

APPENDIX A-1

Community Consultation Report

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DRUMNAHOUGH WIND FARM Community Report



INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This report describes the consultation process undertaken by co-development partners SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA (co-development partners) in relation to the proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm. This report will lay out the steps taken by the partner companies to ensure that communities and stakeholders were, and continue to be, consulted and engaged on the project, throughout its development.

APPROACH TO CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The co-development partners recognise the importance of ensuring that communities in the vicinity of a development are kept fully informed on the project, and its progression. It is also of critical importance to provide communities and stakeholders with avenues to contribute to the development of a project, through the provision of opportunities to review, comment on, and influence proposals where possible.

Working in partnership, we aim to deliver a best practice approach to community engagement, upholding the standards set out in the DCCAE's Code of Practice for Wind Energy.

During the development phase of the Drumnahough project, the aims of our consultation and engagement approach were to:

- Communicate early
- Communicate openly and honestly
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to have their say
- To listen and understand the views of the communities
- To answer questions
- To identify and understand any local issues that should be considered in the development of the project.

Consultation Guidance

In December 2016, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment published the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland, Guidelines for Community Engagement. The key driver behind the Code of Practice was "to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland is undertaken in observance with the best industry practices and with the full engagement of communities around the country".

The co-development partners place a high value on the importance of engaging with the local community in an open, honest and transparent manner and have strived to robustly comply with the fundamentals outlined in the Code of Practice in this respect. The project team have actively sought to engage with the local community throughout the pre-planning phase of the development. This approach has afforded the local community an opportunity to input and have an influence on the final project design.

This Community Report is also produced in line with relevant proposals set out in the draft Wind Energy Guidelines published in December 2019. The draft guidelines propose that planning applications for wind farms should contain a Community Report that outlines how developers have consulted and engaged with the local community regarding the proposed development and how they will work with the local community to allow for the free flow of information between the community and the developer at all stages in the project. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic and social benefit to the communities concerned.

Project Resources

In order to implement a robust community engagement approach the co-development partners have resourced this project with a number of dedicated staff from the outset. The following key personnel have been involved in Community Engagement on the Drumnahough Project from within SSER, Coillte and consultants Malachy Walsh

Shane Liddy – Project Manger, SSE Renewables

Michael O'Connor – Project Manager, Coillte

Louise Glennon – Head of Public Affairs, SSE Renewables

Vicky Boden – Corporate Affairs, SSE Renewables

Context and Consultation Undertaken

The co-development partners had originally secured consent for Drumnahough Wind Farm from Donegal County Council, for fifteen turbines at the site in March 2009. However, due to the lack of grid availability in the wider area at the time, the previously consented project was unable to be progressed past the planning stages. The original granted permission expired on the 29th of March 2019. While the local community would have been aware of the original planning permission plans, a number of years had lapsed since the original planning was secured, and it was decided a full briefing on the revised project was necessary.

The co-development partners have undertaken to deliver pre-planning consultation and engagement in three phases:

Phase 1: Introducing the Project

Once the parameters of the re designed project became clear, the co-development partners sought to make members of the local community aware of the project. Our approach targeted the following audiences:

- Project neighbours, located within 1km of the proposed site
- The media
- The general public

At all stages of the community engagement process, contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries were distributed including on the leaflets and information brochures. A contact and feedback facility are also included on the project website (details of the website are provided below).

At this phase of the project our approach consisted of:

- 1) Letter Drop 1: In February 19, members of the project team hand delivered a letter to 32 residents living within 2km radius of the site. This letter sought to brief residents on the project, its timelines, and to provide a point of contact for local residents, should they require any further information, or have any questions. Refer to Appendix 2
- 2) Letter Drop 2: In August 2019, a second letter was again delivered by hand, to residents living within 2km of the site. This letter introduced the next phase of the project, the Environmental Impact Assessment, and shared the location of the recently established project webpage. Refer to Appendix 3
- 3) Public Information Event: On 14th September 2019, SSER and Coillte held a community information event in the Villa Rose Hotel in Ballybofey. This location was chosen as it is well known in the local area, it is in an accessible location, with wheelchair accessible facilities, ample parking and because of its proximity to the proposed site.

The purpose of this information event was to inform the wider public of progress on the project, to present the proposed site layout, provide information on the availability of community benefit, opportunities for community investment and to invite feedback from the local community.

Six members of the project team attended the event including representatives of SSER, Coillte and Malachy Walsh & Partners (the EIAR consultant) and specialists were available to deal with any specific queries from the public. A number of poster boards on topics as outlined below were displayed at the event. Example below. Refer Appendix 4 for content from this event.



Information leaflets, supporting the information on the poster boards, were also made available as part of this engagement event. Attendees were invited to take this literature with them from the public information event.

The information event was held from 4 – 8pm, with a total of eight members of the public and one journalist from the Donegal Democrat attending. The main issues and queries that arose during the event, and which were discussed with attendees by the project representatives, included project location, design and layout, haul routes, grid connection, community benefit proposals, community investment opportunities and the timelines involved in the planning process. Further information was requested by the journalist for an article he was preparing on the project. This was subsequently published in the Donegal Democrat on 1st October 2019. Refer to Appendix 5.

