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Revision	V1
Function	Major Projects

Meeting	Beauly Community Liaison Group
Date	16/08/22
Time	7pm

Alyth Substation CLG Attendees and Apologies:

Attendees	Representation
CLlr David Fraser - DF	Councillor and Chair of CLG
John Stewart - JS	Kilmorack Community Council
Bill Fraser - BF	Kiltarlity Community Council
Steve Byford - SB	Kilmorack Community Council
Lee Wilson - LW	SSEN Transmission
Lesley Dow - LD	SSEN Transmission
Rob Slaughter - RS	SSEN Transmission
Lauren Riach - LR	SSEN Transmission
Simon Hall - SH	SSEN Transmission
Matthew McKessick - MMck	SSEN Transmission
Sally Cooper - SC	SSEN Transmission
Apologies	Position
Duncan McCall - DMc	SSEN Transmission

Minutes

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Introductions and Agenda</h1>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Safety Moment 2.Previous meeting notes, outstanding actions 3.Noise 4 Project updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a.Beauly 132kV Reinforcement Project b.CPNI Fencing c.Beauly Cluster Asset Replacement Projects 5.'The Pathway to 2030' publication 6.Community experience since last meeting 5. Issues Arising: from SSEN and Issues Arising: from Community 6.AOB and proposed date of next meeting
1.	Safety Moment – SSEN T warned of blue-green algae being prevalent in water bodies. This has recently caused the death of 2 dogs; this is a warning of the potential dangers of taking in or being in water where the algae is present.
2.0	Previous Meeting Notes, Outstanding Actions

Previous Meeting Notes

Outstanding Actions

Actions.

Number	Action / Update	Owner	Open/Closed
1.	Request for agenda to be sent out in advance so that the CLG can input. Note – previous SSEN T correspondence does invite agenda items in advance of meetings.	SC	Open
2.	Link to supplementary information showing screening/planting proposals around the substation entrance is included in these meeting notes.		Closed
3.	Visuals to understand sizes/scale of the asset replacement substations.	LW	Open
4.	Information requested of where the boundary is in relation to the circular features?	SJ/SH	Open

Action 4 - From Previous Meeting Notes

- The track can't go within our land ownership as there's not enough room, so we are looking to minimise spread into Breedon's land by keeping the track as close to our boundary as possible, hence the need to go through the hut circle.



- Action 2 – Link re-sent, **CLOSED**
- Action 3 – SSEN T informed CLG of the creation of a 3D model which will be available at the next consultation showing appearance, size, and scale of the proposed substations. **OPEN**
- Action 4 – SSEN T confirmed a full archaeological excavation carried out to reveal an Iron Age hut circle. Analysis is being carried out and the report will be in the public domain together with the `finds`. Once it is recorded the hut circle will be demolished, the `sister` hut on the other side of the track will be preserved. **CLOSED**

3.0

Noise Monitoring

Rob Slaughter

•Solution as discussed at last CLG:

- Single noise monitor located within substation area. Final location based on power supply & operational requirements, but in the North East quadrant of the site i.e. closest to Wester Balblair.
- Monitor to be stationed for an initial period of one year.
- Monitor to record data across all frequencies, to allow analysis if required e.g. trends or specific complaints.
- Levels from initial period (approx. first month) to be recorded, analysed and effectively establish datum for following year.
- Regularly thereafter, levels to be compared with previous period(s), to establish any trends.
- After one year, review to be held with Environmental Health Department to determine whether monitoring should be extended.

•Status:



- Quotations received and supplier chosen.
- Combination of holidays (SSE and supplier) have unfortunately delayed positioning monitor, however is a priority action to conclude ASAP.


3.1

Update – Bureau Veritas will be installing the single monitor, there have been delays to its` installation due to the challenges to co-ordinate this as people have been on holiday. Agreement that the monitor will be in place before the end of September.

