



Beaw Field Wind Farm

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

March 2016





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Executive Summary

Peel Wind Farms Yell Limited (PWFY) is proposing 17 three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbines up to 145m tip height, with a total installed capacity in excess of 50MW on the Island of Yell in the Shetland Isles. PWFY is committed to developing infrastructure projects in a responsible manner alongside local communities. As such it aims to meet or exceed consultation requirements under the planning laws and Scottish Government best practice guidelines.

A number of traditional and online methods of communication were used to disseminate information and gain feedback from local stakeholders. Throughout the consultation period PWFY ensured that senior members of the project team were available to hold discussions with local stakeholders as required. Feedback indicated that this was useful and appreciated.

Two rounds of public exhibitions were carried out in April and October 2015. Key findings from April 2015 were:

- 82% were strongly or reasonably in support of Beaw Field Wind Farm
- 44% wished to see a development of a smaller number (around 18) of larger turbines (up to 145m tall), whilst 37% wished to see a larger number (up to 28) of smaller turbines (around 120m tall)

- 100% of those who responded stated they found speaking directly to the project team helpful
- 100% of respondents felt very informed or adequately informed by the information provided at the event

At the second set of public events, in October 2015, the key findings were:

- 92% had also attended the first exhibitions
- 92% of those who attended the second exhibitions felt the design modifications were an improvement
- 100% of respondents were supportive of the wind farm, 88% strongly and 12% reasonably

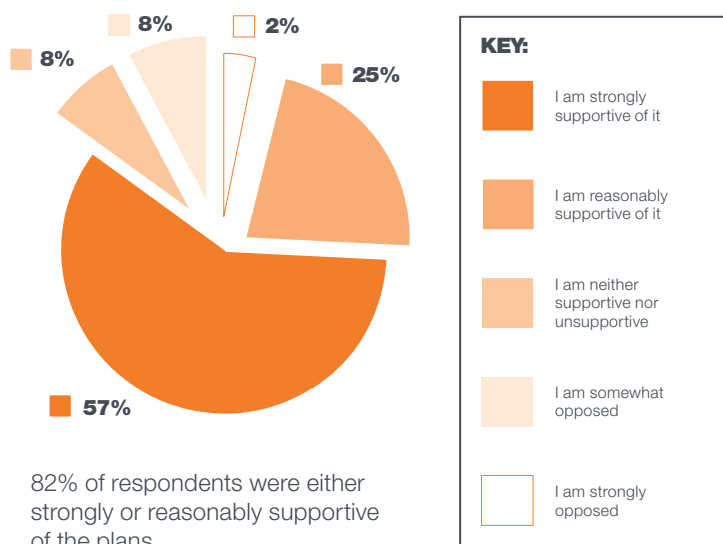
PWFY is committed to providing a community benefit package equivalent to £5,000 per MW per year of installed capacity, equivalent to at least £250,000 per annum. Discussion about how this will be provided and used by local people is under way and will continue should the project receive consent.



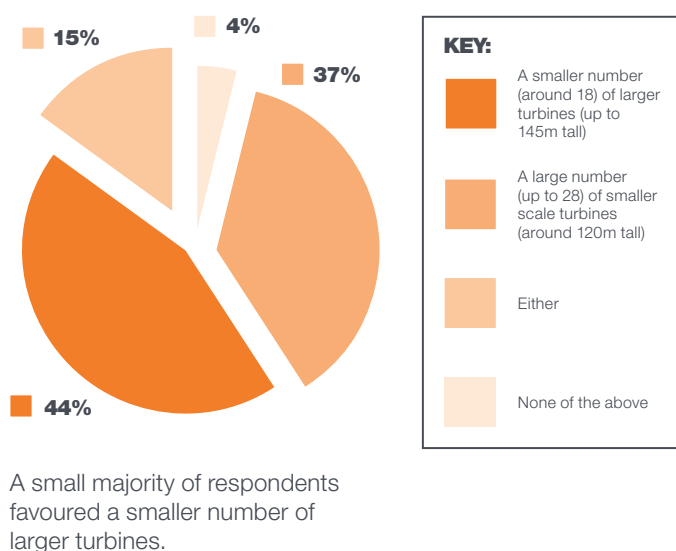
Summary of support for Beaw Field Wind Farm

First Exhibitions April 2015

Which of the following best describes your views about Beaw Field Wind Farm?

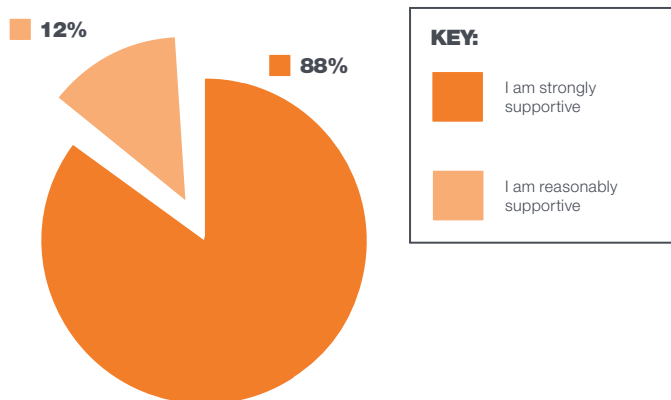


Which of the following would you prefer to see at Beaw Field Wind Farm?

