



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS. WE ARE ENTERING A YEAR OF MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGE AND POSSIBLY UPHEAVAL, WHETHER IT WILL HAVE A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EFFECT ON REGIONAL PARKS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

Inverclyde Windfarm application No 13/0199/IC - Erection of 8 wind turbines, construction of access tracks and ancillary development (including crane hardstandings, cabling, transformers, culverts), formation of borrow pit, erection of sub-station and control building, formation of car park and temporary construction compounds on land North And East Of Corlic Hill, Greenock

SYRP members attended the Inverclyde Planning Board meeting on 5th November, which included a 'Predetermination hearing' for this application. This new system requires the Planning department to make a recommendation to the Planning Board and the Planning Board to make a recommendation to a meeting of the full Council as only they can make a final decision on whether to allow or refuse the application.

At the Predetermination meeting, Planning Board members were addressed by representatives of the developer, Kilmacolm Community Council, Kilmacolm Civic Trust, Keep Corlic Wild campaign (2 people), SYRP campaign (3 people), Inverclyde Ramblers Assoc', Glasgow Airport, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (CMRP), and the Chief of Inverclyde Planning department. This was followed by the Planning Board members asking the developer, Glasgow airport representative and the Chief planner various questions before drawing the Board members to a conclusion and decision. The unanimous decision of the Board was to recommend refusal of the application to the full Council which will take place on 4th Dec 2014. Other than the developer, nobody addressed the meeting in support of the application; in fact out of the 725 comments sent to Inverclyde Planning Dept, in connection with this application, only one was in support; that speaks volumes.

We were impressed by the Board Chairman forcibly pointing out to Planning Board members and those addressing the meeting that Community Benefit is NOT a planning matter and must NOT be mentioned or discussed. North Ayrshire Review Board needs to learn this too; see Newsletter No 32, August 2014.

It would be too much to report on all the presentations but our own three people covered the background to the formation of CMRP and all the many Planning guidance documents that are clearly contrary to the application, the importance of CMRP for educational purposes for the whole west central belt, the importance of CMRP for a huge range of recreation, the local economy and the need for joined up thinking about not turning the park into an industrial estate.

Glasgow Airport's presentation emphasised that 7.5 million passengers passed through the airport in 2013, there are 4,500 people working at the airport and their absolute priority has to be the safeguard of passengers, aircraft plus people and property on the ground. The airport objected to this application, as they had to the first Corlic Hill application refused by the SNP Government Ministers in 2006. The objection was based on the detrimental effect on the airport radar system and with the impossibility of a technical system of mitigating the radar interference within 3 years (the time limit allowed for a developer to undertake a project after approval), they are emphatic that a 'substantive' approval should not be given. A 'substantive' approval would be if approval was allowed subject to a technical system of mitigation being developed and approved by Glasgow Airport and NATS (National Air Traffic System). The latter are responsible for the safety of the thousands of aircraft overflying the UK air space and control of their radar systems and they too had also objected.

On the 4th December the full Inverclyde Council meeting took place. Before the meeting was the unanimous recommendation by the Inveclyde Planning Board that the application be refused on the basis of seven spelled out very relevant reasons. After a 'debate' three motions were put down:

- 1, that the application be approved (4 votes);
- 2, that the application be refused but only for one reason, namely the detrimental effect on Glasgow airport and overflying etc (12 votes); and
- 3, that the application be refused for all seven reasons (14 votes).

The application was refused on the basis of all 7 recommendations.

We have to assume that the 12 voters are unaware that it is important when refusing an application, to have as many reasons for refusal as possible because of the possibility that the developer may appeal to Scottish Ministers. If that happens and a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) is ordered, Inverclyde Council can major on all seven reasons. The 12 voters risked Inverclyde only being able to major on the airport / overflying aspect thus weakening the scope of their refusal of the application. This demonstrates the danger of the new system; Planning Board Councillors are trained in planning matters and Councillors who are not in the Planning Board are not trained and yet have been given the responsibility for planning decisions.

Other News

Inverclyde windfarm meteorological mast – the 70m / 230 ft mast was blown over during the gale on 17th Oct 2014. This is the third meteorological mast in the park to have been blown over in gales. By luck, this has been at night but just confirms what we have always said, that from a safety point of view, they should not be allowed in Parks.

Hunterston - Scottish Enterprise continue in talks with two potential offshore turbine tenants at the third berth of the Hunterston onshore test site in Ayrshire despite “dampened enthusiasm” due to lower than expected Contracts for Difference budgets.

Other refused applications since our August 2014 Newsletter

For detail see updated list of applications refused below under **updated list of applications refused**

In Renfrewshire - Castlehill

In Inverclyde - Scoggy Bank (but developer has appealed to the Inverclyde Review Body since the application was refused by the Planning Board – Local Review Body meeting 4pm, 4th Feb 2015

Scottish Planning Policy 2014 – the following two paragraphs are concerning in connection with the applications for turbines approved in CMRP for 25 years which developers always ridiculously claim should be interpreted as temporary structures.