3.2

The community expressed concern around the initial period of 1-year of monitoring, continuing to say that the Redevelopment project will not be completed within this timescale. The Chair explained the lengthy noise discussions

	<p>held at the Planning meeting, saying the new equipment will be noise tested once commissioned.</p> <p>SSEN T clarified that there are two complementary sets of noise monitoring planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first monitoring is the (soon to commence) initial year, which will use a single monitor located within the substation boundary to identify any trends, anomalies or changes in noise levels from the existing substation arrangement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After the initial year, the output information will be reviewed with THC Environmental Health (EH), who will engage the Community for their feedback. The Chair emphasised that the community require assurances that their voice will be heard by EH. SSEN T explained their understanding that EH will liaise directly with the community. The Chair has taken the Action to speak with EH to ensure the community element of the CLG participate in the 2023 noise review. ○ SSEN T confirmed continued reporting on noise through the CLG moving forward, including information from the monitoring. ○ Whether monitoring is extended or curtailed after one year will be a mutually agreed decision, dependent on the information produced to that point and opinion on whether there would be value in extending i.e. it is providing useful data. ○ SSEN T reinforced the value of the community in keeping noise diaries (of even identifying specific instances of high or low noise), which could be correlated with other sources such as the monitor. • Separately, there will be monitoring of the post-construction noise levels, with there being no value in measuring noise levels to ascertain impact of the new equipment until that equipment is commissioned. At this point the owners of Glengarry may be asked to again accommodate a monitor. This monitoring is specifically associated with the new development and will be compared with the predicted levels detailed within the planning submission.
<p>3.3</p>	<p>The community asked whether there is an established protocol for re-setting the SVC, to save the community from reporting any noise?</p> <p>SSEN T stated that there was an existing process based on recalibration after maintenance periods, with the previous occurrence being an unfortunate consequence of a miscommunication. This has since been addressed and moving forward, there will be continued calibration after maintenance, plus additional calibration on a periodic basis, subject to ESO operating requirements for the SVC.</p> <p>The community stated noise can be heard at times of low wind and dry conditions, when the wind picks up it comes and goes and there is not a lot of leeway to the established baseline. SSEN T acknowledges this and is confident that the Redevelopment project will contribute to lower noise levels on site.</p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p>The community asked what the reporting process is for noise. SSEN explained as in the last meeting that first contact should be made via Sally who will escalate this internally, reminding them that there is an internal Noise working group chaired by a director, the previous incident was addressed and closed out promptly.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Beauly 132kV Reinforcement project</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Matthew McKessick, Lauren Riach, Simon Hall</p> <p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission for main substation approved (subject to conditions) at Full Council on 29th June 2022. Formal decision notice received from The Highland Council. • Separate planning applications for the cable sealing end compound and temporary <u>bellmouth</u> off the A831 have now been submitted. <p><u>Environmental Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology investigation of circular structure under proposed access track is now complete. No findings, site confirmed as an Iron Age Round House. • Works to extend badger fencing and close the main sett are scheduled to start late August 2022. • Bat tree surveys are ongoing. <p><u>Main Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has gone through internal assurance review. • Meet the Buyer event is scheduled to be held late September 2022. • Engaged with our Contractor in the final design and preparation for closing out pre-commencement conditions from the planning. • Project due to Start on Site - late October 2022 </div> <div style="width: 25%;">   </div> </div>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>The Council have granted planning permission, subject to conditions. To help improve road safety SSEN T have committed to providing a financial contribution of £133,000 to go towards the delivery of two council-led active travel improvements schemes along the A862. One of these projects is enforcing a 20mph speed limit through Beauly and the other project is the delivery of a pedestrian and cycle route between Dunballoch and the A862.</p> <p>The community questioned this agreement, the location of the active travel improvements and why the community council were not involved in these agreements. It was clarified to the community that this is a developer contribution required by the Council and is not community benefit which is why the community council were not involved in these</p>

