

Meeting	Bingally - Community Liaison Group
Date	19 May 2026
Time	7pm
Location	Cannich Hall

Attendees	Position
Irfan Ahmad (IA)	Project Manager, SSEN Transmission
Abbie Mcilgorm (AM)	Assistant Project Manager, SSEN Transmission
Kelly Scott (KS)	Lead Community Liaison Manager, SSEN Transmission
Lucy Ibison (LI)	Community Liaison Manager
Heather Macgillivray (HM)	Stakeholder Engagement & Social Sustainability Coordinator, BAM
Brian Walker (BW)	Project Director, BAM
Dr Georgina Parker (GP)	Strathglass Community Council
William (Bill) Smart (BS)	Glen Urquhart Community Council
Jeannine Mansell (JM)	Strathglass and Affric Community Company (SACC)
Brad Collins (BC)	Resident (Cannich Village Store)
Steven Towell (ST)	Resident (Tomich)
Jim McAuley (JMc)	Resident
Carolyn Mecia (CM)	Tomich Residents Association
Roddie MacLennan (RM)	Strathglass Community Fund (CSF), Strathglass Shinty Club (SSC), Cannich Sports and Recreation (CS&R)
Apologies	Position
Cath Curd	Resident (Community Energy Scotland)
Cllr David Fraser	Ward 12 – The Highland Council

1.0	Introductions and apologies
1.1	Each member of the group introduced themselves
1.2	GP advised Cllr David Fraser may be willing to Chair the group and asked if he would be attending. KS advised due to an administrative error, DL was only made aware of meeting that afternoon, which understandably left him unable to attend the inaugural meeting. Agreed he would be asked for his views in regards to role of Chair.
	Post meeting note: Cllr Fraser has indeed kindly agreed to Chair the CLG.
2.0	Purpose of the CLG
2.1	KS advised CLGs commonly held by SSEN T across the North of Scotland with the purpose of building strong connections with local communities, creating forum of discussion to help mitigate impacts and identify benefits.
2.2	KS furthered that there are many additional communications platforms SSEN T will utilise during construction such as door knocks, newsletters, project webpage and distribution lists
3.0	Discussion and agreement of TOR
3.1	KS went through the TOR in high level detail, explained the aim of the session would be to agree on certain details as a group. The TOR would then be updated and redistributed for agreement from the group.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday - 7pm accepted as a generally suitable/preferable date and time • Cannich Hall agreed as best location, but option for hybrid or dial in should be explored (limitations with lack of hall wifi)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group agreed more frequent meetings than quarterly would be beneficial until impacts of construction are understood once construction underway. Agreed around monthly may be more suitable throughout summer
3.3	A request was made regarding recording to allow for transcripts to be produced – whilst difficulty will be greater due to lack of hall WIFI, KS agreed to take away for consideration
4.0	Project Update
4.1	<p>Project Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA went through overview and advised intention was to commence in June, July/Aug looking more likely now due to completion of planning conditions IA was asked if they had a firmer idea when, IA advised they don't and that the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) was main condition to be completed, currently with review with The Highland Council (THC). Concerns were raised re volume of traffic, vehicles, speeds and a request for Community Council collaboration. ST asked about the location of site cabins. BW advised they'd be situated northerly, c.500m up the access track by the trees against face of hill, BAM would then construct Northern Compound – main compound not going to be there for duration but main access. It was requested by the group that colour is considered carefully, with cabins to be green or brown to help the cabins blend in due to key walking area and wish to ensure they blend in as much as possible to the landscape. Q regarding visual impact of bellmouth and signage. BW advised bellmouth required to allow access for larger vehicles, as such first 400m of access will be tarmacked. First part of bellmouth adopted by THC so needs to meet their design standards. There will be signage to direct traffic but requires a careful balance to find sweet spot. JM advised group Affric Kintail Way crosses over forestry track so section needs to be diverted, and the Community Company is meeting with SSEN T on Tuesday 26th to walk through diversion route and having proper fencing. Q regarding nesting birds, IA explained that RSPB are a main stakeholder and bird surveys then bat surveys are carried out in discussion with RSPB and that a ECOW (Ecological Clerk of Works) will also be on site
4.2	<p>Pre-Construction Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA updated on pre-construction activity Request raised regarding potholes in car park and if the project can do something about it especially if contractors use it (contractors staying in Glen Affric Holiday Park, SSEN T using for meetings etc). Preference from CLG would be tarring and ask was furthered re consideration of installing EV charging units. SSENT will take away and consider what they can look at actioning out with the Community Benefit Funding (CBF). BW was asked about the communication set up as enquiry about starlink base to feed the compound. BW confirmed there would be starlink.
4.3	<p>Accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA/BW talked through the different locations intended to house workers and advised of peak staff timescales (Mid 27, end=28, start 29), advising minibuses will be used to site from housing and assuring there will be a focus on toolbox codes, codes of conduct and expected behaviours. JM stated the update is much appreciated and reassuring re the use of facilities like Cannich Shop. CM asked how many workers are expected at Tomich, IF advised between 20/25 beds there. Further questions arose regarding working patterns, age range and concerns regarding contractor conduct, drinking culture and local impact BW advised age range between 16-60, staff work in patterns and BAM need to attract a workforce to ensure they have the best sub-contractors. Staff are signed up to code of conduct and there is a zero-tolerance approach. Furthered that whilst he can't talk in absolutes, the industry has changed a lot, as have young people and staff are often concentrating more on the gym in their downtime. BS mentioned there used to be a police presence locally, but this has been reduced and suggestion was made for the project to consider funding for additional local presence.
5.0	Additional Questions
5.1	Environmental Mitigation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM asked about environmental mitigation and avoidance of native species. BW advised BAM will employ an Environmental Clerk of Works (ECOW) for site works and IA advised SSEN T have an Environmental team and the project has a dedicated Environmental Manager. A Facebook post regarding damage to Bluebells was referenced, discussion ensued re public misconceptions and a plea from SSEN T to take any queries to them directly in first instance to clear up any hearsay. SSENT/BAM were asked to signpost to academic research and provide more details, sources and basis in response to these types of queries.
	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for local employment were raised. BAM advised the company doing earthworks are looking to recruit locally and Global Infrastructure are also looking to take someone on. There will be opportunities and there is a big focus across the industry on early careers.
	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CLG asked who to contact if there are issues. KS advised herself in first instance for time being and that contact details available on the TOR but also the Bingally project webpage. These will be updated once new Liaison Manager is in post.
6.0	For next meeting
	Determined next meeting would take place either 16, 23, 30th June (dependent on staff availability)
	<p>The group discussed potential agenda items/requested attendees at next meeting and determined the following would be beneficial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire risk considerations; mitigation and implementation The role of environmental staff during construction projects Local knowledge sharing; what do SSEN T/BAM need to know?

Actions.

Number	Action / Update	Owner	Open/Closed
1.	Consider request re transcripts of meetings		
2.	Consider use of colours for site cabins to blend with landscape	BAM	Open
3.	Review options to reduce visual impact of bellmouth and entrance	BAM	Open
4.	Confirm approach to managing traffic around school times	SSEN Transmission / BAM	Open
5.	Review condition and potential improvement of local car park, including EV charging	SSEN Transmission	Open
6.	Confirm communication routes and update contact details when CLM changes	SSEN Transmission	Open
7.	Explore feasibility of improved connectivity at hall (for hybrid meetings / transcription)	SSEN Transmission	Open
8.	Consider request regarding additional policing support	SSEN Transmission	Open