“170. Areas identified for wind farms should be suitable for use in perpetuity. Consents may be time-limited but wind farms should nevertheless be sited and designed to ensure impacts are minimised and to protect an acceptable level of amenity for adjacent communities”.

“174. Proposals to repower existing wind farms which are already in suitable sites where environmental and other impacts have been shown to be capable of mitigation can help to maintain or enhance installed capacity, underpinning renewable energy generation targets. The current use of the site as a wind farm will be a material consideration in any such proposals”.

Windfarm & Other Industrial Development Roundup in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION OR LODGED BUT NOT DECIDED (SYRP OBJECTED TO ALL APPLICATIONS)

Inverclyde windfarm – (new name for Corlic Hill 2), Greenock – Inverclyde Renewables LLP, In May 2014, the developers reduced the number of turbines from 10 to 8 x 110m turbines, Application to Inverclyde Council July 2013, No 13/0199/IC & refused by the Council 5/12/14. – see also main article

High Auchenleck Farm, Port Glasgow (just outside park) – application by William Baxter to Inverclyde Council (13/233/IC) for 1 x 75m turbine

South Hourat Farm, Dalry – Screening opinion requested from North Ayrshire Council (13/0187/EIA) for 2 x max' 126.5m turbines

Dykes Farm, Dalry – Screening opinion requested from North Ayrshire Council (13/0122/EIA) for 1 x 37m to hub / 330KW turbine

Dykehead Farm, Dalry – Screening opinion requested from North Ayrshire Council (13/00706/EIA) for 2 x turbines up to 35m high; one in CMRP and one just outside

Plan Farm, Kilbirnie - Screening opinion requested from North Ayrshire Council (13/0616/EIA) for Solar PV array with max capacity 5 MW

Blackshaw farm, West Kilbride - on Blackshaw Hill – Community Windpower Ltd are preparing an application for their biggest turbines yet in CMRP. We expect an application soon for 5 x 492ft / 150m turbines each rated at 4 MW. These would be just south of the Dalry/ West Kilbride road and would be adjacent to and slightly north of, the existing Ardrossan windfarm

Skelmorlie Windfarm – Proposal for either 21 or 16 x 3.5 MW turbines but no further news. Probably gone away

Scroggy Bank, Loch Thom, Greenock – Neil Caskie & Sons, 2 x 45m turbines. Application No 13/0306/IC – refused by Inverclyde Council 22/8/14 but the applicant has appealed to Inverclyde Council's Local Review Body to have the refusal overturned (see *Other News* above).

APPLICATIONS REFUSED OR WITHDRAWN (SYRP OBJECTED TO ALL APPLICATIONS)

Corlic Hill 1, Greenock – 22 turbines refused by Scottish Ministers in 2007.

Leapmoor, Inverkip & Wemyss Bay – The application for 10 x 410 ft / 125m turbines by Community Windpower lodged with Inverclyde Council in July 2006 was eventually withdrawn.

Kaim Hill, Fairlie – application for 5 x 410 ft / 125m turbines refused by North Ayrshire Council on 15/12/09. Fred Olsen Renewables Ltd decided not to appeal to the Scottish Government.

Glenlora Anaerobic Digester, Lochwinnoch – Refused by Renfrewshire Council and on appeal, refused by the Scottish Government.

Glenlora Turbine, Lochwinnoch - An application for 1 x 85m turbine (800KW) refused by Renfrewshire Council, March 2011. No appeal lodged.

Hunterston Multi-Fuel Power Station, Fairlie - Ayrshire Power Ltd's application to the Scottish Government in July 2011 was withdrawn 26/6/12. This development would have been just outside CMRP but would have had a major detrimental effect on the park.

Wings Law, Kilbirnie – Application for 24 x 410ft/125m turbines by Wind Hydrogen Ltd (WHL), refused by North Ayrshire Council. WHL appealed but withdrew their appeal Dec 2010 days before the commencement of Public Local Inquiry (PLI)

Waterhead Moor, Largs – 29 x 112m turbines. Application Lodged 2005 with amended application in 2010 direct to the Scottish Government. CMRP, North Ayrshire & Inverclyde Councils + objected. Application withdrawn October 2011.

Millour Hill 2, Dalry, Community Windpower Ltd – application for 2 x 410 ft / 125m turbines. Application No 12/00526/PP refused by North Ayrshire Council 5/6/13.