	<p>discussions. SSEN T stressed that this was not a negotiation, it is a requirement of The Highland Council placed on SSEN T to assist with road improvements, the Council decided on the figure., the Chair also emphasised the point that this Condition is not a `trade-off`.</p> <p>The community thanked for the explanation saying they were not seeking to interfere with the process.</p>
4.2	<p>The community asked (as some of the earlier conversation was missed due to lack of broadband signal) how the access road will lie following investigation of the round house, and will there be a retaining wall to preserve the structure? SSEN T explained the sketch (Action 4) showing the location of the round house in relation to the ownership boundary. The existing track needs widening back towards the boundary so will cut into the round house, which is why the excavation and analysis have been carried out. Standard practice of cost versus benefit was assessed and it was concluded there is no justification for it, and it will be removed, while the `sister` round house on the other side of the track will remain.</p>
4.3	<p>The community enquired whether there is additional fencing planned when works are complete and asked how wide the existing track will be? SSEN T believe there will not be additional fencing and will check. The community added that any additional fencing would cause them concern, adding that when the quarry leaves the area, they would like this to be a recreational area.</p>
4.4	<p>Main Works – SSEN T explained the aim of the Meet the Buyer event is to provide opportunities for local businesses. The community asked about the comms plan when works commence. SSEN T will be offering 3-month look ahead programmes and additional comms as and when required.</p>
4b.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">CPNI Security Fence Project</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Duncan McCall</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Progress is continuing well and on target -Agreement has been reached with the landowner for environmental improvements which are in the process of being ordered form the supplier. These will include owl, bat, pine marten boxes etc. -The pathway around the north-east of the substation will remain closed indefinitely due to works. </div> <div style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>
4b.1	<p>The community again complemented SSEN T on the fencing project and for listening to and for acting on the community's` original concerns about the appearance of the fencing.</p>
4.c	<h2 style="margin: 0;">West of Beauly - Asset Replacement Projects</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Lee Wilson</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going forward the project will be referred to as West of Beauly – Asset Replacement Projects • Public consultation W/C 20th June held and well attended • Feedback from consultations now collated and we are in the process of responses • 3D modelling contractor engaged for next consultation • Second public consultation to be held in October, dates to be confirmed.
i	<p>SSEN T discussed the project name change, which is to be West of Beauly – Asset Replacement Projects</p>
ii	<p>SSEN T summarized the challenges of these asset replacement projects, particularly in the Aigas area which has limited site options. Comments were made by both parties on the good turn-out and the community's` willingness to engage and understand SSEN T's` explanations of how the selected sites were chosen. The Chair suggested that it would be useful to explain at the next consultation why some sites the community wanted aren't` on SSEN T's` preferred short list. The community said the offer was there to engage re site locations and come up with options and their preferred option, the community are not in agreement that SSEN T's` preferred option is the best option. Another community member went on to say that they understood why SSEN T are initially required to determine the options and then share findings with the community and there should be a stage where feedback affects options to show that people's` views are being considered.</p>

SSEN T confirmed that at the next consultation it is planned to cover how feedback has been considered and explain why some sites aren't suitable.

5.0

Wider activities/projects interfacing with Wester Balblair Substation

Lee Wilson

'The Pathway to 2030' publication

The Electricity System Operator (ESO) published 'The Pathway to 2030' on 7th July 2022 which includes the Holistic Network Design (HND). This sets out the onshore and offshore electricity transmission infrastructure required to meet 2030 offshore wind targets, including Scotwind sites across the north of Scotland and confirms the wider GB programme of reinforcements that have been identified as required to deliver the 2030 offshore wind targets.

