



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles & District

14 Nov 2024

To: Energy Consents Unit, representations@gov.scot

To: Scottish Borders Council, DC Consultees

ECU00004619 / 24/00512/S36 **Support (qualified)**

The construction and operation of a wind farm comprising up to 13 wind turbines each up to a maximum of 200m to blade tip, energy storage and other ancillary infrastructure.

The Royal Burgh of Peebles & District Community Council (PCC) believes that our community accepts and is generally supportive of the Scottish Government's position on windfarms as set out in National Planning Framework (NPF4) Policy 11 Energy:

- Intent) Renewable energy should be encouraged, facilitated and promoted
- c) Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits
- e) Impacts on communities, landscape, access, roads, historic environment, water, biodiversity and forests are to be expected, but design teams must show regulators how these impacts will be addressed.

In respect of the Leithenwater application, PCC's view is that our community accepts the necessity for windfarms locally and is **broadly supportive, with two qualifications**.

1. Community support for the project is **contingent upon a community benefit and ownership package** being put in place, in line with Scottish Government guidance, to offset the many impacts on our community. Negotiations with Belltown Power are proceeding positively, however a benefits package is not yet in place.
2. This project is highly technical (current application is 565 MB) and a full technical appraisal is beyond the abilities of PCC and general members of the public. PCC would like to stress that, in our view, the community's support for the project is **contingent upon appropriate mitigation measures to address concerns raised by experts**. The RSPB's experts command the respect of our community, and we believe that Belltown Power's 23 Oct 2024 rejection of the RSPB's request to delete/move turbines would not have the support of the community. We ask instead for Belltown Power to agree a resolution with RSPB.

Accordingly, we support this application, with the above qualifications.

Yours faithfully

Peebles & District Community Council

Michael Marshall, PhD
Planning Convener