

Struan Community Council – Highland Council

Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farm Redesign - Erection and operation of a wind farm for a period of 25 years, comprising of 5 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure.

Highland Council Planning Authority Reference: 23/05638/FUL

Struan Community Council, as representative of the whole community cannot either support or object to the proposal on the basis there are members of the Community both against and in favour of the Development, therefore, would request scrutiny on the following points be given prior to this application gaining consent:

- In addition to this Application for Beinn Mheadhonach, there are several other developers and operators of wind farms looking to upgrade, replace or build from new within the North West of Skye, on the basis all are consented this will result in there being in the region of 100/150 wind turbines of circa 140m to 200m in height, all in a small area in and around Struan fundamentally changing the whole look and feel of the area.
- The construction phase will result in a significant number of AIL and HGV movements during construction. The proposal does not adequately assess the impact of these movements in terms of journey time delay, noise and risk. Nor does it adequately consider the cumulative impact of what will be a several year construction program when the other planned developments are taken into account.

Consequently, it is our contention in relation to the movement of AILs and HGVs that all the Developers with intentions to repower or construct post the SSE repowering application being consented should be required to come together to submit a comprehensive Joint Traffic Management programme for scrutiny by Highland Council and/or the ECU (whichever ultimately has the decision on consenting any of these Applications) and the impacted communities prior to any consent being granted.

- **Community Benefit Payment:** On the basis that this Application is to be decided by Highland Council, the proposed Community Benefit Payment should form part of the Application. It is Struan Community Council's contention that any community benefit should go to the Struan Community as the development is within its curtilage and Struan has been demonstrated to be lacking in many of the amenities that similar communities on the Island already have (e.g. Community Centre, Fibre Broadband, Bus Service, low- cost housing etc.)

Furthermore, as a Community Council we believe there are matters within the application that will significantly impact on the Community, therefore, require particular scrutiny prior to any consideration being given to consenting of this application, as outlined below:

The Community Council would once again request that you take due consideration of the points raised and again request that you take full notice of all submissions from members of this Community in respect of this Application, prior to making your decision.

Alasdair Morrison
Secretary
On behalf of Struan Community Council