Boag Farm, Kilbirnie 2 x 75m turbines, for CRE8 POWER LTD. Outside CMRP but would add to cumulative impact combined with the existing turbines in the park. SYRP objected. Refused by North Ayrshire Council on 10/12/12

Kellybank Cottages, Wemyss Bay - 2 x 33m – application refused by Inverclyde Council, June 2012. Appealed to Local review body and refused again on 9/1/13.

Ladymuir turbine, Kilmacolm- 1 x 46m turbine, 12/0304/IC by Mr & Mrs J Horseman. Just outside CMRP – Application withdrawn August 2013

Leitchland Farm 2, Greenock (just outside park) 1 x 42m turbine, application to Inverclyde Council (13/0168/IC) – application withdrawn.

Leitchland Farm 3, Greenock (just outside park) 1 x 42m turbine, application to Inverclyde Council (13/0318/IC) – application refused 15/1/14.

Sorbie Farm 1, Ardrossan (just outside park) – application by 2020 Renewables Ltd to North Ayrshire Council (13/0236/PP) for 3 x 104.3m turbines – application withdrawn

Flashwood Farm, Dalry –North Ayrshire Council 14/1/14 – Application No 13/00725/PP for 1 x 34.4m turbine, just outside CMRP, withdrawn 8/4/14

Auchenfoyle, Auchentiber Bridge, Port Glasgow –Application by Mr John Dunn for 1 x 70m turbine just outside CMRP. Application No 14/0004/IC refused by Inverclyde Council and the Review Body in Sept 2014.

Castlehill, Lochwinnoch – Renfrewshire Council, Application No 14/0463/PP for 1 x 34.2m turbine in the park. Application Refused October 2014

APPLICATIONS APPROVED OR CONSTRUCTED IN CMRP

Ardrossan, 15 turbines, 2 of which are in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. Built and now operated by Infinis.

Wardlaw Wood, Dalry – 6 x 410ft/125m turbines constructed in 2006 by Community Windpower Ltd. Operational

Millour Hill 1, Dalry, 6 x 125m/410ft turbines – Community Windpower. A second application to North Ayrshire Council was approved following refusal of the first application and an appeal to the Scottish Government. Operational.

Millour Hill 3, Dalry, Community Windpower Ltd – application for 2 x 410 ft / 125m turbines. Application No 13/0064/PP approved by North Ayrshire Review Body 18/6/14.

Sorbie Farm 2, Ardrossan (just outside park) – application by 2020 Renewables Ltd to North Ayrshire Council (13/0627/PP) for 3 x 104.3m turbines – approved by North Ayrshire Review Body 18/6/14

Murdieston Farm, Greenock – 2 x 22m / 20 KW turbines approved by Inverclyde Council 8/12/11. Operational

Cornalees Farm, Inverkip – 1 x 20.6m / 20 KW turbine approved by Inverclyde Council 24/1/2012. Operational

Underheugh, Inverkip, Ardgowan Estate – 3 x 90ft / 27m, 20Kw turbines approved by Inverclyde Council 20/2/12

National Offshore Wind Turbine Test Facility, Hunterston, Fairlie – 3 x 10MW turbines each up to 651ft / 198.5m high and 3 anemometers for five years. Approval has been given by North Ayrshire Council for an application by Mitsubishi, Siemens and Scottish Enterprise in Oct 2011. One turbine is operational and one under construction. These enormous turbines are just outside CMRP but have a very detrimental effect on the view to Arran and the Cumbraes from CMRP and Kaim Hill in particular – see separate article on page1

Kelly Mains 1, Wemyss Bay – 1 x 34.2m / 50 KW turbine (11/0235/IC) approved by Inverclyde Council on appeal 12/12/11.

Kelly Mains 2, Wemyss Bay – 1 x 42m turbine. Application to Inverclyde Council No 13/0077/IC refused by Council 5/6/13, appealed to Scottish Government and application granted Feb 2014.

Kelburn, Fairlie – After a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) Scottish Ministers approved 14 x 100m turbines against the decision of North Ayrshire Council. Operated by RES

Leitchfield Farm 1, Greenock (400m outside CMRP) – 1 x 47.15m high / 100 kW wind turbine approved by Inverclyde Council 22/8/12.

Finnockbog farm, Inverkip, Ardgowan estate – Application No 12/0274/IC, 2 x 47m / 225 KW turbines approved by Inverclyde - 20/11/12

Shielhill Farm, Inverkip – 1x 34.38m / 50 KW turbine. Application (12/0286/IC) for this turbine situated beside the Greenock Cut and close to CMRP's Greenock Cut Visitor Centre refused by Inverclyde Council 9/1/13 and approved by the Scottish government on appeal.

Cairncurran Farm (just outside CMRP, near Corlic Hill) – Application to Inverclyde Council, No 12/0357/IC for 1 x 53.7m turbine, refused by Council 6/3/13; appealed to Local Review Body 21/6/13 and application granted 2/10/13.