents.

Neighbouring communities are rightly being informed and consulted on these proposals. However, as was made clear in your initial letter to Community Councils '*Our current studies show limited or no visibility from Broughton, Moffat and Biggar*'. We are concerned that given the significantly larger populations of the communities of Moffat, Broughton and Biggar, any support they lend to this proposal, will significantly outweigh any concerns or objections raised by the residents of Tweedsmuir.

- Another priority highlighted by residents through the Community Action Plan was the need to develop Tweedsmuir as a place to visit to experience the unique environment, heritage, and culture. Plans are under underway to develop small scale sustainable tourism, contributing to the sustainability of the community. The siting of the proposed windfarm, particularly on the main access route into Tweedsmuir will impact upon our ability to attract visitors to the area.

A concern has also been raised -

- about the potential for this development to impact upon local private water supplies during the period of both the enabling works and operation
- the impact of excavating and subsequently siting large areas for laying of concrete foundations on surface water and water run off

Should this proposal go ahead the residents of Tweedsmuir will be further impacted by wind turbines and/or commercial forestry. The resources associated with our relatively remote rural community will continue to be developed to the detriment of residents.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Parker

Chair: Tweedsmuir Community Council

Copies sent via email to -

Joyce Melrose, Admin Officer, Energy Consents Unit Government

Ruth Semple, Community Liaison Manager, European Wind and Solar, Statkraft

Tweedsmuir Community Council, Community Councillors

Scottish Borders Council, Community Council representatives

www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk Contact: Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com

Chair: Gavin Parker Treasurer: Brian Bushell Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Lesley Mason; Mark Cullen; Ralph Glatt;

Resilient Communities contact: Lesley Kirkwood