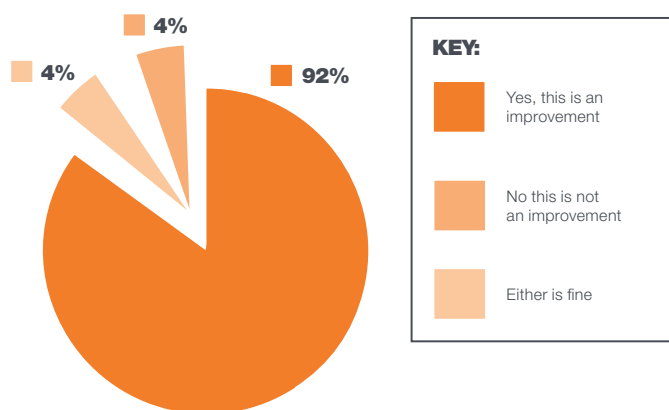


Second Exhibitions October 2015

Which of the following best describes your views on the Beaw Field Wind Farm?



Do you consider the design modification to be a positive or negative change?



For a full breakdown of results please see Section 4



1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared by Orbit Communications (PR and Public Affairs) Ltd on behalf of the Applicant, Peel Wind Farms (Yell) Ltd (hereafter 'PWFY'), in relation to its application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit (ECDU) for consent to construct and operate a 17 turbine wind farm at Beaw Field, near Burravoe on Yell in the Shetland Islands.

With an installed capacity above the 50MW threshold, the Beaw Field Wind Farm application will not be determined by the local planning authority, in this case Shetland Islands Council. Instead, as a proposal of national significance, an application for consent is made to the Scottish Government under S.36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The local planning authority and other stakeholder organisations are statutory consultees to the application determination process and are required by statute to provide an assessment of the application.

PWFY, in bringing forward the application, has undertaken comprehensive community engagement regarding the application, consistent with its ethos to be a best practice developer and to ensure that local communities have been able to input to its proposals. The community engagement for the Beaw Field Wind Farm has exceeded the minimum statutory requirements for consultation expected of a Major application determined under the Planning Acts as set out in Part 2, Regulation 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008.

This report outlines the consultation activity undertaken, analyses the feedback received and details the outcome of the consultation in terms of alterations made to the project in light of feedback.



1.1 Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Requirements

The following describes the statutory pre-application consultation requirements for Major applications submitted under the Planning Acts. This is provided by way of background to the consultation process that is expected of significant development proposals. While this applies to Major applications under the terms of the Planning Acts, PWFY has applied this to the Beaw Field Wind Farm project as a measure of good practice and to provide a basis for designing and implementing its consultation strategy.

The statutory PAC requirements for Major applications submitted under the terms of the Planning Acts are summarised as:

- Consult every community council whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated;
- Provide each relevant community council with the Proposal of Application Notice;

- Hold at least one public event where comments can be made to the prospective applicant. The event should be designed to encourage meaningful participation; be reasonably accessible; and if appropriate take place on a number of dates, at different times and different places to maximise attendance;
- Advertise the public event at least seven days in advance in a local newspaper (following the prescribed advertisement requirements); and
- Collate a PAC Report in accordance with requirements to confirm that PAC has taken place in line with statutory minimum requirements and any further requirements set by the planning authority in response to the PAN.

PWFY's consultation in relation to the Beaw Field Wind Farm application has significantly exceeded the above requirements as demonstrated in the summary below.

Requirement	Not met/met/exceeded
Consult every community council within or adjoining the Site	Met
Provide a PAN to every community council within or adjoining the Site	Exceeded PAN sent to 29 stakeholders, including Yell community council and other local groups and consultees
Hold at least one public event to encourage meaningful consultation	Exceeded Two sets of events each held over two days for a total of 4 events in April and October 2015
Advertise the public event at least seven days in advance in a local newspaper	Exceeded Advert placed 14 days before the event in printed paper and online Shetland News
Prepare a PAC report	Met

As well as exceeding the statutory requirements under the planning laws, PWFY believes it has also met and exceeded the Scottish Government's National Standards on Community Engagement (Planning Advice Note 3/2010 Community Engagement) (Appendix 16).



1.2 Background to the Proposed Development

The proposed Beaw Field Wind Farm will be located on an area of land near Burravoe on Yell, one of the Shetland Islands. The site is currently used primarily as crofting land.

PWFY offered two broad options to the local community. The first was a wind farm of around 17 turbines at a height of 145m, whilst the second was a greater number of turbines, up to 28, but at the reduced height of 125m.

The purpose of this approach was to encourage local people to have a larger say in the development strategy chosen by PWFY. During the first round of public exhibitions, local communities were asked if they would prefer a smaller number of larger turbines, or a series of smaller turbines but in greater number. There was not an outright preference, however a slight majority favoured fewer, taller turbines.

