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1.0 THE PROPOSAL

Introduction

This 'Pre-Application Consultation Report' (PAC Report), relates to a planning application made by RES UK & Ireland Ltd (RES) for Highlee Hill Wind Farm ('the proposed development'). This document details and reports on the consultation process undertaken by RES.

RES has served this document to the following parties:

- Scottish Borders Council
- Southdean Community Council
- Jed Valley Community Council
- Hobkirk Community Council
- Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council

A link to the document will also be available at the project website www.highleehill-windfarm.co.uk and the Environmental Statement (ES), which is available at the following locations:

Scottish Borders Council
Planning & Regulatory Services
Newton St Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA

Southdean Hall
Chesters
TD9 8TH

Hawick Library
North Bridge Street
Hawick
TD9 9QT

Project Description

As set out in the Schedule, Regulation 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, the proposed development is defined as a 'Major Development', as the capacity is, or exceeds 20 megawatts.

Planning permission is being sought for a wind farm development comprising the following:

- 13 three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbines. Turbine 6 & 7 at 150 m and the others at 176 m tip-height,
- turbine foundations,
- hardstanding areas at each turbine location for use by cranes erecting and maintaining the turbine,
- access tracks,
- 4 temporary, guyed lattice work meteorological ('met') masts,
- a wind farm compound containing a control building,

- an on-site electrical and control network of underground (buried) cables,
- a temporary construction compound,
- a temporary enabling works/gatehouse compound,
- 1 10m communications mast,
- borrow pits,
- drainage works including a SuDs system,
- associated ancillary works,
- engineering operations,
- forestry felling,
- a connection from the control building to the local grid network (not part of the wind farm planning application).

2.0 THE APPLICANT

RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 30 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 10,000MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES currently has more than 1,000MW of projects either constructed, under construction or consented. RES is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including both onshore and offshore wind, solar, wave and tidal as well as enabling technologies such as energy storage and demand-side management.

In Scotland, RES has developed and/or built eleven wind farms with a total generation capacity of nearly 215 MW. RES is currently constructing Glenchamber Wind Farm and Minnygap Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway, Freasdail Wind Farm in Argyll and Bute and Penmanshiel Wind Farm in the Scottish Borders. Drawing on decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality. From its Glasgow office RES has been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. RES has a growing team of over 117 staff in Scotland working across a range of disciplines.

3.0 OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

RES is experienced in wind energy project development and community consultation is an integral part of the process. A comprehensive process that engages with local people and stakeholders at an early stage allows an informed debate that helps us identify issues of concerns, explore solutions and design a low-impact project that will be welcomed as a positive asset by the local community.

As outlined in Section 1.0 of this report, the proposed development constitutes a 'Major Development', as the proposed capacity is, or exceeds 20 megawatts. This requires the applicant to carry out Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) with the local community and submit a PAC report with the planning application. This document fulfils this requirement. As a prerequisite, an applicant must provide a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) setting out how it intends to carry out consultation and engage with the community local to its proposed development. RES submitted a PAN to Scottish Borders Council (SBC) on 20th October 2015 and received confirmation that this satisfied the relevant requirements. The PAN was sent to Southdean Community Council, Jed Valley Community Council, Hobkirk Community Council and Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council on 20th October 2015. In addition the PAN was also sent to local Councillors for Hawick and Denholm ward, Hawick and Hermitage ward and Jedburgh and District ward.

Best practice guidance exists in Scotland on community engagement, with the most notable being PAN 3/2010 - Community Engagement. RES used the 10 National Standards for Community Engagement as set out in PAN 3/2010 to plan, monitor and evaluate the consultation process. In addition RES, also used SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) developed by PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) to effectively audit and review the consultation process.

RES worked closely with SBC to identify stakeholders, drawing on their knowledge to build up a good understanding of the community. We aimed to include all sectors of the community in the engagement process.

4.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

As set out in Regulations the minimum consultation activity states that an applicant must consult with community councils and hold a public event. RES believes that meaningful and productive consultation requires a more detailed approach, in undertaking the consultation for the proposed development RES has gone above and beyond the minimum statutory requirement.

As per Part 2, 7 (1) Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013:

“The prospective applicant is to consult as respects a proposed application every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated and in doing so is to give a copy of the proposed of application notice to such community council.”