As part of this public engagement event, a feedback form via a “comment box” was provided seeking comment and suggestions from attendees on formats of potential community benefit and community investment schemes. (Refer to Appendix 6). It was outlined to attendees that the exact nature and structure of the schemes for the proposed

Topics:

- About SSE Renewables Ireland and Coillte CGA
- Location map of the proposed development
- Background to the Proposal
- Details of the Proposal
- Map of proposed turbine layout
- Projected timeframes
- Community Fund detail

Drumnaough development were not yet finalised but that this topic would be finalised in consultation with the local community at a later stage of the process. (please also refer to the proposed community benefits section)

- 4) Advertising and Promotion: In order to ensure that members of the community, and interested stakeholders were aware of the public information event a leaflet was distributed to all homes and businesses within a 2km radius of the proposed Drumnaough site (Refer to Appendix 1). The event was also advertised in the Donegal Democrat and the Donegal News in the weeks preceding the event. (Refer to Appendix 7).
- 5) Web presence: A dedicated webpage was established on www.ireland.sse.com to support the outreach being delivered. This webpage provided a high-level overview of the project, and hosted the display boards used at the open day, ensuring that those unable to attend the public information event on the day, still had access to the relevant information. The webpage also included contact details for a member of the project team should any member of the public wish to make contact to comment on the project or request further information.

Phase 2: Ongoing availability and presence

On completion of Phase 1, the project then transitioned to a quieter period of activity from an engagement perspective. The goal during this phase was to maintain an ongoing presence for the project, and to remain available to members of the public should they wish to make contact.

Our approach to Phase 2 consisted of:

- 1) Web presence: The webpage built as part of Phase 1, was maintained on an ongoing basis. As part of this process, project updates were uploaded to the webpage at various stages.
- 2) CLO contact details: Contact details for the company CLO were advertised on the project website. These details included a telephone number and project email address, which was and continues to be monitored during office hours on a daily basis, Monday to Friday.
- 3) Engaging our existing network: Both co-development partners have an established presence in the Co. Donegal for some time. SSER have established structures for engagement both formally and informally, with stakeholders and communities living in the immediate vicinity of the proposed windfarm. Through our ongoing engagement in relation to existing projects we have been able to maintain contact with key stakeholders and identify potential issues as and when they have arisen.

Phase 3: Pre-application Consultation April/May 2020

The co-development partners had originally confirmed a date of the 14th April 2020 for a second information event in the local community. It was again scheduled to be held in the Villa Rose Hotel in Ballybofey. However, due to Covid 19 restrictions imposed in March 2020 it was no longer possible to host public engagement events. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled in line with government restrictions and public health guidance. Instead, the project team developed an alternative approach to engaging with the local community and stakeholders, that could be delivered in adherence with the strict restrictions introduced by Government.

Given the likely medium/long-term restrictions on physical forms of public engagement, the co-development partners sought to develop and deliver a robust alternative means of engagement for the project.

This process was comprehensive and consisted of the following 4 No. key elements:

- 1) An information pack was issued by post to homeowners located within a 2km of the site, also including community groups, schools, churches and other volunteer groups within a 10km radius. Refer Appendix 1. A total of 202 packs were issued and delivered. The packs consisted of the following documents:
 - > A letter providing updated details relating to the project, reason for alternate consultation, providing information on how to interact with the project, and who to contact for further information (Refer to Appendix 8)
 - > A detailed brochure providing an update on the current status of the project (Refer to Appendix 9)
 - > A feedback form (Refer to Appendix 10)
 - > A stamped addressed envelope to facilitate responses from the feedback form (Refer to Appendix 11).
- 2) A dedicated project website, www.drumnahough.com, was set up to support the project. This website contains all of the information circulated in the Information Packs, as well as some additional pieces of information. This additional information includes landscape and visual images from 17 different view points, and a contact form. The website also holds information on contact details, previous consultations and all of the information that had been issued via post (Refer to Appendix 9). The project website will evolve with the project and continue to provide a source of updated information as the project progresses. The aim has been to keep the website information clear, concise, relevant and engaging. The original webpage on www.ireland.sse.com is still live. Visitors to the SSE webpage are now directed to the new, standalone website. Any queries or questions received via the 'contact us' section of the website will be responded to within two working days.
- 3) Advertising and Public Relations: During the period of consultation (May 2020) local media was utilised in order to ensure the community was aware of the online consultation. This took the form of radio adverts on the local radio station Highland Radio and a newspaper advertisement in the Donegal News. The radio adverts ran over a two week period with 22 No. slots per week commencing on the 18th May. A newspaper advert was placed in the Donegal News, week beginning the 25th May (Refer to Appendix 12). A press release was also issued to local papers to ensure that the

local community was kept informed about the online consultation (Refer to Appendix 13). The launch of the engagement process received media coverage in Donegal live, Donegal News Online, and on Highland Radio Online. (Refer to Appendix, 14,15,16).

The co development partners are committed to continuing engagement and will be actively present and contactable post planning right through to construction and beyond. This will be in the form of newsletters, additional information drop in events and letters.

- 4) Public Affairs: All relevant political stakeholders were contacted about the online event via email and given access to the brochure and the website details.

SSER AND COILLTE IN THE COMMUNITY

Both companies are firmly established in the local community. SSE Renewables have a longstanding operational presence in the Meentycat cluster of wind farms, with Coillte having a regional forestry office in Ballybofey. Both companies are proactive members of the community, striving to be good neighbours and responding to comments and queries in relation to operational projects in a timely manner.

The Meentycat Walk, launched in 2005, takes place on an annual basis. Each year the wind farm cluster, and its 15km tracks, hosts approximately 1000 walkers, who take the opportunity to raise funds for local causes. These funds raised by the walkers are then 'topped up' by SSER. Any funds donated in response to the monies raised as a result of the sponsored walk are separate to the annual Meentycat Wind Farm Community Fund operating in the area.

Through the Community Fund programme, in Co. Donegal, and the Meentycat Sponsored Walk, these initiatives have provided over €1.1 million to local groups. .

The Meentycat Walk



Coillte Forest has a long history involved in recreation in the county. Of particular note would be Drumboe Woods which is a very popular amenity located close to Ballybofey with three easy to moderate walking trails. There is also a 4.5k loop walk in Corravaddy Forest which is situated South of Letterkenny and East of the Drumnahough windfarm site and well used by residents from Letterkenny, Ballybofey and the surrounding townlands.