The responses to this question, taken together with environmental and technical studies, led PWFY to refine its proposal and submit an application to the Scottish Government for 17 turbines with a maximum height of 145m.

PWFY conducted detailed studies to assess the feasibility of the site at Beaw Field. There were a number of issues which were researched before submission of this application.

These include (but are not limited to):

- **Ornithology & Ecology:** Ornithological and Ecological studies have strongly influenced the design and will ensure that flora and fauna both on and near the site are not adversely affected
- **Access:** Roads must be of sufficient size and quality to allow access for the turbine components to the Site

- **Grid Connection:** There is an on-going discussion regarding a grid connection to the Scottish mainland. PWFY is part of this discussion with other stakeholders and is confident of a positive outcome
- **Noise:** PWFY has applied relevant national guidelines to ensure noise does not cause disturbance
- **Visual Impact:** Whilst the turbines will be able to be seen from parts of Yell, PWFY has worked with those individuals closest to the site to gather feedback on the design and has addressed as many of those concerns as possible
- **Aviation:** PWFY has held extensive discussions with Scatsta airport and other aviation stakeholders and is confident that a solution is available which will mean the wind farm will not have any impact on aircraft safety

Taking these factors in to account, the final application for the Beaw Field Wind Farm submitted to the Scottish Government consists of:

- Up to 17 turbines with a maximum height to blade tip of 145m; including foundations and transformers (internal or external)
- Approximately 11.1km of access tracks of minimum width 4.5m and verges plus drainage
- Five major and one minor watercourse crossings
- Hardstanding areas for construction and maintenance of turbines
- Electrical substation and control building
- Underground cabling connecting turbines to the substation and control building
- One anemometry mast
- Four borrow pits to provide aggregates for the construction of the wind farm
- A radio communications tower of up to 20m tall

1.2.1 Benefits for the community

Peels vision is to create sustainable environments where people and businesses can flourish and PWFY is committed to providing lasting and tangible benefits to the communities in which it operates.

PWFY is committed to providing a community benefit package at Beaw Field equivalent to £5000/ MW/ year. This benefit package could take many forms and any decisions on this will be taken in consultation with local communities should the project gain consent.

Other benefits are likely to include:

- A habitat management plan focussed on improving habitat for some of Shetlands most iconic species;
- A peat restoration and management plan looking to restore significant areas of degraded poor quality peatland;
- The opportunity for partial Cooperative ownership, giving communities the opportunity to own part of the scheme;
- Substantial business rate payments to Shetland Isles Council.





2. Community Consultation

2.1 About Community Consultation

PWFY was keen to ensure that local people on the island of Yell had a strong say not only on the specific details of the final application, but also on the overall development strategy.

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) (Appendix 4) was submitted by PWFY to Shetland Island Council (SIC) on 13th April 2015 with reference to the company's proposed Beaw Field Wind Farm near Burravoe on Yell. This was formally accepted by SIC on 9 September 2015.

The following section refers to the pre-application community consultation undertaken from the project launch on 11th March 2015 to the submission of an application to the Scottish Government in March 2016.

For a summary of activities, see Appendix 15

2.2 Stakeholders

All residents on the isle of Yell were sent a short postcard to inform them about the Beaw Field Wind Farm Development (Appendix 3) which included information about the public exhibition.

Yell Community Council was sent a modified version of this letter (Appendix 9).

27 Principal 'stakeholders' (Appendix 5) were identified and sent letters about the project. In addition, 470 leaflets were sent to all Yell residents.

2.3 Website

A the same time as the announcement of the first set of public exhibitions on 11 March, the project-specific website for the Beaw Field Wind Farm went live at **www.beawfieldwindfarm.co.uk**.

The website was updated regularly throughout the consultation process and included all public materials relating to the project including, see Appendix 14:

- Scoping report
- Press releases (Appendix 1)
- Exhibition boards (Appendix 8)

- Information leaflets
- Feedback questionnaire (Appendix 12)

The website also contained contact details for the Project Manager for the Beaw Field Wind Farm allowing members of the public to get in touch with a specific named person with any questions.

Since then the site has received 4,224 unique visits and a total of 5,407 page views . Given the relative size of the local population, PWFY feel this points to the website having been a success in helping to keep local people informed.





3. Public Exhibitions

3.1 Locations

Given the location of the Site, it was decided to host the public exhibitions concerning the Proposed Development in both Mid Yell Public Hall and Burravoe Public Hall. The venues were well known to local residents, and had good access for anyone with disabilities or mobility issues. By varying the location, the number of people able to attend was maximised and requirements on public consultation exceeded.

In order for as many people as possible to be able to attend the exhibitions, the exhibitions were open from 2.00pm until 7.00pm to allow people flexibility to visit around any other commitments they may have had. For pictures of the exhibitions see Appendix 13.

3.2 Publicity

The events were publicised via a variety of methods in order to inform people about the proposals and to make as many people in the area as possible aware of the public exhibitions.