Highlee Hill Wind Farm is located in Southdean Community Council area and this has been the main focus for consultation with the local community. RES has kept the three neighbouring community councils of Jed Valley Community Council, Hobkirk Community Council and Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council informed of the consultation process, as per the PAN.

At all stages of the consultation process RES set out clearly the purpose of the consultation. Throughout the process RES emphasised that comments made are not representations to the planning authority and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the planning authority, once a planning application is submitted.

5.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

RES used a variety of methods to consult with the local community. Information about each activity undertaken can be found in the table below.

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION	DATE
Meeting/Discussions with SBC	<p>Received Scoping Response</p> <p>Feedback on Proposal of Application Notice</p> <p>Meeting with SNH and SBC officers to review and agree viewpoints for assessment</p> <p>Discussion on ES deposit locations</p>	<p>March 2014 & December 2015</p> <p>December 2015</p> <p>January 2016</p> <p>May 2016</p>
Community Council Meetings	<p>RES has attended a number of meetings with Southdean Community Council over the last three years. Most recently meetings were attended on..... In addition, regular email updates have been made to the Chair of the Southdean Community Council.</p>	<p>2013 - ongoing</p>
Community Liaison Group (CLG)	<p>CLGs are a common way for developers to engage with a number of Community Councils within single meetings, attendees comprising representatives of the various Community Councils. In this instance however, although the idea of setting up a CLG was mooted by RES, it was decided that Southdean Community Council was generally representative of the area surrounding the site and that it was appropriate for RES to attend Southdean Community Council meetings and correspond with their representatives, rather than set up a CLG.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
Public Exhibitions	<p>RES held the following public exhibition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southdean Hall, Chesters, 7th January 2016 <p>The public exhibition provided a forum to share information about the development. This included maps and plans detailing the proposal, the results of the surveys undertaken and potential access routes proposed. Local residents had the opportunity to meet the development team, find out information, ask questions and leave comments on the proposal. The public exhibition was held in a venue accessible to everyone in the community.</p> <p>The exhibition was held between the hours of 11am until 8pm. The exhibition was advertised in the local press, in posters displayed locally, it was intimated in a newsletter circulated to the relevant Community Council areas in December 2015 and RES staff informed locals of the exhibition during door knocking in the local area, also in December 2015. The exhibition provided a forum to share information about the development. The key functions of the exhibition were to share information visually, for attendees to meet RES staff and to answer questions about all and any aspect of the development and to gather feedback from attendees. In total 108 people attended the event. All those who attended the exhibitions were asked to complete a questionnaire.</p> <p>Summary of questionnaire data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 people filled out a questionnaire. • 17 people found out about the exhibition via the newsletter sent by RES, eight through seeing the advert in the local newspaper, one through a poster displayed locally and 18 people through other ways, including word of mouth. • Three people stated that they ‘knew a lot’ about the project before the exhibition, 20 people said they knew ‘quite a lot’, 16 knew ‘a little’, whilst only three people ‘knew very little’ and one ‘knew nothing at all’. One respondent did not answer this question. • Seven people reported that they knew ‘a lot’ after attending the exhibition, 15 reported that they now knew ‘quite a lot’, 13 said they knew ‘a little’, 	<p>January 2016</p>

