

Appendix 6F

Tarbert Next Generation Power Station Public Consultation

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Tarbert Next Generation Power Station

July/August 2023
Public Consultation Summary Note



Tarbert Next Generation Power Station – Public Consultation

July 10th – August 2nd, 2023

Community Engagement in Tarbert (pre-consultation)

Since the appointment of the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in late February 2023 political and local stakeholder have received several communications in relation to developments at the Tarbert site, including the proposed Tarbert Next Generation Power Station.

Immediately prior (February 2023) to the appointment of the CLO, planning notice for the separate Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG) project appeared in the *Irish Independent* and the Station Manager spoke to local households and landowners surrounding the existing Tarbert Power Station to give them advanced notice of the development. Furthermore, the CLO went door-to door to households and businesses surrounding the site and in Tarbert on 28th of April 2023. This involved speaking to local members of the community to provide them with an overview of the TEG and Tarbert Next Generation Power Station projects and flagging the forthcoming public consultation related to the latter project.

All households and businesses visited, including those for which there was no answer on the door, were left with a letter outlining a high-level overview of the two projects. Feedback was very positive with many members of the public noting their desire to see the continuation of power generation in Tarbert and resulting employment opportunities.

Tarbert Next Generation Power Station – Public Consultation

The public consultation for the proposed Tarbert Next Generation Power Station opened with the launch of an online consultation room on July 10th. This online consultation room closed on August 2nd marking the end of the consultation period. The key focal point of the consultation period was two in-person events which took place on July 18th and 19th in Tarbert and Listowel respectively.

Listed below are key dates linked to the consultation period:

- On w/c 26th June, contact was made by the CLO with key political and local stakeholders to give them advanced notice of consultation events and provide them with an advanced copy of a newsletter providing a high-level overview of the project.
- On w/c 3rd July a newsletter was distributed in Tarbert and the surrounding area.
- On w/c 3rd July a press release was issued to local media publications noting forthcoming consultation activities, and was picked up by The Kerryman, Kerry's Eye and Radio Kerry, among other publications.
- On 3rd July, the Project Team met with Kerry County Council for an information sharing session.
- On July 10th, the online consultation room for this project was launched.
- On w/c 10th July paid advertising appeared in The Kerryman, Kerry's Eye and The Weekly Observer (West Limerick publication) to further promote the consultation room and in-person consultation activities.
- On July 18th the first in-person consultation evening took place in Tarbert Community Hall.
- On July 19th the second in-person consultation evening took place in the Listowel Arms Hotel.
- On August 2nd the online consultation room closed, marking the end of the public consultation.

Online Consultation Room

An online consultation room for the proposed Tarbert Next Generation Power Station was launched on July 10th. The online consultation room allowed those who were otherwise unavailable to attend in-person events to learn more about the Proposed Development and provide feedback. The online consultation room included pull up banners, a short video and feedback form mechanism which was replicated at in-person events. The online consultation room closed on 2nd August.

Public Consultation Event - Tarbert Community Centre, 18th July 2023

The first in-person consultation evening took place in Tarbert Community Centre on Tuesday 18th July. Pull-up banners and a short video presented via projector were on display. Members of the public were greeted by the CLO, asked to sign the attendance sheet, and encouraged to examine the pull up banners and revert to members of the Project Team present for any additional queries. Members of the public were also asked to fill out the Feedback Forms present in the room.

The reception at the event was positive. Many of those in attendance were persons living in Tarbert itself who had a previous connection to the existing Tarbert Power Station, having worked there themselves or having a family member of acquaintance work there. When issues were raised, it was in a non-emotive, minimally confrontational manner.

Among issues raised and areas of interest were:

- Potential impact over construction and operational phase in terms of traffic.
- Potential impact on the road condition leading to the Station.
- Employment opportunities, during construction and operational phases.
- Community gain and general enquiries as to whether there would be additional funding made available to Tarbert and other community groups.
- General queries re the fuel choice, if there was adequate supply of HVO for the proposed development and storage of same on site.
- Queries regarding the future of the existing Tarbert Power Station.

The attendance was circa 45 persons. 36 persons were recorded in the attendance sheet but not all persons in attendance signed or wished to sign the attendance sheet. Furthermore, the event was attended by several political representatives, including Deputy Danny Healy-Rae (Independent), Cllr Mike Foley (Fine Gael) and Cllr John Sheahan (Fine Gael). Apologies were sent by Deputy Brendan Griffin (Fine Gael) and Deputy Michael Healy-Rae (Independent).

In attendance from SSE Thermal and other SSE business units were:

- Nicholas Norris (Project Manager)
- Marie-Jo Booth (Lead Consents Manager)
- David Colston (Lead Design Development Engineer)
- Callum Park (Design Development Engineer)
- Gerry Crean (Station Manager)
- Vincent Harris (Graduate)
- Conor Joy (Community Liaison Officer)

- James Moran (Development Project Manager - Temporary Emergency Generation)
- Bryan O'Connor (Project Manager, Renewables).

In attendance from Gravis Planning and AECOM were:

- Ed Barrett (Director, Planning – Gravis)
- Rachel Devine (Principal Environmental Consultant - AECOM).

Public Consultation Event – Listowel Arms Hotel, 19th July 2023

The second in-person consultation evening took place in the Listowel Arms Hotel on Wednesday 19th July. Again, pull-up banners and a short video presented via projector were on display. Members of the public were greeted by the CLO, asked to sign the attendance sheet, and encouraged to examine the pull up banners and revert to members of the Project Team present for any additional queries. Members of the public were also asked to fill out the Feedback Forms present in the room.

Again, feedback from those in attendance was positive with general queries regarding employment opportunities and additional community funding which might be made available from SSE.

The attendance was quieter in contrast to the Tarbert event. 12 persons signed the attendance sheet. Political representative in attendance on the night included Cllr Aoife Thornton (Fine Gael), Cllr Tom Barry (Sinn Féin) and a representative of Minister Normal Foley (Fianna Fáil).

In attendance from SSE Thermal and other SSE business units were:

- Nicholas Norris (Project Manager)
- Marie-Jo Booth (Lead Consents Manager)
- David Colston (Lead Design Development Engineer)
- Callum Park (Design Development Engineer)
- Gerry Crean (Station Manager)
- Vincent Harris (Graduate)
- Conor Joy (Community Liaison Officer)
- James Moran (Development Project Manager - Temporary Emergency Generation).

In attendance from Gravis Planning and AECOM were:

- Sean Breslin (Senior Consultant - Gravis)
- Rachel Devine (Principal Environmental Consultant - AECOM).