This included:

- Public information notices placed in local newspapers (see Appendix 7) on 10th April 2015, two weeks before the exhibition, exceeding guidance.
- A news release issued to local press outlets resulting in significant local media coverage, including a live news piece and interviews from the site of the exhibitions (see Appendix 2).
- Via the dedicated project website **www.beawfieldwindfarm.com**
- Leaflets were issued in advance of both events to every household on Yell on 13th April 2015 (Appendix 10).
- Individual letters sent to local elected members, SIC officials and relevant statutory consultees (see Appendix 6)

- Posters placed in key locations in the local area including (see Appendix 11):

- Toft - Ulsta passenger ferry
- R. Robertson newsagents next to Ulsta Ferry Terminal
- Burravoe Bus Stop notice board
- Aywick shop
- Mid-Yell shop & Post Office
- Hilltop Bar, Mid Yell
- Mid Yell Leisure Centre
- Gutcha Ferry Terminal waiting room
- Cullivoe Shop

- Copies of the exhibitions boards (Appendix 8) were also placed on the website for those unable to attend.

In this respect PWFY used a number of channels to exceed the planning requirement for consultations on major applications. PWFY did not want to rely entirely on the readership of the local newspaper in isolation, rather it wished to encourage a much higher degree of awareness of the events, hence the use of direct mail, posters and targeted correspondence with key individuals.

3.3 Personnel

PWFY does not retain third party companies to man its consultation events; such events are always attended by PWFY staff. In this instance, the public exhibition was manned by the PWFY project team, namely:

- Bernadette Barry (Beaw Field Wind Farm Project Manager)
- Jon England (Development Director)
- Charles Sawyer (Project Assistant)





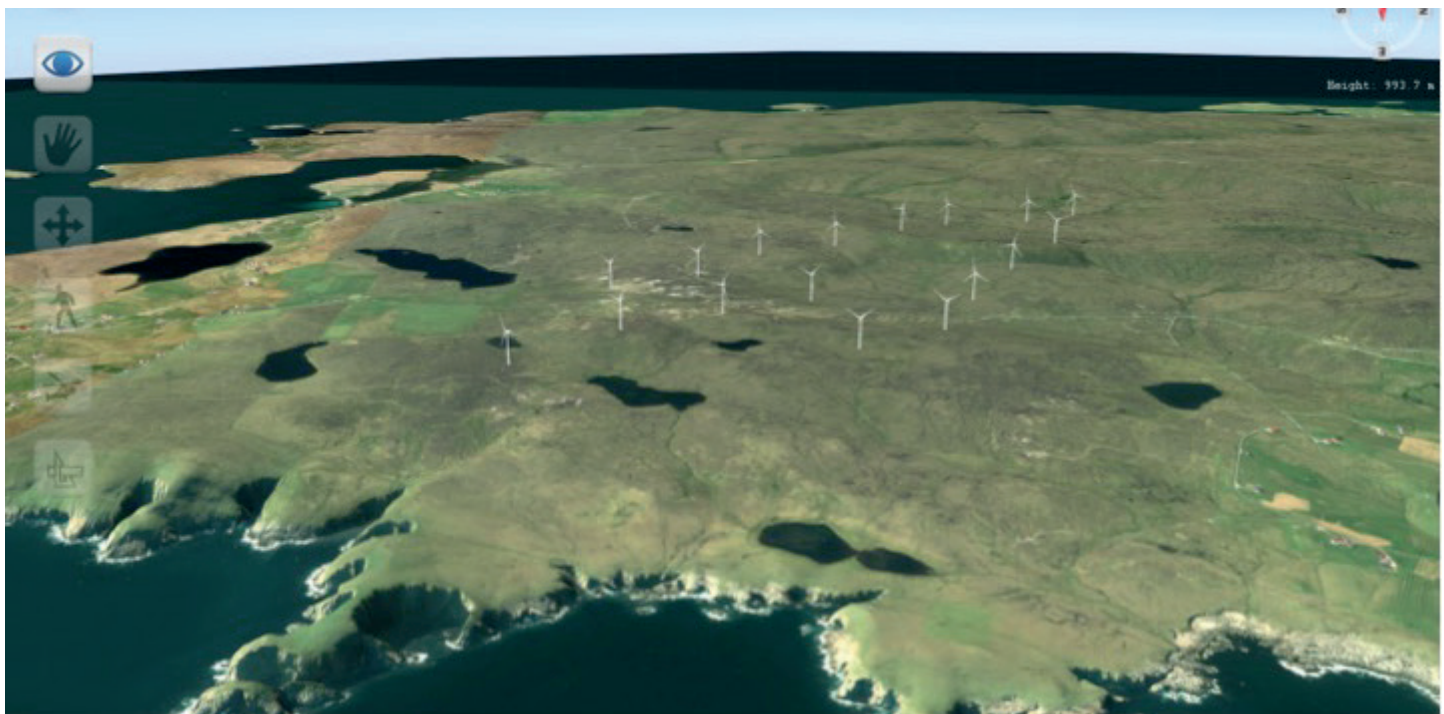
3.4 3D Model

PWFY built a 3D computer model which enabled local residents and other interested parties to see what the wind farm could look like from any location in Yell. The model also shared different layouts to inform residents options on the different options.

Feedback from the events showed that local communities found this to be a very helpful resource.