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION	DATE
	<p>eight said they knew ‘very little’ and one responded ‘none at all’ after attending the exhibition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When asked about the most useful part of the exhibition, three responded ‘all’ of it, six picked the information boards, two the photomontages, 18 found the ability to ask questions and provide feedback the most useful element, one cited the information boards and being able to ask questions, three selected the photomontages and the ability to ask questions and a further seven stated that other aspects of the exhibition were most useful to them. Four provided no response to this question. date, time and place of the exhibitions; a statement explaining how and by when comments to RES on the proposal should be made; and a statement explaining that comments made to RES are not representations to the planning authority and that these can be made once a planning application has been submitted. <p>A summary of the comments raised and our response can be found in Section 7.0.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition advert, exhibition letter and questionnaires can be found in Section 9.0. In reaction to the proposed layout, five people were ‘happy’, one was ‘neutral’, 17 stated they had ‘concerns’, nine said that they ‘don’t like wind farms in general’, a further nine said that they had ‘concerns and don’t like wind farms’, one was ‘neutral and don’t like wind farms’ and two did not respond to this question. <p>The exhibition was advertised on 24th December in Southern Reporter, /and 25th December in Hawick News and Selkirk Advertiser.</p> <p>The adverts included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description and location of the proposed development; where to obtain further information; 	
Meetings	<p>[As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, RES has engaged with statutory consultees and technical stakeholders including SBC, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Details of the consultation responses can be found in the Environment Statement accompanying this document.</p> <p>Ruth Elder (Development Manager) and Kirsten Sweeny (Community Relations Manager) attended a session of the Southdean Community Council and also the Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council meetings to give an update on the project progress on 19th August 2015 and 28th September respectively.</p>	[insert date]
Door-to-Door	Within the immediate vicinity of the wind farm, Ruth Elder (Development Manager) and Louise Davis (Development Manager) undertook door-to-door meetings with local residents to invite them personally to the exhibition and highlight the imminent distribution of the newsletter.	14th December 2015
Newsletters	<p>A newsletter was sent out to 623 houses and businesses within the following community council areas: - Southdean, Jed Valley, Hobkirk and Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Councils to inform them of the wind farm, as agreed by SBC. RES provided the opportunity to access the information in alternative formats such as Braille, large text and audio. A copy of the newsletter can be found in Section 9.0.</p> <p>A second newsletter will be sent out to the same distribution list after the submission of the planning application explaining that the details and results of the consultation process can be found in the PAC report which accompanies the planning application. The newsletter will provide details on how local residents can</p>	December 2015

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION	DATE
	make representations to SBC and where people can view the Environmental Statement and accompanying Non-Technical Summary.	
Emails/Letters	RES has provided written responses to anyone who requested additional information as part of the consultation process. A summary of the comments raised and our response can be found in Section 7.0.	January - March 2016
Questionnaires	<p>Local residents were given numerous avenues and opportunities to provide comments on the proposal, these included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section on community consultation in the newsletter and details on how to submit comments; 2. Details contained within the newspaper adverts on how to submit comments; 3. Questionnaire at the public exhibitions; 4. Information on the project website www.highleehill-windfarm.co.uk; 5. Door to door visits by RES staff to engage local residents. <p>At all times it was clearly stated that comments made were not representations to the planning authority. The deadline for receiving comments was also communicated. Specific details on questionnaires undertaken are included in relevant sections of this table.</p> <p>A summary of the comments raised and our response can be found in Section 7.0.</p>	December 2015 - April 2016
Website	RES has created a dedicated project website www.highleehill-windfarm.co.uk . This provides information about the proposed development, news and information on the consultation process. The website has been updated as the consultation process has progressed.	2013 - ongoing

6.0 EVALUATION OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Best practice guidance exists in Scotland on community engagement, with the most notable being PAN 3/2010 - Community Engagement. The next two tables evaluate the consultation process using the 10 National Standards for Community Engagement as set out in PAN 3/2010 and SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery). We have included examples to demonstrate how we have achieved the level and standard.

10 National Standards for Community Engagement Evaluation

THE STANDARD	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF HOW RES HAS ACHIEVED THIS
1. INVOLVEMENT	Identify and involve the people and organizations who have an interest in the focus of engagement.	RES identified key stakeholders and agreed with SBC a list of those stakeholders with whom to engage. Southdean Community Council meetings were used as a forum for discussing issues surrounding the development. A door-to-door exercise with local residents took place.
2. SUPPORT	Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.	Throughout the consultation process RES understood the need to help all individuals and groups engage. The opportunity was provided to access the information in alternative formats such as Braille, large text and audio. The public exhibitions were held in venues that were accessible to everyone in the community and took place across day time into late evening to suit as many people as possible. The public exhibition was deliberately arranged to avoid the school holidays.
3. PLANNING	Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions.	RES clearly set out the methods to be used for engagement in the Proposal of Application Notice. The engagement process took place over many months with the local community as the project developed and clearly set out what the purpose and scope of the engagement was.
4. METHODS	Agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.	RES used a variety of methods to consult including meetings, door-to-door, public exhibitions, newsletter, website and questionnaires to engage with the local community. The methods were agreed with SBC and the relevant community councils.
5. WORKING TOGETHER	Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently.	The Development Manager undertook the community engagement with assistance from the Community Relations Manager and technical specialists where appropriate; contact details for relevant staff were made publically available. We responded to all comments in a timely manner and, where appropriate, arranged meetings to discuss any concerns face-to-face.
6. SHARING INFORMATION	Ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants.	RES provided the opportunity to access the information in alternative formats such as Braille, large text and audio. A variety of mediums including newsletters, letters, press releases and website were used to communicate information about the project and the consultation process.
7. WORKING WITH OTHERS	Work effectively with others with an interest.	RES engaged with the community councils early in the process to explain the plan for community consultation and seek their feedback. RES then attended subsequent meetings of the Southdean Community Council.
8. IMPROVEMENT	Develop skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants	RES ensured that the Community Relations Manager involved in the consultation process was trained in 'Public and Stakeholder Engagement', 'Negotiation Skills' and 'Conflict Resolution'.