SSE Renewables and Coillte have a proud record of making a genuine and lasting difference for local communities through our renewable energy projects across the island of Ireland. This can be evidenced in the Sustainability Impact Report for Galway Wind Park, Ireland's largest onshore wind farm, which is available for review at:

https://ireland.sse.com/media/18737/Galway%20Wind%20Park_Sustainability%20Impact%20Report_WEB.pdf

OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS

The Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland stipulates that wind farm developers should identify enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned from the proposed development and should also highlight economic benefits to the communities concerned.

Short Term Economic Benefits

SSE Renewables and Coillte recognise that our consented projects bring with them many local opportunities through both the construction and operational phases. During construction, it is estimated that at peak construction circa 60 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect on the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. Local businesses will have the opportunity to provide their services, which might include accommodation or the supply of sundries,

materials, labour or equipment. To ensure that local businesses have the best chance of becoming part of the project supply chain, if consented, we will hold a 'Meet the Buyer' event before we begin construction, which will be advertised in the local press. These events allow interested businesses to meet our contractors and to discuss the opportunities that they might benefit from. As with all SSER and Coillte developments, there will also be opportunities for local community benefit funding.

Long Term Social and Economic Benefits

Proposed Community Fund Benefits

SSE Renewables and Coillte strongly believe in playing our part locally by contributing to the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities surrounding our wind farms. One of the most important aspects of developing and operating wind farms is working in partnership with local people to deliver tangible socio-economic benefits. Since 2008, we have awarded over €8.3 million to community projects in proximity to our wind farms through our Community Fund programmes. We have allocated funding to a range of measures with a focus on energy efficiency, education, sustainability and safety.

If consented, we will operate a Community Benefit Fund for Drumnahough Wind Farm to ensure the project provides tangible long-term benefits to the community throughout the lifetime of the project. The Community Benefit Fund will be designed and developed on the basis of community involvement and consultation. The co-development partners will work with the local community to develop appropriate governance arrangements and decision-making structures.

The Fund will be operated in line with the terms and conditions of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme, if applicable, and the requirements of the revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines.

Employment

Once operational, the wind farm will support circa 2 long term, high quality technical jobs in operation and maintenance, which will complement the existing employment opportunities across the Meentycat Wind Farm.

Council Rates

Additionally, rates payments per annum from the project will contribute substantial funds to Donegal County Council over its lifespan, which will be redirected to the provision of public services within Co. Donegal. These services include provisions such as road upkeep, fire services, environmental protection, street lighting, footpath maintenance etc. along with other community and cultural support initiatives.

Renewable Electricity Support Scheme & Community investment

Should the project be developed within the remit of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), any community benefit stipulations that are outlined in the relevant RESS auction terms and conditions will be incorporated into the operation of the wind farm and will be of enduring benefit to the local community.

IMPACT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The level of feedback received during all three phases of engagement on the project has been low. This we presume is as a result of consultation delivered as part of the previously successful planning application on the same site, combined with the positive relationships already held in the region as a result of the existing wind farms.

Any feedback that has been received has involved requests for further information in relation to shadow flicker, noise, and set back distances from dwellings.

In these instances, all respondents have received a call, and/or email from SSE Renewables providing further information in relation to set back distances, and the mitigation efforts that have been incorporated into the project design to ensure that shadow flicker is eliminated, and that noise levels are minimised.

No requests were received in which stakeholders or members of the local community sought to amend the project design.

CONCLUSION

As co-development partners in the Drumnahough Project, SSE Renewables and Coillte, have engaged in active engagement, consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage in the development, and pre-application stage of the Drumnahough Wind Farm Project. The consultation process has been a valuable exercise. While we were already very familiar with the area due to pre-existing projects, colleagues living and working in the area, and a previously consented project at the same site, the process of designing the engagement approach further enhanced our understanding of the area.

The process also enhanced our understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, relating to wind farm development, as well as other wider issues impacting the communities.

We have also established a network of contacts in the area. This network will be of critical importance, to allow for a partnership approach to develop, if the project is to progress to construction.

Through the development of the windfarm, the community benefit package, employment during the construction and operation of the development and also through the annual rates payable to the local authority, we are confident that the proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm will provide an enduring economic and social benefit to the communities surrounding the proposed project.

Feedback Form and Web Contact Form Responses

As a result of the online consultation a total of nine enquiries were received. Two were received through the web portal contact form and seven received via the feedback form that was issued alongside the brochure. The results of which are below.

Q1. Which do you consider yourself to be?

Relationship to Area	No of responses
Local Resident	8
Local Business	1
Community Representative	-
Political Representative	-
Other	-

Q2. Is there any additional information you would like us to provide?

Opinion on Information	No of responses
What is the distance that turbines have to be away from a house as the crow flies.	1
Will shadow flicker be an issue	2
What is the distance from houses and what noise levels will be generated	1
A map of the existing windfarm on a map of the proposed windfarm	1

Q3. Would you like to be kept updated on the project's development?

Opinion on Information	No of responses
Yes	7
No	2

Q4. Do you have any comments about the project or suggestions on how the community benefit fund should be allocated in the area?

Comment	Response
Funds should go to local roads	1
Happy with the Community Fund as is.	1

Q5. Are you satisfied with the information provided, if yes what did you like, if no how could we improve?

Opinion on Information	No of responses
Yes	2
No	2

Q6. How did you hear about the Online Information Event?

How did you hear about the Online Information Event	No of responses
Leaflet	4
Poster	-
Newspaper	-
Radio	1
Other	2

Q7. Do you have any further comments you would like us to consider?

Comment	Developer Response
Noise	As below
Shadow Flicker	As below

Any other comments or queries received via the website or other channels

Comment	Developer Response
2 Queries received via contact form requesting employment	Details of the enquiry were passed on to Human Resources who subsequently contacted them. There will be many opportunities throughout the construction phase for employment opportunities

On the queries that were received regarding noise and shadow flicker, the below responses were provided to respondents.