A larger number of smaller turbines*



Fewer, larger turbines*

*Images shown for illustrative purposes only.



4. Event Feedback

The public exhibitions were an opportunity to collect feedback from residents living near to the Proposed Development regarding their views on the revised proposals. This included a structured questionnaire to encourage feedback on specific aspects of the proposals, as well as space for more general or unprompted comments and suggestions. Copies of the two feedback forms provided are available in Appendix 12.

The population of Yell is less than 1000. By varying the locations of the exhibitions in this highly rural area PWFY

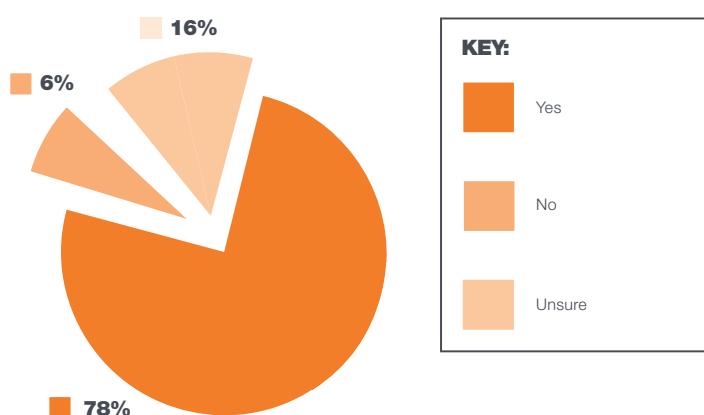
was able to increase the opportunity for local people to attend. Because of the low population of Yell, the numbers attending were in line with our expectations based on our experience in other locations.

The section below summarises feedback received from the exhibitions held in April and October 2015.

4.1 Public exhibitions, April 2015

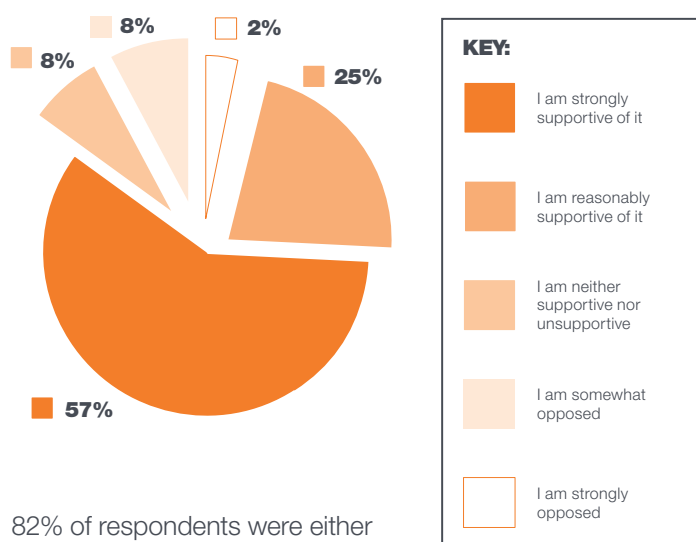
4.1.1 Responses

Q1: Do you feel that onshore wind should play a significant part in Shetland's future energy mix?



Of the 49 respondents for this question, 38 answered 'yes'. This means that 77.6% of respondents agreed that onshore wind should play a significant part in Shetland's future energy mix. 6.1% (3 respondents) answered 'no' and 8 (16.3%) were 'unsure'.

Q2: Which of the following best describes your views about Beaw Field Wind Farms?



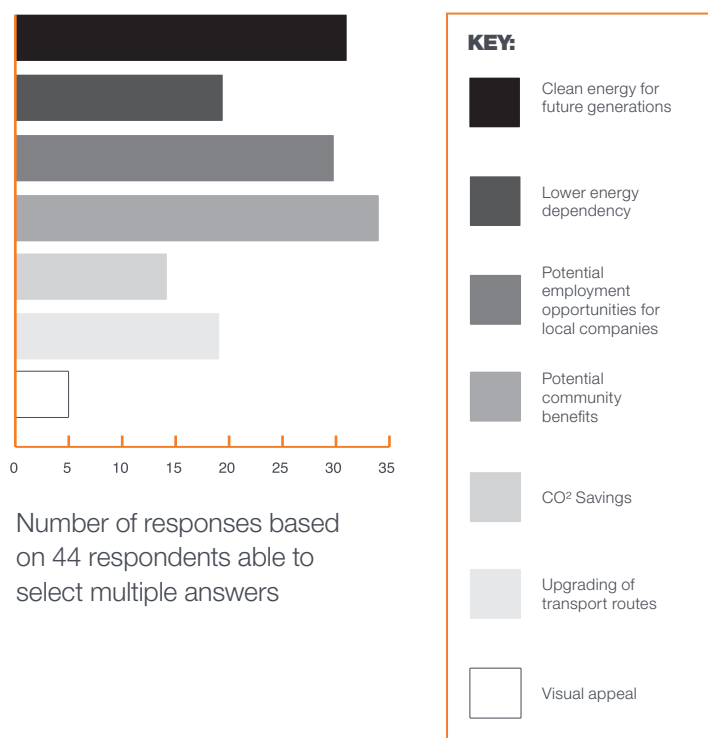
82% of respondents were either strongly or reasonably supportive of the Proposed Development.