THE STANDARD	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF HOW RES HAS ACHIEVED THIS
9. FEEDBACK	Feed results back to the wider community and agencies affected.	Using the PAC report, website and Community Council meetings, RES has ensured that the findings of the consultation process have been presented with transparency and integrity.
10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standard for community engagement.	RES has constantly monitored the consultation process. We have evaluated the consultation process using the 10 National Standards for Community Engagement as set out in PAN 3/2010. In addition RES used SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) derived from PAN 3/210 to audit the consultation process.

SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery Evaluation)

SP=EED	LEVEL ACHIEVED	EXAMPLES OF HOW RES HAS ACHIEVED THIS
TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY	Level 3 - There will be dialogue with communities and key stakeholders to agree on how the community engagement will operate and how inputs from participants will be used.	RES engaged in a dialogue with the local community councils to discuss the proposed engagement process. We were clear on the scope and purpose of the consultation process and attended meetings with Southdean Community Council, as this was the preferred method of engagement. Regular email contact has also been maintained with this community council over the course of the project.
TIME AND RESOURCES	Level 2 - A timetable will be published and followed that includes adequate periods set aside for meetings and discussions with respondents.	RES consulted on the timetable for consultation with SBC and the relevant community councils. We deliberately arranged the public exhibition so it avoided the school holidays. RES communicated the deadline for comments to be received on the website, in the newsletter, in newspaper adverts and at the exhibitions.
INFORMATION	Level 2- Information that is relevant to the development plan or proposal will be communicated and shared between all participants.	RES ensured all information was available in a timely manner and was clearly presented. We have kept the community informed as the consultation process has progressed.
COORDINATION	Level 2 - There will be a coordinated approach that avoids 'consultation fatigue'.	RES engaged all the relevant stakeholders in the consultation process. We have engaged in a dialogue with the local community councils to discuss the proposed engagement process.
RESPONSIVE	Level 2 - Responses will be analysed and the findings will be reported back to all the stakeholders, with an indication of how proposals have been changed as a result of matters raised during the consultation.	RES set out in the PAN: When working with stakeholders, RES will listen, respond in a timely manner and, where appropriate either adapt the proposal or mitigate in response to the issues raised. Where this is not appropriate, RES will explain why. A summary of the comments raised and our responses can be found in Section 7.0.
ACCESSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE	Level 2 - The methods used to consult people will be appropriate to the situation so that people with an interest can have a say. There will always be opportunities to discuss the plans or proposals with professional staff, and submit responses by letter, phone, e-mail	The Development Manager led the community engagement with assistance from the Community Relations Manager and from technical specialists where appropriate; contact details for relevant staff were made publically available. We responded to all comments in a timely manner and, where