Shadow Flicker

Local residents will not be impacted by shadow flicker if the wind farm is built. Shadow flicker refers to the effect of the sun (low on the horizon) shining through the rotating blades of a wind turbine, and potentially casting a moving shadow on nearby residences.

However, this phenomenon will not occur at any residences in the vicinity of Drumnahough. This is because, as part of our planning application, we will

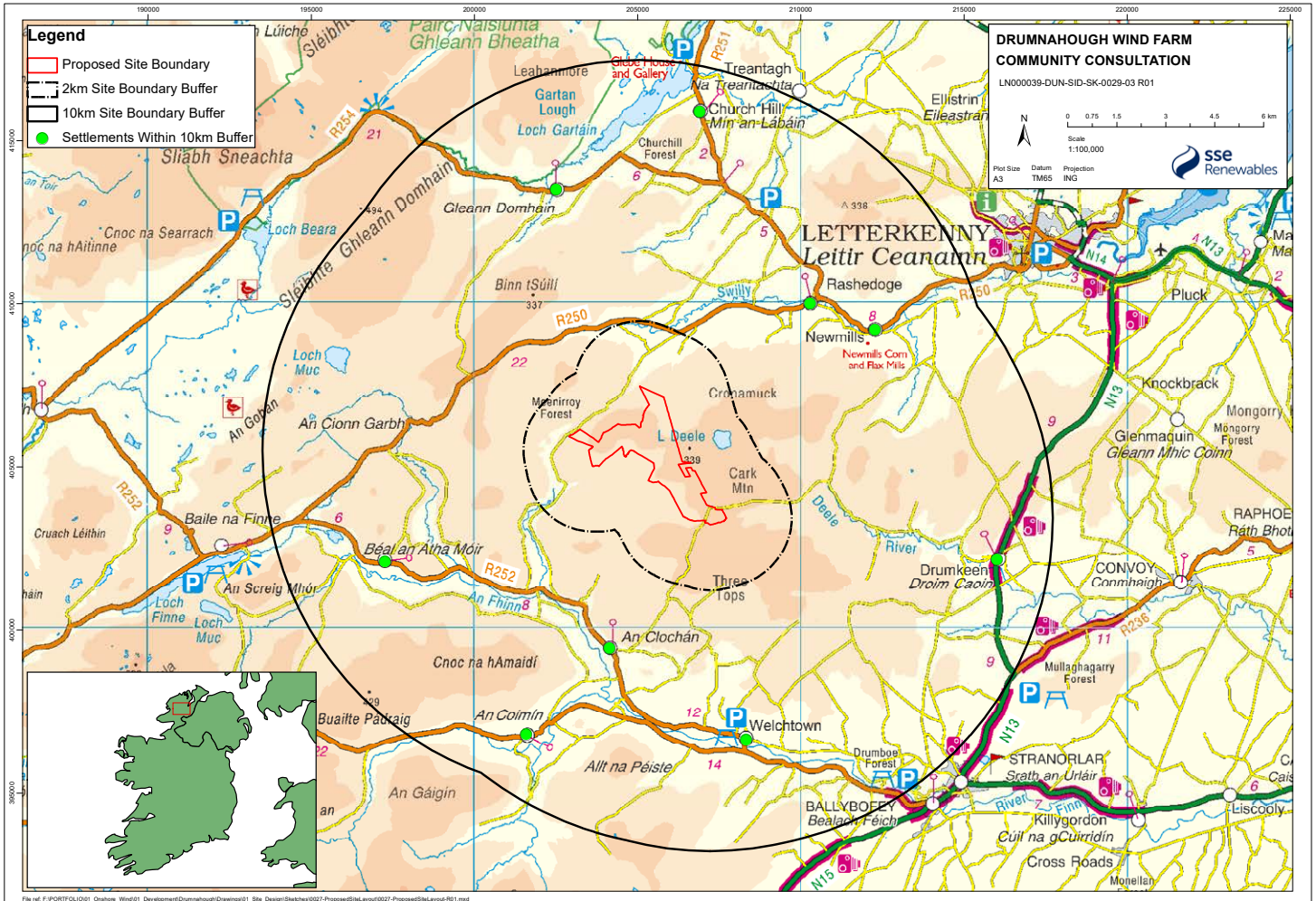
be committing that no shadow flicker will result at any surrounding residences. Technology will be included in the turbine's operating systems that will allow for a turbine to be shut-down if the risk of shadow flicker occurring exists.

If the wind farm is consented and built out, a requirement in the planning conditions would stipulate that shadow flicker cannot be allowed to occur.

Noise

As part of the planning submission, SSE & Coillte will be required to demonstrate that the noise levels of the proposed turbines will not adversely affect local residents.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

26th Feb 2019

RE: Scoping for Drumnahough Wind Farm, townlands of Cark, Meenasaura and Carrickalangan, Co Donegal

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to update you on the proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm (08/50687) located in the townlands of Cark, Meenasaura and Carrickalangan, Co Donegal.

The project was consented in 2009 but due to grid unavailability the consent was never implemented and unfortunately the planning permission lapsed on 29th March 2019.

SSE Renewables Ireland Ltd and Coillte CGA now proposes to submit a new planning application for a revised layout. Given the time since the original consent in 2009, the market environment and technology has greatly changed. Therefore, to develop a feasible project, the new application will not exceed the original turbine numbers but will be based on a revised turbine envelope.

The proposed wind farm at Drumnahough is located approximately 13 km south west of Letterkenny in County Donegal. No part of the site lies within a designated area. The site boundary is 270m from Meentygrannagh Bog to the west, which is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Natural Heritage Area (NHA). Another NHA, Tullytresna Bog, adjoins the southwestern boundary and is located 175m from the nearest proposed turbine. The River Finn, which drains the area to the south of the site, is a Special Area of Conservation.

