

# Skye Reinforcement Project

## North Skye - Area 1

### Community Liaison Group

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting title</b>	Skye Reinforcement – North Skye – Area 1- CLG – <b>Meeting 2</b>
<b>Date / Time / Location</b>	22 April 2026, 7pm, Old Struan School
<a href="http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/skye-reinforcement">www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/skye-reinforcement</a>	

<b>Attendees</b>	
Raymon Barnett	Waternish Community Council
John Laing	Dunvegan Community Council
Mali Maclennan	Dunvegan Community Trust
Niall Till	Struan Community Council
Elizabeth Blair	Kilmuir Community Council
Rebecca Henderson	GE Vernova / Dunvegan Resident
Maren Ebeling	SSENT, Community Liaison Manager
Diane Mackenzie	SSENT, Assistant Project Manager, Overhead Line
Phoebe Caulfield	BB, Community Liaison Manager
<b>Minutes by</b> Maren Ebeling, SSENT	

SSENT = SSENT

BB = Balfour Beatty

Community Council representatives referred to as ‘the community’ in the minutes below.

*The meeting followed the following agenda:*

- *Project Update*
- *Construction Traffic Management*
- *Balfour Beatty Borrow Pit Application*

- *Community Benefit Update*
- *Terms of Reference sign off*
- *Meeting schedule / Meeting dates & venue going forward*
- *AOB*

## **1 Welcome**

The meeting was chaired by Maren Ebeling, SSEN Transmission. Introductions were made and attendance taken. Welcom

It was agreed that the slides of any presentation will be shared with the group and published on the website, alongside minutes once agreed by the group.

## **2 Project Update**

SSEN Transmission provided an update on the project, highlighting that discharge of planning conditions are currently being worked on. Whilst this work is in progress planning applications for ancillary developments are expected. SSEN Transmission also explained the different sections of the project and relating contractors. GE Vernova confirmed that RJ McLeod (demobilised at time of meeting) is subcontracted to them.

## **3 Construction Traffic Management**

The group discussed the construction traffic management plans in general and the importance of two-way communication with the community to understand local considerations, including events and services (including school transportation). It was confirmed that Emergency access would never be obstructed and would always take priority.

SSEN Transmission confirmed that overall project construction traffic management plan (CTMP) is expected to be available shortly and will be discussed with the group once available.

SSEN Transmission then presented on the CTMP specific to NorPower only, which covers the construction of the woodpole overhead line between Edinbane Substation and Ardmore only.

The community enquired about speed limits and SSEN Transmission confirmed that HGVs are not to exceed 30mph in built up/habited areas. The community raised strong concerns about impact on tourism from construction traffic, especially at peak time of

construction, highlighting that communities such as Dunvegan are already ‘at capacity’ in terms of traffic during peak tourism times.

The community suggested that summaries of the CTMPs (including details on who to get in touch with if there are any issues) should be made available (physical copy and online) by SSEN Transmission so that community councils are not wholly responsible for disseminating this information. SSEN Transmission confirmed that they will make this information available and will use their distribution channels to publicise. The group discussed further that Community Councils would still be willing to assist with the dissemination of the information to the best of their ability/capacity.

The community asked if exact numbers of vehicles on a monthly/activity-led basis could be shared. SSEN raised that exact numbers per month may be difficult to share due to the reactivity of situations/programmes of works, but might be possible to do by phase e.g. if all helicopter trips will be within the first two months of a programme, this could be shared.

The group raised that terminology needs to be very clear, e.g. clarification of ‘trips’ where a ‘trip’ is a one-way movement e.g. a HGV moving to and from site would be two trips/movements.

As a general note on information sharing the community suggested for SSEN Transmission and Contractors to consider attending existing local events and/or run public open days. SSEN Transmission generally agreed with this approach and will consider how best to put into practice.

#### **4 Balfour Beatty Borrow Pit Application**

Balfour Beatty presented on the proposed Borrow Pit application which relates to the pre-application notice for ‘Borrow Pit 60 (River Snizort)’ which was logged with the Planning Authorities on 03 April 2026, with consultation events running in May and June 2026.

Balfour Beatty shared a physical map of the Borrow Pit location with the group.

During the discussion the community raised the following points:

Since the closure of Struan Primary School, the B885 forms a key school transportation route

The location of the proposed borrow pit, while within Skeabost Community Council area, is on border with Struan. The community therefore enquired if consultations could be held in two locations, to ensure maximum attendance. Balfour Beatty took this away for consideration and highlighted that there will also be the opportunity to discuss at further CLG meetings, online and Balfour being happy to call further meetings. [Post

meeting note: the consultation material is available on [Skye Reinforcement Project Borrow Pit Planning Applications – Balfour Beatty](#)]

## **5 Community Benefit Update**

SSENT Transmission provided an update on the Skye Reinforcement Local Community Benefit Fund. The consultation events led by Jo Rodgers were successful, having received over 200 pieces of feedback. The Feedback will inform the Fund proposal which is expected to be finalised by the end of summer 2026, with the fund opening at the start of next year as per beginning of construction for all project areas. [Post meeting note: further information and updates available on: [Skye Reinforcement Local Fund - SSEN Transmission](#)]

## **6 Next meeting**

It was suggested for the group to meet again in approximately 4 weeks' time to discuss traffic management plans specifically. This meeting might be held online.

In general, it was discussed for the group to meet slight more frequently than quarterly in order to allow for sufficient exchange of information and meaningful discussion.

## **7 Terms of Reference**

It was agreed for SSEN Transmission to re-circulate the Terms of Reference for the group for sign off.

## **8 AOB**

The community raised an incident on the SSEN Spittal to Beauly OHL project, with Murphy as primary contractor, whereby plastic matting used on access tracks burst spilling plastic 'nurdles' into the environment.

SSEN Transmission and Balfour Beatty to confirm at the next meeting if same (or similar) product might be used on the Skye Reinforcement Project. SSEN Transmission also advised that all our works take place under strict environmental controls, with Environmental Clerks of Works (ECoWs) present overseeing work activity.