SP=EED	LEVEL ACHIEVED	EXAMPLES OF HOW RES HAS ACHIEVED THIS
	of personal contact.	appropriate, arranged meetings to discuss any concerns face-to-face.
INCLUSIVE AND REACHING OUT	Level 1 - Dissemination of information is designed to reach all potentially interested parties.	RES provided the opportunity to access the information in alternative formats such as Braille, large text and audio. We used a variety of mediums including newsletters, letters, press releases and a website to communicate information about the project and the consultation process. The public exhibition was held in a venue that was accessible to everyone in the community and took place across day time into late evening to suit as many people as possible. The public exhibition was deliberately arranged to avoid the school holidays.
REPRESENTATIVE	Level 2 - The consultation process will be representative of the person likely to be affected by the plan or proposal.	RES identified key stakeholders and asked SBC for a list of stakeholders with whom to engage with. We set up a CLG as a forum for discussing issues surrounding the development. RES undertook a door-to-door exercise with local residents.
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	Level 1 - There will be monitoring of the information distribution. This information is analysed and influences later stages or exercises.	This PAC report fulfils this requirement by documenting the consultation process that has been undertaken and providing a summary of the comments received.
LEARNING AND SHARING	Level 2 - the lessons from the community engagement experience will be reviewed and shared with others.	RES will internally review the community consultation process undertaken for the proposed development and use this to influence future developments.

7.0 COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

Below is a summary of the comments received. A number of the comments received relate to work that is carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. This document accompanies the Environmental Statement a summary in response to the issue raised is given below and the reference to the relevant chapter of the Environment Statement is given for further clarity. The below focuses on comments that are relevant to the planning process, a summary of other comments on the proposed development can be found in Section 9.0.

TOPIC	COMMENT RECEIVED	RES RESPONSE
Transport	Some local residents were concerned that the turbine delivery route would be coming through Chesters.	<p>RES has been very careful to ensure that the village of Chesters will not be disrupted in this way. The turbine delivery route comes from the south, heading north to the site from the A68 and then on to the A6088 before entering the site prior to reaching Chesters. At the earliest Community Council meetings that RES attended it was made very clear that local people felt strongly about not having a route through Chesters for abnormal deliveries. It has remained a priority throughout the evolution of the project to ensure that this is respected.</p> <p>We will discuss in detail all access arrangements with the Roads Department at Scottish Borders Council and local residents to ensure that we further consider any concerns people may have. A detailed Traffic Management Plan would be agreed with the Roads Department and the police.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Statement, Volume 2: Main Report, Chapter 11 Traffic and Transport.</p>
Noise	A number of residents raised questions in relation to noise at the public exhibition.	<p>RES has undertaken background acoustic assessments at various properties surrounding the wind farm, identified in consultation with Scottish Borders Council Environmental Health Department. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with ‘The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms’ referred to ‘ETSU-R-97’ as recommended by Scottish Planning Policy. The methodology described in this document was developed by a working group comprised of across-section of interested persons including, amongst others, environmental health officers, wind farm operators and independent acoustic experts. This methodology states that the wind farm should not produce noise over a certain level relative to that already existing (the background noise) or, in low noise environments and conditions, an absolute lower limit.</p> <p>Therefore in order to protect the noise environment near to a proposed wind farm, the existing background noise levels may need to be known. ETSU-R-97 makes clear that the background surveys (to help derive the relevant limits) are not required at all nearby properties but only a sub-set thereof. As such, RES undertook a number of background noise surveys which we believe adequately represented the local neighbours to the wind farm.</p> <p>At the public exhibition we used some illustrative sheets as handouts to those who wished additional information about how the noise assessment for a wind farm is undertaken. We received positive feedback from those interested in this issue and who found this material helpful.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Statement, Volume 2: Main Report, Chapter 9 Noise.</p>
Landscape & Visual	A number of residents raised concerns in relation to the visual impact of the wind farm and potential cumulative issues in the area.	<p>As is quite typical for any wind farm proposal, a lot of the discussion with local residents and other local stakeholders has centred round the visual aspects of the wind farm. When designing a wind farm RES spends a lot of time studying the area and the various constraints. The layout that has been designed for the proposed development takes into account wind speed, national designations, microwave links, rights of way, hydrological and ecological features and ornithological considerations. In addition, it has also allowed for road and housing buffers.</p> <p>The design aim was to achieve reduced landscape and visual effects whilst achieving an appropriate landscape fit, and avoiding areas constrained by other environmental factors such as ecology, hydrology and archaeology whilst maximising potential electricity generation.</p> <p>Initial site investigations considered a development comprising 37 turbines with a tip height of 150 m. As a result of consultation, detailed technical environmental surveys and a thorough design process the number of the turbines evolved down to 13 (two turbines at 150 m and 11 turbines at 176 m). The final location of the turbines has taken into account the local topography and views into the site from the surrounding area, as well as respecting distance from residential properties. The different heights have been carefully woven into the design to ensure the most appropriate turbine locations can be used whilst ensuring a sensitive design.</p>