Scoping, which is the process whereby all the relevant consultees are contacted to provide feedback as to what they would like to see included and assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), has commenced for Drumnahough Wind Farm and SSE Renewables Ireland Ltd and Coillte CGA would welcome any input from the local community.

The EIAR refers to all relevant aspects of the proposed development and its potential effects on the environment. Scoping provides initial feedback in the early stages of the project, when alterations are still easily incorporated into the design. In this way scoping not only informs the content and scope of the EIAR, it also provides a feedback mechanism for the proposal design itself.

A designated Community Liaison Officer has been appointed and if you have any queries or questions or wish to provide some comments please contact CLO@sse.com or contact myself on any of the details below.

Yours Sincerely

Michelle Donnelly
Consent Manager

SSE Renewables (Ireland) Limited is part of the SSE Group

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Appendix 3



22nd August 2019

Dear resident,

We are writing to you to keep informed about the Drumnahough Wind Farm co development proposal between SSE and Coillte CGA.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultant was appointed in May 2019 to assist with project progression. Works undertaken to date have included completion of baseline studies as part of the EIA process, feasibility assessments associated with grid connection routes, investigation of potential turbine locations and preparation of preliminary layouts.

The initial baseline studies are reaching completion which will enable a layout to be finalised for consultation with the local community. It is intended that a community consultation evening will be organised in September 2019 to allow the community and local residents to be informed in more detail about the proposal.

Additionally, the project has a dedicated website which will be updated regularly as the project progresses. Information can be accessed at: <https://ireland.sse.com/what-we-do/our-projects-and-assets/renewable/drumnahough/>

In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in contact with us using any of the details below.

Yours Sincerely

Michelle Donnelly
Development Project Manager
Direct Dial: 00 44 2882 253945
E: CLO@sse.com

Appendix 4

Drumnaough Wind Farm

About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is Ireland's leading developer, owner and operator of onshore wind farms, with a vision to make renewable energy the foundation of a zero-carbon world. The renewable electricity generated at wind farms operated by SSE Renewables across Ireland powers SSE Airtricity, Ireland's largest provider of 100% green energy. The company's onshore wind portfolio includes Ireland's largest wind farm, the 174MW Galway Wind Park which was co-developed with project partner Coillte, and the 86MW Meenycall Wind Farm, Donegal's largest wind farm.

About Coillte

Coillte Renewable Energy are responsible for harnessing the wind energy above Coillte forests. We aim to build responsible projects in a way that is good for us, for society and our neighbours. Coillte is currently working toward our ambition of adding a further 1GW of wind energy generation capacity over the next ten years, driving Ireland's ambition toward 70% renewable electricity by 2030.

Drumnaough Wind Farm

Location

The proposed Drumnaough Wind Farm is in the rural upland setting of central Donegal, approximately 13 km south west of Letterkenny. The proposed wind farm is located within the townlands of Carr, Meenraura, Carrickalangan, Treakeet, Tullybrann, and Cullough. The site is located in the electoral divisions of Meencragh and Lettermore and the electoral area of Milford, Co. Donegal.

Drumnaough Wind Farm

Background

Drumnaough Wind Farm was previously consented by Donegal County Council in March 2009 for a 15 No. turbine project (DCC Planning Ref. 08/50687). Due to grid availability issues the project was unable to be progressed and the consent expired in March 2019.

Drumnaough Wind Farm

The Proposal

Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) were appointed by SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA (SSE & Coillte) in May 2019 to commence the process of re-investigating the suitability of a site at Drumnaough, Co Donegal, for a potential wind farm project.

Since appointment, MWP has undertaken a number of baseline studies as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Works undertaken to date have included feasibility assessments associated with grid connection routes, potential turbine locations and preparation of preliminary layouts.

It is anticipated that the project will include the following:

Main project components:

- Wind Turbines construction
- Hardstand areas and access roads
- On-site 110kV substation
- On-site grid connection via loop in connection from existing Binbane to Letterkenny 110kV overhead line
- Borrow pits and spoil management areas
- Meteorological mast
- Battery storage infrastructure

Off-site project components:

- Turbine component haulage route
- Replacement lands for felled forestry

A preliminary layout of 12 No. turbines is presented below. A constraints study is underway which may result in changes to the layout in order to avoid or reduce impacts. Further layout iterations may emerge as the studies and the Environmental Impact Assessment progress.

It is envisaged that the project will exceed the 50MW capacity scale and will be a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) direct to An Bord Pleanála. A pre-application stage consultation process with An Bord Pleanála will commence in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that further consultation will be undertaken with Donegal County Council in conjunction with the SID pre-application phase process.

Drumnaough Wind Farm

The Proposal

Drumnaough Wind Farm

Projected Timeframes

December 2019	- Submission of Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála
June 2020	- Planning Decision
February 2022	- Construction Start Date
August 2023	- Full Energisation

In advance of submission of the planning application a further community information event will be held. This event will provide full details on the proposed submission and various technical experts will be available on the night to provide information and answer any questions.

Drumnaough Wind Farm

SSE Community Fund

SSE is proud to have contributed over €7 million in funding since 2008 to communities close to our wind farms in Ireland. This funding has been able to assist more than 2,500 local projects, focused primarily on sustainability, energy efficiency and safety initiatives. The Community Fund is paid out annually, starting one year after the windfarm starts producing electricity.

SSE are currently working on a scheme that could facilitate community ownership/investment opportunities for our wind farms going forward. As this scheme is still in early development we would appreciate if you would fill in the query form and place it in the box. This will allow SSE to see if there is much interest in such a scheme.