Pathway to 2030 Investments

1. Beauly to Loch Buidhe to Spittal 400kV
2. Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV
3. Beauly to Denny 400kV uprating (with SPT)
4. Kintore to Tealing (with connection to Alyth) to Westfield 400kV (with SPT)
5. Spittal to Peterhead 2GW HVDC subsea Link
6. Peterhead to Drax 2GW HVDC subsea link – Eastern Green Link 2 (with NGET)
7. Peterhead to South Humber 2GW HVDC link – Eastern Green Link 4 (with NGET)
8. Western Isles 1.8GW HVDC link

Requirements to Meet 'Pathway to 2030' Investments

Additional infrastructure will be required to facilitate the new overhead lines in the vicinity of our existing infrastructure. We are currently assessing options, which include the extensions to existing substation sites as well as exploring new sites where appropriate.

We are targeting consultation on these aspects early next year.

Project Updates

Western Isles Connection Project Update

- The HND also confirmed the requirement for a new 1.8GW HVDC link from the Western Isles which will replace previous proposals for a 600MW HVDC link.
- Due to the Western Isles Link being increased to 1.8GW the final arrangements for the Western Isles Mainland HVDC Converter station, land cables and connections to the Transmission Network are being re-evaluated. Once completed, the onshore infrastructure requirements for the new 1.8GW Western Isles link shall be shared with stakeholders and will be subject to extensive public consultation

Project Updates continued

• Beauly – Blackhillock 400kV Connection

The project is in early stages of Development, with corridor studies currently ongoing.

- Public consultation events are planned to allow opportunity for feedback to inform design, technology and development of route options going forward.
- 19th September Kilmorack Hall (2-7pm)

- For further details see Project website:

<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/beauly-blackhillock-new-deer-peterhead-400kv/>

Beauly-Spittal 400kV Reinforcement

- The reinforcement will seek to deliver a 400kV overhead line between Beauly and Loch Buidhe and onwards to Spittal.
- Additional infrastructure to support the overhead lines will be required around the Beauly, Loch Buidhe and Spittal areas.
- The project is at an early stage of development following the decision within the NOA; we are currently commencing with the overhead line routing and electrical infrastructure siting processes and determining our consultation and engagement programme.

Events

19th September (2-7pm) Beauly – Kilmorack Hall	26th September (2-7pm) Keith Longmore Hall
20th September (2-7pm) Inverness – Kingsmill Hotel	27th September (2-7pm) Turriff – Baden Powell Centre
21st September (2-7pm) Forres Town Hall	28th September (2-7pm) New Deer Public Hall
22nd September (2-7pm) Elgin – Moray University	29th September (2-7pm) Peterhead – Balmoor Stadium

SSEN T explained the required 8 new schemes to meet 'The Pathway to 2030', with new substations required in the vicinity of existing infrastructure and the Beauly-Denny upgrades to 400kV with substation works at Fasnakyle. The community