TOPIC	COMMENT RECEIVED	RES RESPONSE
		<p>From the studies we have undertaken and the professional advice we have received, we believe that the current turbine locations and heights proposed are appropriate for a wind farm at this location.</p> <p>We showed a number of photomontages of the wind farm at the public exhibition to aid discussion at the event. Scoping responses and questionnaires from the exhibition revealed a few other photomontage locations that local people wanted to see included in the planning submission, including at Carter Bar and at Chesters Brae. RES has ensured that these photomontages now form part of the planning submission and Environmental Statement documents.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Statement, Volume 2: Main Report, Chapter 4 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.</p>
Aviation Lighting	Local residents raised questions regarding the requirement for aviation lighting on the turbines.	<p>A number of local residents were looking for more information with regards potential aviation lighting on the turbines. This is an issue of interest given that the turbines are over 150m. There appeared to be a number of misconceptions locally regarding what is required for aviation lighting.</p> <p>At this stage RES, and the onshore wind industry as a whole, are in discussions with the CAA regarding how to tackle this issue. In respect of Highlee Hill Wind Farm, RES has specifically outlined two options to the CAA. Option one would not require any lighting on the turbines. Option two suggests that four turbines could be lit. These four turbines would have red lights, shielded in an upwards direction.</p> <p>Discussions with the CAA on this matter are continuing.</p>
Community Benefit Fund	Local residents commented that would like to see community benefit from the wind farm.	<p>RES is proposing a community benefits package of up to £5,000 each year per installed megawatt. This is likely to be split between a Community Benefit Fund for investment in local projects, and RES' innovative Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS). The LEDS scheme would offer an annual discount of £200 off the electricity bill of those properties closest to the wind farm and would be open to all residential, business and community buildings (including schools, places of worship and village halls) within a qualifying area for the operational lifetime of the wind farm, with the discount being paid directly to the electricity supplier.</p> <p>It is important to note that the offer of a community benefits package does not affect the decision to grant planning permission for the project as it is not a planning matter. RES has taken on board the comments received from the community and will explore the options further outside the planning process.</p>

8.0 SUMMARY

In accordance with The Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Regulation 7, we have fulfilled and exceeded the minimum statutory consultation activity. RES has documented and reported on the consultation activities undertaken. In addition, we have reviewed the consultation activities (Section 6.0) in line with 10 National Standards for Community Engagement as set out in PAN 3/2010 and SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery).

Where appropriate we have responded directly to comments raised or directed people to the relevant information provided during the consultation or independent sources. Section 7.0 sets out the comments received and how we have responded to the comments. Significant changes were made to the proposal following Scoping and in light of feedback from the local community.

- A reduction in the number of turbines from 37 to 13;
- Turbine locations focussed on area of site furthest from Chesters;
- Ensure minimal visual impact from Carter Bar;
- Planned route of abnormal routes will avoid the village of Chesters.

We have engaged early with the local community, and over an extended period of time, to facilitate a constructive consultation process; this has helped us understand and address any concerns as the project developed. Through the consultation process, we have helped the community in understanding the benefits and impacts of the proposed wind farm and added value and improved the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation. The consultation process has resulted in a high quality development proposal that we hope the local community will largely support in their area.

9.0 APPENDICES

- Newsletter
- Exhibition Newspaper Advert
- Exhibition Questionnaire
- Analysis of Exhibition Questionnaires
- Summary of Comments on Exhibition Questionnaires

Newsletter

HIGLEE HILL WIND FARM

Newsletter – Winter 2015/2016



Welcome to the first newsletter from RES designed to keep the local community informed about our proposed Highlee Hill Wind Farm.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

What are we proposing?

RES is currently consulting on its plans for a proposed wind farm located to the south of Chesters. From our current site investigations we are considering a layout with 13 turbines and an approximate installed capacity of up to 45 megawatts (MW).

RES has been undertaking various site investigations and studies to inform the layout and design of the proposed project. We are now at the stage of consulting with the local community over our proposal. We invite you to be part of our consultation process and look forward to receiving feedback on our proposal.