Appendix 5

DONEGAL

New 12-turbine wind farm worth €55m on the way



By Connie Duffy (1 October 2019)

Donegal's newest wind farm proposal will cost an estimated €55 million, it has been revealed. It will be based on the outskirts of Ballybofey and if planning permission is granted, will be set to go in 2023.

The 12-turbine wind farm proposal, which will be spread over c. 1,270 acres, is a joint-venture between SSE Renewables and Coillte.

The final layout of the farm has yet to be finalised but it will be located within the townlands of Carik, Meenadaura, Carrickalangan, Treankeel, Ballytrasna and Cullagh, just north of the current Meentycat cluster of pylons between Ballybofey and Drumkeen. The site itself is located in the Meencargagh and Lettermore electoral divisions in the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District.

The site was previously granted planning in 2009, but due to grid availability issues at the time, the previously consented project was unable to progress. "Since that time there has been some grid upgrades in the region, so now we have better options for connection possibilities with pre-existing infrastructure," said development project manager, Shane Liddy.

He said it was hoped their planning application would be with An Bord Pleanála by December which he expected would take until June to be adjudicated on and all going well, construction would be finished by August, 2023.

He added from discussions with Donegal County Council they were aware of the current problems with wind farm development and the new Donegal County Development Plan, but this was something they had taken into account in their submission.

Although last Wednesday's public information event in the Villa Rose hotel, Ballybofey, was poorly attended, a spokesperson for the developers, Vicky Boden, corporate affairs, SSE, said a further and more technically detailed community information event would be held, probably towards the end of the year.

She added it was also hoped to introduce an SSE Community Fund for the project and applications for it would be processed once the wind farm was going a year."

Appendix 6



Community Ownership - Expression of Interest Form

An important consideration for the Irish government when designing the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme was the inclusion of communities in the design of the scheme. As part of this scheme, wind energy project developers will have a responsibility to offer the potential of community ownership on all new developments going forward.

In order for us to gain an understanding of the level of interest that such a scheme would have at Drumnahough, we would ask that you tick one of the boxes below.

Yes, I would be interested in a community ownership scheme

No, I have no interest in such a scheme.

Appendix 7

Public Information Event for proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm

**Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey
4-8pm, Wednesday 25 September**

SSE Renewables and Coillte are inviting members of the public to attend a Drop-In Public Information Event for the proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm. The planned development is situated in the townlands of Cark, Meenadaura (Drumnahough Mountain), Carrickalangan, Treankeel, Tullytrasna, and Culliagh.

The Drop-In Public Information Event will take place at the Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey, on Wednesday 25 September and will be open from 4pm to 8pm. Representatives from SSE Renewables and Coillte will be available to provide information and answer any queries.

**For further information please contact
Michelle Donnelly 0044 2882 253945**



Appendix 8

Drumnahough Wind Farm



Indeed, if you have any questions, or would like to chat about the project in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact me at louise.glennon@sse.com, or by calling 0818211500.

In the meantime, for more information on the proposed project please visit the below project website: www.drumnahough.com

Finally, please remain alert to the National Fire Risk warnings across all Coillte Forest sites. Due to the prolonged spell of dry weather, there is an increased risk of fire around forest parks and recreational sites.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

 Louise Glennon,
 Public Affairs Manager,
 SSE Renewables.
Louise.glennon@sse.com

Drumnahough Wind Farm



May 2020

Dear

Proposed Wind Farm at Drumnahough

I hope you are keeping well.

I am writing to you on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte, co-development partners for the proposed wind farm development at Drumnahough. We would like to share some information about our companies and the proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm project. Indeed, you may already be aware of the project from previous public consultations undertaken in 2019.

SSE Renewables is Ireland's leading developer, owner and operator of onshore wind farms. We operate 28 onshore wind farms making us the largest generator and provider of renewable energy across the island of Ireland.

Coillte Renewable Energy has a proven track record in the delivery of wind energy projects through the design, construction and operation phases throughout Ireland and has a stated ambition to support the development of over 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy over the next ten years.

Together we are exploring the potential to develop a wind farm in your area at Drumnahough, Co. Donegal. The proposed development is made up of 12 turbines with a potential output of up to 60MW of green, renewable electricity, capable of powering 40,000 homes annually.

We are keen to work closely with you and the wider community on this project. Ordinarily, it would be our preference to hold a public information session, similar to the session held in the Villa Rose Hotel in September 2019, engaging with you in person on the proposed project. However, given the current Government restrictions, as a result of Covid-19, we are unable to hold such an event. We are working hard to find alternative ways of engaging with communities and providing updates on the proposed project. We hope that this written correspondence is acceptable to you.

We are asking people living near the proposed development for their feedback. With this in mind, enclosed you will find a booklet, outlining the project in more detail. You will also find a feedback form and a stamped addressed envelope. Please don't hesitate to complete this form and return it to us, should you have any comments on the project. We would be grateful if you could return this form to us by Friday, 29 May. We will incorporate your feedback, insofar as possible, and ensure it is represented in an upcoming planning application that we will make to An Bord Pleanála.

Appendix 10



Dear Resident,

You have received this document as you are living in proximity to the proposed Drumnahough Wind Farm, Co. Donegal. This project is being jointly developed by SSE Renewables, and Coillte.

If you have any comments on the proposed wind farm please don't hesitate to outline them within this document and return them by the 29th May 2020 in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Indeed if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me, Louise Glennon, on 0818 211 500, louise.glennon@sse.com, or log on to our website: www.drumnahough.com

Kind regards,

Louise Glennon,
Public Affairs Manager, SSE Renewables.