Q3: If you ticked somewhat or strongly opposed, please indicate the relevant concerns you have:

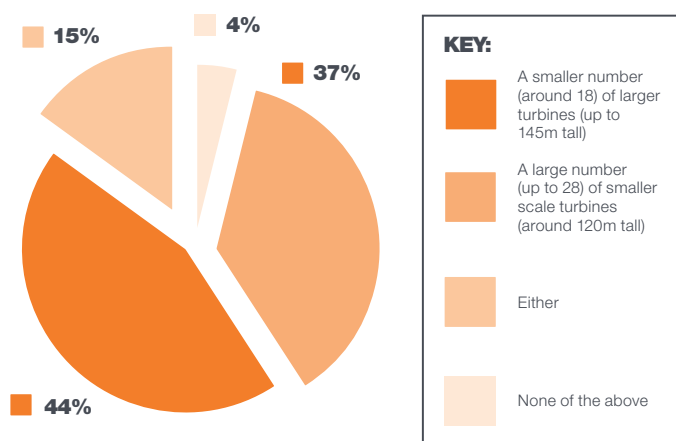
There were 11 responses to this question, with the majority of 7 (63%) concerned about the visual impact of the

development. Respondents were least concerned about loss of tourism (no respondents selected this option) and the impact the site would have on the area's cultural heritage (3 respondents and 27.3%).

Q4: Please indicate what benefits you feel could come from the Beaw Field Wind Farm:

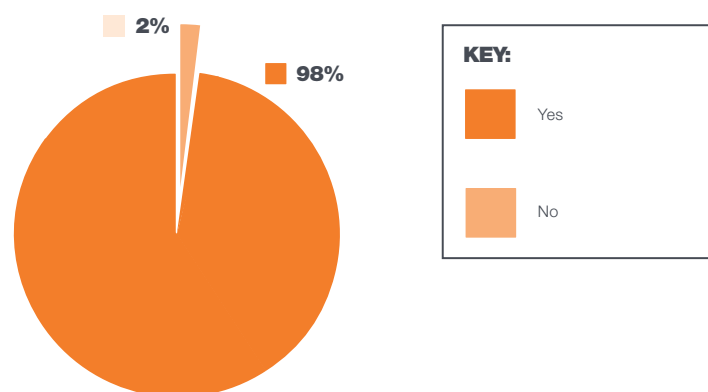


Q5: Which of the following would you prefer to see at Beaw Field Wind Farms?



Although there was not an outright preference, a small majority of respondents favoured fewer, taller turbines and 15% of respondents had no preference either way

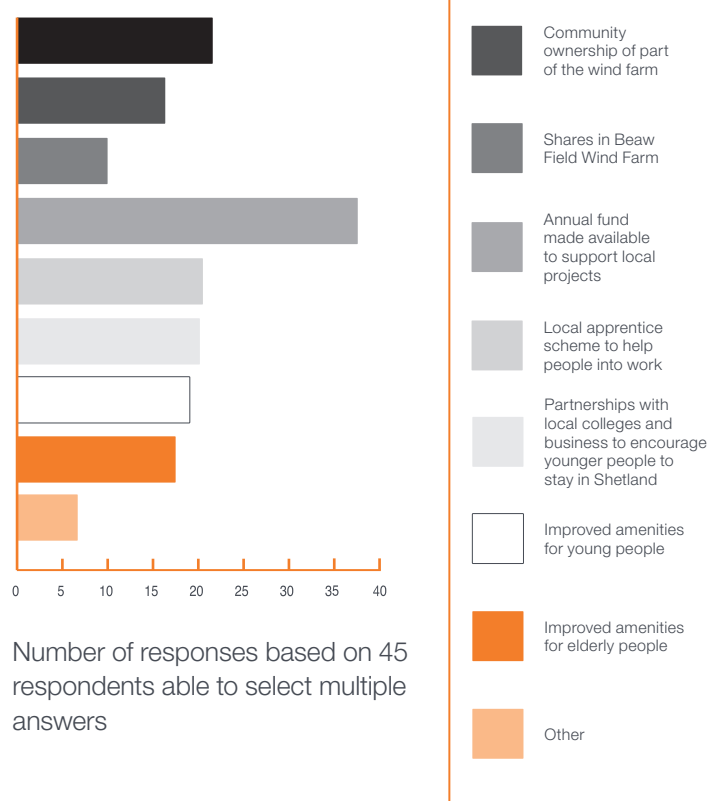
Q6: As part of any planning consent Peel will offer local communities a £5000/ MW community benefit fund (equating to up to £375,000 per year, every year, for 25 years) - Did you want this to happen?



The response to this question was overwhelmingly positive, with 98% of 44 respondents stating that they did want the per MW community benefit fund, with only 2% (1 respondent) stating that they did not. This means that the community as a whole is aware, and agrees to, the provision of a CBF.