	<p>were informed that Lee will be the Development PM for the collective Beaully and the proposed new `Beaully` substation. Assessments are ongoing with existing substations and exploring potential new sites, efforts are being made to get away from Wester Balblair.</p> <p>The community were informed that this is very challenging work with very tight timescales. The first stage of site selection for all the proposed new substations us targeted to be completed during Q1 next year. If a new site is found away from Wester Balblair there will be infrastructure tie-ing into the existing substation. SSEN T continued to say that new software is being used for the site selection process which determines locations of overhead lines. Funding is still required and SSEN T are to present programmes to Ofgem and Scottish Govt – there is a large volume of work to be done.</p> <p>The Chair commented that its good to hear on Lee`s continuity and understand SSEN T`s area of concerns and asked about the monetary value of these investments?</p> <p>SSEN T explained that the projects 1-4 on the above list - following land purchase, the development costs amount to approx. half a billion pounds. (£500m) with overall investment circa £12billion, the main driver is Scotwind. Initial expectation was that Scotwind would provide 10GW power though following the leasing round this has increased and 25GW has been awarded to offshore developers which is driving requirements for the huge infrastructure works.</p> <p>The community commented on the magnitude of obligations on SSEN T on the transmission of power to the rest of the country and requested a resume/schematic showing the volume of energy that is planned compared to what is currently being transmitted so the public can see and get an understanding of these huge requirements. SSEN T agreed to investigate this with BF offering his assistance.</p> <p>The Chair asked how to achieve maximum employment with these projects now and beyond 2030 with the need to build on our engineering expertise and to have support staff such as cleaning, cooking etc and to help local companies gear up for this. SSEN T suggested an item on the agenda to discuss at the next meeting. The community and the Chair commented on the usefulness of this information about the works ahead and commented that the required amount of investment for the 8 projects puts what is ahead into some context.</p>
6.0	<p style="text-align: center;">Community experience since last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaully CLG - for comment
	<p>The Chair reiterated that this item has been added to the agenda, with the community at the heart of these meetings.</p>
6.1	<p>The community reported that there are community concerns re Beaully Cluster site selection, they are keen for other options to be explored. The Chair repeated that the reasons why some sites are not on SSEN T`s short list should be explained at the next consultation.</p>
7.0	<p style="text-align: center;">Issues Arising from: SSEN T?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SSEN-T strategic overview</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Issues Arising from: Community?</p>
	<p>Some of the Community discussed broadband frustrations, suggesting holding face to face CLG meetings a few times each year. SSEN T responded that its understanding was that the community preferred online meetings and would welcome in-person meetings and will leave it to the CLG to decide.</p>

8.0	<h1 style="color: #0056b3;">Any Other Business?</h1> <p style="color: #0056b3; font-size: 1.2em;">Proposed date of next meeting</p>
	<p>Next CLG meeting due in November and the Chair and community asked to bring this forward, so that it is held ahead of the next consultation and to be an in-person event. SSEN T informed that currently trying to coordinate hall bookings and once dates are confirmed it will then try to set the next CLG meeting date ahead of/around these dates.</p>
	<p>Additional Information The following may be of interest for further reading around plans going forward; Scottish boundaries National Grid ESO This info is only based on the National Grid ESO 10 year statement from 2021</p> <p>'Pathway to 2030' – Delivering 2030 Government targets and the transition to net zero (ssen-transmission.co.uk)</p> <p>ScotWind - Our projects - Crown Estate Scotland Includes more background information</p> <p>Useful information - Key statistics - by 2030 Scottish generating capacity 30-41 GW, Scottish demand around 6 GW, therefore 24-35 GW to be exported to England via terrestrial and marine connections. There is currently 8.2 GW of generation on SSEN's T network.</p> <p>Network capacity needs increasing from 8.2 GW to 30-41 GW, a five fold increase if they all come to fruition For reference, a large wind farm like Stronelairst is around 200 MW, Coire Glas pumped storage is 1.5 GW (1.5 GW = 1500 MW)</p>

Actions.

Number	Action / Update	Owner	Open/Closed
1.	Re-sent link re planting around substation entrance	SC	Closed
2.	Aim to have noise monitor in-situ before the end of Sept 2022	RS	Open
3.	To request that Environmental Health ensure community involvement in the 2023 noise review.	DF	Open
4.	To ensure at next Asset Replacement consultations info is provided to the community as to why their preferred site/s are not on the SSEN T short list and to include an explanation as to the chosen search area.	LW/SC	Open
5.	To create a visual showing current power levels around the main nodes – e.g., Beauly, Spittal, Blackhillock and onwards transmission to what is planned for 'The pathway to 2030' with the aim of helping communities and those non-technical understand SSEN T's obligations. BF kindly offered to assist.	BF/LW/SH	Open
6.	Discussion at next meeting on how to maximise local employment and ensure that local companies are geared up for the work ahead – to include both engineering related positions and supporting roles.	LD	Open
7.	<p>To find out whether there will be any additional fencing?</p> <p>ii. To confirm width of the access track</p>	SH/MMck	Closed

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