Drumnahough Wind Farm Feedback Form

1. Which do you consider yourself to be? Tick the description(s) most relevant to you:

- Local resident
- Local Business
- Community Representative
- Political Representative
- Other

2. Is there any additional information that you would like us to provide?

3. Would you like to be kept updated on the projects development? If so, please provide contact details.

Appendix 11

Postage will be paid
by Licensee

No Postage Stamp necessary
if posted in the Republic of Ireland



Licence 11048

SSE Renewables Ireland
Drumnaough Wind Farm
Red Oak
South County Business Park
Leopardstown
Dublin 2



Appendix 12



DRUMNAHOUGH ONLINE WIND FARM CONSULTATION May 2020

Find out more, log on to:

www.drumnahough.com

Email: CLO@SSE.com

Or call Louise Glennon, on 0818 211 500

Appendix 13

SER Updates May 15th

SSE Renewables and Coillte jointly detail plans for Drumnahough Wind Farm

- **60MW wind farm can power 40,000 homes and offset 50,000 tonnes of carbon annually**
- **Many millions of euro in commercial rates to Donegal County Council**

SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy have today (XXXXX) announced further detail on their proposed plans for a 60MW wind farm development at Drumnahough, Co. Donegal.

During construction, Drumnahough Wind Farm will generate approximately 60 jobs. Once operational the wind farm will generate enough green energy to power 40,000 homes and offset almost 50,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually*. A multi million community benefit fund will also be launched to support local groups and projects close to the wind farm.

The proposed development is in the rural upland area of central Donegal, approximately 13km South-West of Letterkenny and near the existing Meentycat Wind Farm. It will consist of 12 wind turbines, generating around 60MW of renewable energy dependent on final turbine selection. Subject to planning approval, it is expected that construction work on the wind farm will commence in summer 2023 and that it will be fully operational in late 2024.

The project represents a capital investment of around €60 million by the co-developers, SSE Renewables and Coillte. This spend will help support the regional supply chain through the use of local contractors and suppliers where possible, including hotels, shops and cafés among others. In addition, a sponsorship fund will be initially available during the pre-construction and construction phases of the wind farm.

Over the lifetime of the project many millions of euro in annual commercial rates will be made to Donegal County Council, contributing substantial funds to local services. Additionally, a multi million community benefit fund will be launched to support local groups and organisations for the expected lifetime of the wind farm. The community fund focuses on projects that enhance energy efficiency, sustainability, education and climate action initiatives. Further details on the Community Benefit Fund will be available prior to the commencement of construction.

In advance of submitting a planning application for the proposed project, the co-development partners are inviting local communities to review current information on the wind farm, ask questions, and submit feedback. Information about the proposed development is currently being distributed to around 200 homes and businesses located close to the site, as well as to local elected representatives and others with an interest in the project. Interested members of the public can also find out more online by visiting a dedicated project website, www.Drumnahough.com.

Project Manager Shane Liddy said: "At SSE Renewables we have a long-standing presence in the heart of Donegal through the operation of our existing Meentycat and Culligh wind farms. We have a dedicated, full-time wind operations team in the region, we actively back local supply chain businesses to support the daily operations of our wind farms, and we have contributed over €1million so far in funding to support local groups."

"Now, with the planned Drumnahough Wind Farm, we want to expand our support for the local economy and good causes, while helping to deliver new renewable energy generation that will meet our local, regional and national climate change goals. Together with our co-development project partners, Coillte, we are delighted to be able to outline details of our plans for a proposed new wind farm at Drumnahough, and we encourage everyone in the local community to get involved and have their say on the project in the coming weeks."

(Ends)

*Total annual homes powered quoted based on projected capacity, typical wind load factor of 32%, and typical annual consumption (4,200kWh). Quoted CO2 emissions abated based on projected annual MWh output and latest average CO2 Emissions (0.291t/MWh) in the All-Ireland Single Electricity Market, and published by the CRU in its Fuel Mix Disclosure and CO2 Emissions for 2018, September 2019.

About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is a leading developer, operator and owner of renewable energy across Ireland and the UK, with a portfolio of around 4GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. In Ireland, SSE Renewables is the largest owner and operator of onshore wind farms generating renewable energy to power Irish homes and businesses. SSE Renewables is also the leading developer of new wind farms including offshore wind developments in the Irish Sea.

Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, its strategy is to drive the transition to a net-zero carbon future through the world class development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets.

About Coillte's Renewable Energy business

Coillte's Renewable Energy business forms part of the main Coillte Group. The Renewable Energy business has developed and constructed a number of operational projects in recent years, and is continuing to develop renewable energy projects, either as 100% Coillte projects or as co-development projects alongside partners.

Coillte owns and manages almost a million acres of land, and the Renewable Energy business is responsible for developing renewable energy projects on these lands. The stated ambition of the Renewable Energy business is to develop a further 1GW of wind energy generation capacity over the next ten years, driving Ireland's ambition toward 70% renewable electricity by 2030.

Appendix 14

Client: SSE Renewables
Publication: Donegal Live online
Link: <https://www.donegallive.ie/news/news/543303/further-details-announced-for-new-60-million-wind-farm-project.html>
Date: 18.05.2020

New €60 million wind farm project could be operational by 2024

Drumnahough Wind Farm will consist of 12 wind turbines

By Reporter
11:11:00 18 May 2020

SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy have announced further details on their proposed plans for a 60MW wind farm development at Drumnahough, south-west of Letterkenny. During construction, Drumnahough Wind Farm, which is located close to the Meentycat Wind Farm near Drumkeen, will generate approximately 60 jobs. Once operational the wind farm will generate enough green energy to power 40,000 homes and offset almost 50,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. A multi-million community benefit fund will also be launched to support local groups and projects close to the wind farm. The proposed development is in the rural upland area of central Donegal, approximately 13km south-west of Letterkenny and near the existing Meentycat Wind Farm. It will consist of 12 wind turbines, generating around 60MW of renewable energy dependent on final turbine selection. Subject to planning approval, it is expected that construction work on the wind farm will commence in summer 2023 and that it will be fully operational in late 2024. The project represents a capital investment of around €60 million by the co-developers, SSE Renewables and Coillte. This spend will help support the regional supply chain through the use of local contractors and suppliers where possible, including hotels, shops and cafés among others. In addition, a sponsorship fund will be initially available during the pre-construction and construction phases of the wind farm.