NB: Information provided at the exhibitions was based on a community benefit fund reflecting the proposals at that time. Attendees at the event were given this information along with being told that the minimum amount of community benefit will be equivalent to £5000 per MW of installed capacity per year for the life time of the wind farm.

Q7: If you ticked Yes, what form would you like to see this take?



Q8: How did you find the following at today's exhibition?

Q8a: Exhibition boards

There were 45 respondents to this question. Of these 45 respondents 40 (88.9%) found the exhibition boards useful, with 0 stating that they were not useful. Of the remaining 5 responses, 3 found the information average and 2 did not comment.

8b: Project leaflet

Of the 42 respondents to this question, 86% (36 respondents) found the project leaflet to be useful, with only 1 respondent stating that they did not find them useful. The remaining 5 respondents (12%) describing the leaflet as "average".

Q8c: Speaking with the project team

100% of 42 who responded stated that they found speaking directly to the project team useful. We believe this demonstrates the effectiveness of PWFY's approach of having senior members of the project team attend exhibitions as they were able to immediately answer questions and have more detailed discussions with attendees.

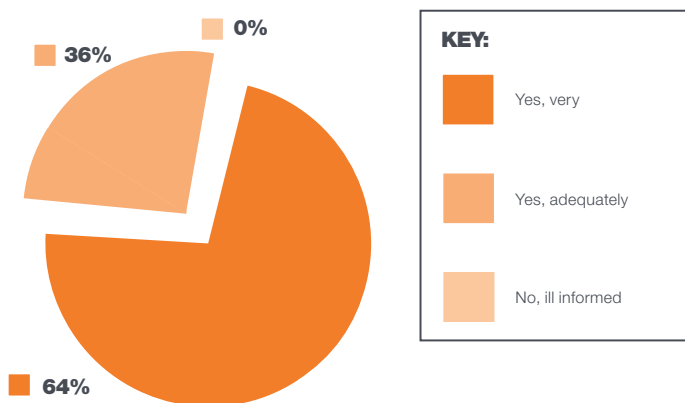
Q8d: 3D model

The outcome for this question was much the same as the previous one, with 100% of 43 respondents finding that the 3D model was useful in improving their understanding of the Beaw Field development.

Q9: Was the project team able to answer your questions adequately?

In response to this question, 34 of 41 respondents (83%) stated that all of their questions were answered adequately, with 0% of respondents stating that their questions had not been answered.

Q10: Do you feel informed about our plans following today's event?



Based on 45 respondents

Q11: How would you most like us to keep you informed as the project progresses?

There were 46 respondents to this question, the majority of which (29 respondents and 63%) stating that they preferred to be kept informed through attending similar events. Being informed by telephone was the least popular option, with no-one stating that they would like to be contacted in this way.

Based upon this the second public consultation event was arranged to inform the communities of the development of the proposals.

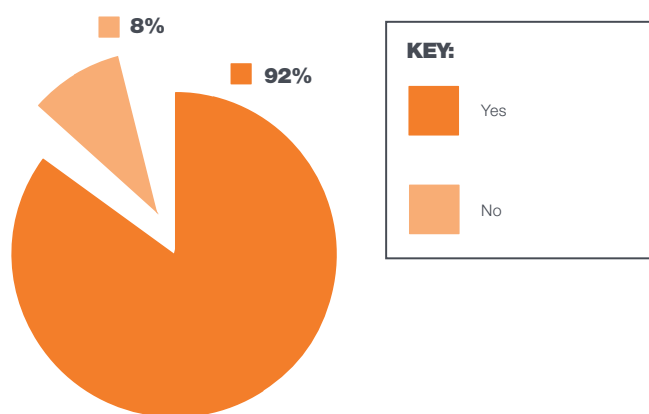
4.2 Public Exhibitions, October 2015

The second set of public exhibitions was an opportunity to update interested parties on changes prompted by feedback. PWFY is of the view that a follow-up exhibition is an important part of community engagement, as it allows the project team to demonstrate how concerns have been addressed wherever possible, and also allows people a further

opportunity to gain knowledge about the Proposed Development. The section below summarises the feedback received from the second set of exhibitions at the Mid Yell Public Hall and Burravoe Public Hall on the 7th and 8th of October respectively.

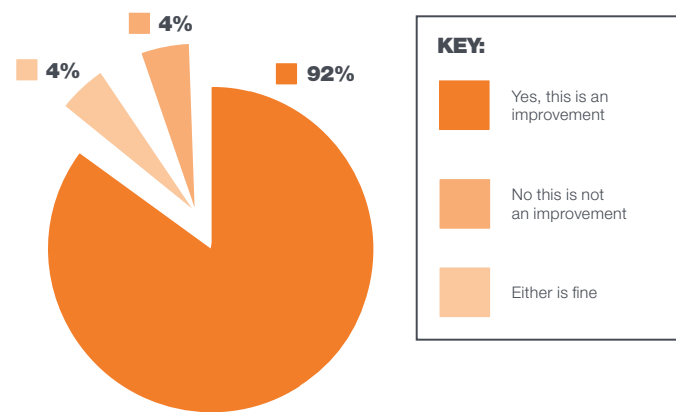
4.2.1 Responses

Q1: Did you attend the last Beaw Field Wind Farm exhibition?



