



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles & District

5 Sep 2024

DC Consultees – Scottish Borders Council by email

Application under Section 42 to vary Condition 2 of Planning Permission 00/00371/FUL to extend the operational period Wind Farm by 5 years to 14th August 2030.

Ref No: 24/00571/FUL Support.

The Royal Burgh of Peebles & District Community Council (PCC) believes that our community accepts the necessity for windfarms locally and agrees that the expert consultation process is working.

We agree that the officer was correct to assess the application against NPF4 and LDP 2024 and we agree with his assessment.

Accordingly, we support this application.

Community Benefit

We are heartened by the statement in the officer's report:

“Against Policy 11 of NPF4 paragraph c) states development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact. As noted, it is understood that the Applicant has agreed to provide community benefit payments to the local community council”

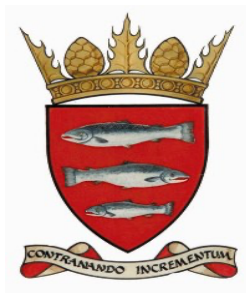
We are also heartened by Innerleithen & District Community Council's inclusion of RWE's email stating:

“I can confirm that RWE will make community funding available each year of any extension period of the Bowbeat Wind Farm to value of the £5,000 per MW of installed capacity, that is operating.”

We note Scottish Government's commitment in *Community benefits from onshore renewable energy developments*¹, Good Practice Principles:

“We will continue at a national level to promote community benefits of the value **equivalent to £5,000 per installed megawatt per annum, index linked for the operational lifetime of the project.**”

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-good-practice-principles-community-benefits-onshore-renewable-energy-developments/>



As many of Bowbeat's turbines fall within our district (see appendix 1), we too look forward to working with RWE on community benefits (per the Principles of Consultation in the same booklet).

Section 42

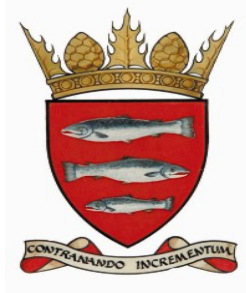
We note that the officer's comments in respect of conditions in the committee report at the top of page 6 appear to be incomplete with respect to Planning Circular 3/2022, and we draw the officer's attention to Annex H (2):

- "The need to attach to the new permission any of the conditions from the previous permission which it is intended should apply to the new planning permission.
- The need to secure any section 75 legal obligation (or other agreement) to the new permission, where it is intended this should still apply."

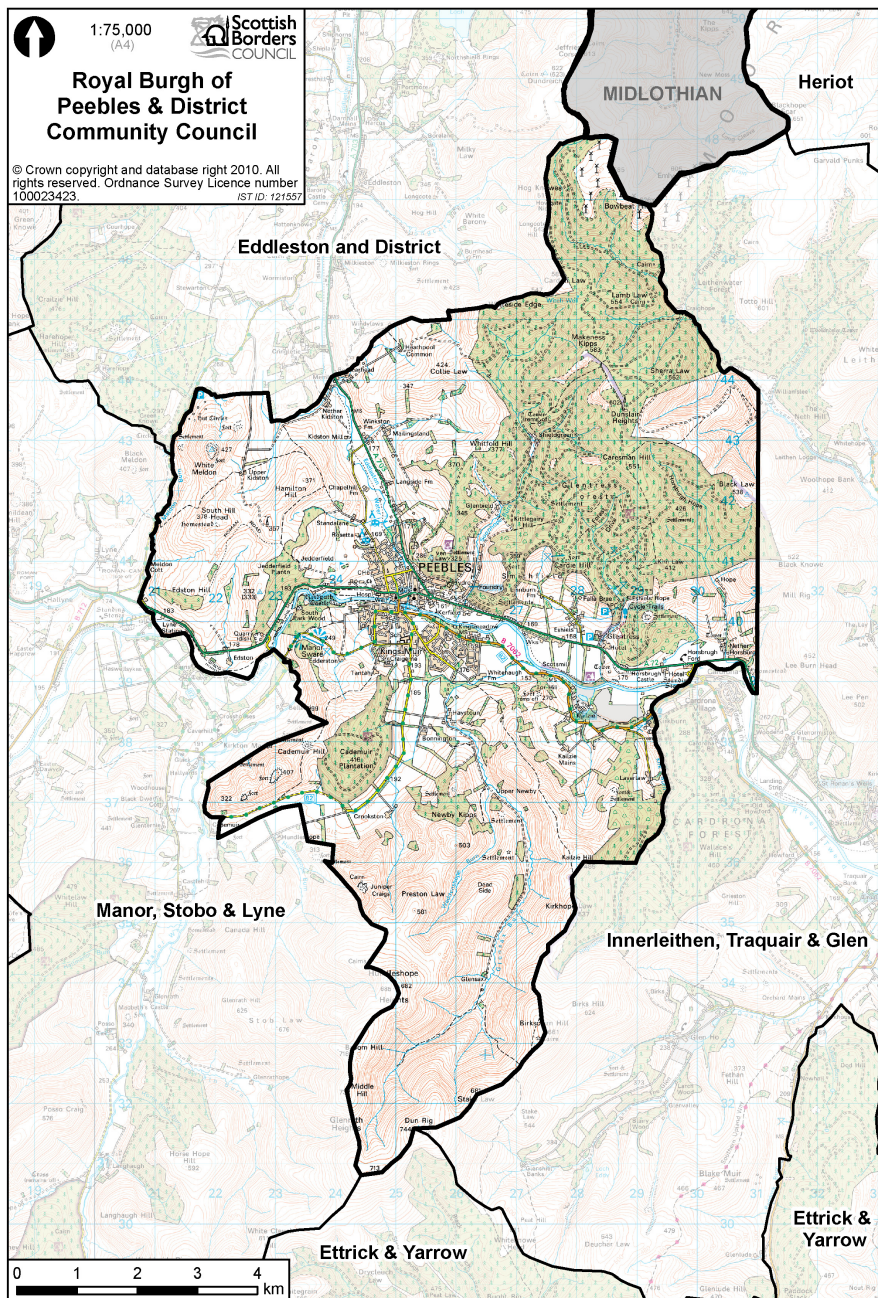
Further, we believe RWE is right when it says that "that there are a number of conditions on the existing permission ... which, although not expressly forming part of this application, can therefore be amended or deleted." Further, since grant of a section 42 application results in a new planning permission, which must be made in accordance with the current plan, council is also free to add such conditions as it thinks are necessary.

Yours faithfully

Michael Marshall, PhD
Planning Convener



Appendix 1



<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/1023/peebles-and-district>

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