SHARE

Commercial rates

Over the lifetime of the project many millions of euro in annual commercial rates will be made to Donegal County Council, contributing substantial funds to local services. Additionally, a multi million community benefit fund will be launched to support local groups and organisations for the expected lifetime of the wind farm.

The community fund focuses on projects that enhance energy efficiency, sustainability, education and climate action initiatives. Further details on the Community Benefit Fund will be available prior to the commencement of construction.

In advance of submitting a planning application for the proposed project, the co-development partners are inviting local communities to review current information on the wind farm, ask questions, and submit feedback.

Information about the proposed development is currently being distributed to around 200 homes and businesses located close to the site, as well as to local elected representatives and others with an interest in the project.

Interested members of the public can also find out more online by visiting a dedicated project website, www.Drumnahough.com.

Project Manager Shane Liddy said: "At SSE Renewables we have a long-standing presence in the heart of Donegal through the operation of our existing Meentycat and Culligh wind farms. "We have a dedicated, full-time wind operations team in the region, we actively back local supply chain businesses to support the daily operations of our wind farms, and we have contributed over €1million so far in funding to support local groups. "Now, with the planned Drumnahough Wind Farm, we want to expand our support for the local economy and good causes, while helping to deliver new renewable energy generation that will meet our local, regional and national climate change goals.

"Together with our co-development project partners, Coillte, we are delighted to be able to outline details of our plans for a proposed new wind farm at Drumnahough, and we encourage everyone in the local community to get involved and have their say on the project in the coming weeks."

Appendix 15

Client: SSE Renewables
Publication: Donegal News online
Link: <https://donegalnews.com/2020/05/proposed-donegal-wind-farm-to-power-40000-homes/>
Date: 18.05.2020

Heneghan

DERRY PEOPLE

DONEGAL NEWS



Proposed Donegal wind farm to power 40,000 homes

© Posted: 10:16 am May 18, 2020

SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy have today announced further detail on their proposed plans for a 60MW wind farm development at Drumnahough.

During construction, Drumnahough Wind Farm will generate approximately 60 jobs. Once operational the wind farm will generate enough green energy to power 40,000 homes and offset almost 50,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. A multi-million community benefit fund will also be launched to support local groups and projects close to the wind farm.

The proposed development is in the rural upland area of central Donegal, approximately 13km South-West of Letterkenny and near the existing Meentycat Wind Farm. It will consist of 12 wind turbines, generating around 60MW of renewable energy dependent on final turbine selection. Subject to planning approval, it is expected that construction work on the wind farm will commence in summer 2023 and that it will be fully operational in late 2024.

The project represents a capital investment of around €60 million by the co-developers, SSE Renewables and Coillte. This spend will help support the regional supply chain through the use of local contractors and suppliers where possible, including hotels, shops and cafés among others. In addition, a sponsorship fund will be initially available during the pre-construction and construction phases of the wind farm.

Over the lifetime of the project many millions of euro in annual commercial rates will be made to Donegal County Council, contributing substantial funds to local services. Additionally, a multi million community benefit fund will be launched to support local groups and organisations for the expected lifetime of the wind farm. The community fund focuses on projects that enhance energy efficiency, sustainability, education and climate action initiatives. Further details on the Community Benefit Fund will be available prior to the commencement of construction.


In advance of submitting a planning application for the proposed project, the co-development partners are inviting local communities to review current information on the wind farm, ask questions, and submit feedback. Information about the proposed development is currently being distributed to around 200 homes and businesses located close to the site, as well as to local elected representatives and others with an interest in the project. Interested members of the public can also find out more online by visiting a dedicated project website, www.Drumnahough.com.

Project Manager Shane Liddy said: "At SSE Renewables we have a long-standing presence in the heart of Donegal through the operation of our existing Meentycat and Culliagh wind farms. We have a dedicated, full-time wind operations team in the region, we actively back local supply chain businesses to support the daily operations of our wind farms, and we have contributed over €1million so far in funding to support local groups."

Appendix 16

Heneghan


Client: SSE Renewables
Publication: Highland Radio online
Link: <https://www.highlandradio.com/2020/05/18/proposed-wind-farm-to-create-60-jobs-during-construction/>
Date: 18.05.2020




Highland Radio
Ireland's No.1 Local Station

Proposed wind farm to create 60 jobs during construction

By News Highland May 18, 2020





The developers of a proposed wind farm in Donegal have stated that they will create around 60 jobs during construction.

Once operational, it's said that the wind farm will generate enough green energy to power 40,000 homes.

Drumahough Wind Farm is being constructed by SSE Renewables and Coillte.

The proposed development is in the rural upland area of central Donegal, approximately 13km South-West of Letterkenny and near the existing Meentycat Wind Farm.

It will consist of 12 wind turbines, generating around 60MW of renewable energy dependent on final turbine selection.

Subject to planning approval, it is expected that construction work on the wind farm will commence in summer 2023 and that it will be fully operational in late 2024.

The project represents a capital investment of around €60 million by the co-developers, SSE Renewables and Coillte.

This spend will help support the regional supply chain through the use of local contractors and suppliers where possible, including hotels, shops and cafés among others. In addition, a sponsorship fund will be initially available during the pre-construction and construction phases of the wind farm.

In advance of submitting a planning application for the proposed project, the co-development partners are inviting local communities to review current information on the wind farm, ask questions, and submit feedback. Information about the proposed development is currently being distributed to around 200 homes and businesses located close to the site, as well as to local elected representatives and others with an interest in the project. Interested members of the public can also find out more online by visiting a dedicated project website, www.Drumnahough.com.