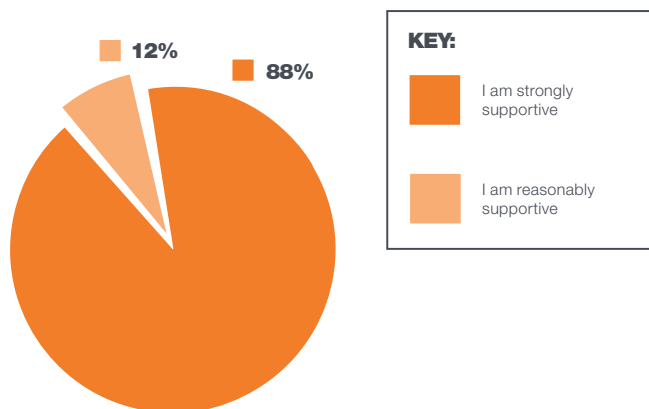
Of the 25 people who answered this question, 23 (92%) had also attended the previous exhibition in April 2015, with only 2 (8%) attending for the first time.

Q2: Do you consider the design modification to be a positive or negative change?



The vast majority of those who responded to this question felt that the changes to the Proposed Development since the exhibition in April 2015 were an improvement on the original plans. Of the 25 people who answered, 23 (92%) believed the new plans were better, with only 1 (4%) saying this was not the case. The remaining response was content with either set of proposals.

Q3: Which of the following best describes your views on the Beaw Field Wind Farm?



There was unanimous support for the Beaw Field Wind Farm at the second set of public exhibitions. Of the 25 people who responded to this question, 22 (88%) were "strongly supportive" of the development, with 3 (12%) describing themselves as "reasonably supportive". No respondents were either ambiguous about supporting the development, neither were any opposed to the plans.



5. Alterations in light of feedback

The most significant result of the consultation is the decision by PWFY to pursue an application consisting of 17 turbines to a maximum tip height of 145m. This was one of two overall strategies promoted to local people at the outset of the consultation process, the other being a greater number of turbines but at a smaller height of 120m.

PWFY believes both options could have been technically viable but, through various discussions with local people, as well as the feedback provided at the first set of public exhibitions in April, the company focussed its work on the plan for a smaller number of larger turbines.

As well as the overall strategic approach, PWFY also made the following changes to the development over the course of the public consultation:

- Moving the Proposed Development away from Scatsta airport to ensure that any safety concerns can be managed via conditions
- Shifting turbines further away from Burravoe to minimise visual impact on local people
- Protecting local wildlife by avoiding locating turbines within the flight paths and nesting locations of key bird species

In addition, PWFY intends to put in place specific measures to ensure the protection and regeneration of the local environment which would not have been possible without the Beaw Field Wind Farm development acting as an 'enabler'.

These include:

- A habitat management plan focussed on improving habitat for some of Shetland's most iconic species, specifically Red-throated Diver, Merlin, Dunlin and Golden Plover
- A peat restoration and management plan looking to restore areas of degraded poor quality peatland
- Improved road surface on the access route to the wind farm
- Cooperative ownership giving communities the opportunity to own part of the scheme
- Substantial business rate payments to Shetland Isles Council
- A Community Benefit Fund equating to £5,000 per MW per year for the lifetime of the wind farm





6. Conclusion

The pre-application consultation that has been carried out for the proposed Beaw Field Wind Farm has proven to be an effective process for community engagement.

Engagement was well planned and began early in the design and development and planning process. This allowed for a number of locally important sensitivities and issues to be identified and subsequently taken into account in the preparation of the planning application.

PWFY has complied and in many cases exceeded the statutory requirements and industry best practice for community engagement for a development of this type. In each instance PWFY involved the local community in providing feedback on the proposal and responded to the public's queries and concerns.

Overall, the most significant change to the proposal has been the reduction in the number of turbines to 17 with a maximum height of 145m. The level of local involvement throughout the project is reflected by the strong local support for the Beaw Field Wind Farm which has increased over the more than 12 months of engagement.

Given the above, the statutory minimum requirements for Pre-Application Consultation for this application have been met and exceeded.



7. Figures and Appendices

Pre-Application Consultation Figures

Figure 1. Site Plan

Figure 2. Turbine Layout

Appendices

Appendix 1. Press Release

Appendix 2. Press Covergae

Appendix 3. Intro to Peel Postcard

Appendix 4. Proposal of Application Notice

Appendix 5. Prominent Local Skakeholders

Appendix 6. Stakeholders Letters

Appendix 7. Public Exhibition Adverts

Appendix 8. Exhibition Boards

Appendix 9. Community Council Invites

Appendix 10. Public Exhibition Invites

Appendix 11. Public Exhibition Posters

Appendix 12. Public Exhibition Quesstionnaires

Appendix 13. Images From Exhibitions

Appendix 14. Website Screenshots

Appendix 15. Consultation Timeline

Appendix 16. Consultation Evaluation

Appendix 17. Public Consultation Infomation



Site Plan

Figure 1