Why Highlee Hill?

Electricity is an essential part of our daily lives. It heats our homes, cooks our food, powers our entertainment systems and enables us to communicate with anyone, anywhere in the world. We simply can't do without it. But, ideally, we need a cleaner, home-grown energy supply that won't run out and won't cost the earth.

One solution is to harness the natural power of the wind to generate renewable electricity and that is what RES believes is possible at Highlee Hill.



3 km south of Chester,
Scottish Borders



13 turbines



Up to 45 MW
installed capacity



PUBLIC EXHIBITION

We would like to invite you to our public exhibition to share with you information on Highlee Wind Farm.

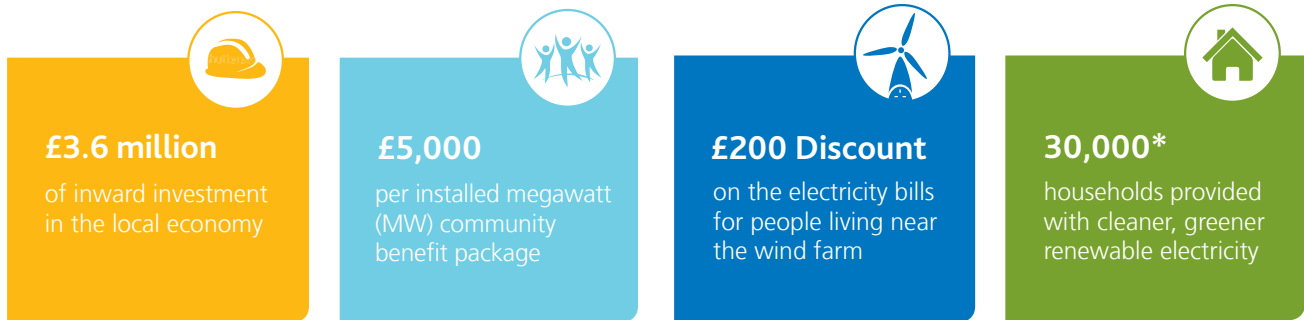
Thursday 7th January, 11am – 8pm
Southdean Hall, Chesters, Hawick TD9 8TH

We look forward to meeting you to discuss our proposal in more detail and answering any questions you may have.



THE BENEFITS OF HIGHLEE HILL WIND FARM

RES estimates that Highlee Hill Wind Farm would bring more than £3.6 million into the local economy during construction and the first year of operation. In addition, the community would be offered benefits of £5,000 per installed megawatt, made up of RES' innovative Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) and a Community Benefit Fund. Through LEDS, RES' pioneering approach to local community benefits sees those living and working around the wind farm sharing in the revenue of the wind farm through a direct discount of £200 off their electricity bills every year, irrespective of who their supplier is. Eligible properties will be contacted directly with details of how to register for the scheme.



*The homes equivalent has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES studies Highlee Hill Wind Farm has a predicted capacity factor of 32.22%) and dividing this by the annual average electricity consumption figures from the Department of Energy and Climate Change 2014 (4115 kWh).

ABOUT US

RES, a privately owned British company with a proud history in Scotland, is one of the world's leading renewable energy developers. RES has developed and/or built more than 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES currently has more than 1,000 MW of wind energy projects either constructed, under construction or consented. Employing well over 100 staff in Scotland, RES has over 30 years' experience of developing, constructing and operating projects of outstanding quality.

RES has extensive experience developing wind farms and working with communities in the Scottish Borders since the late 1990s. RES developed and constructed Dun Law and Dun Law Extension at Soutra and Black Hill near Duns. We are currently constructing Penmanshiel Wind Farm near Grantshouse, which is due to be generating clean green renewable electricity in 2016.



For more information please contact:

Ruth Elder, Development Manager
E ruth.elder@res-ltd.com T 0141 404 5528
Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

In accordance with Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Scotland regulations 2008, Pre-Applications Consultation 7(2). Any persons wishing to submit comments can do so either in writing or by email to: *Ruth Elder, Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow G51 1PQ* or ruth.elder@res-ltd.com. The closing date for the submission of comments is 5th February 2016. Persons submitting comments in response to the Pre-Application Consultation are advised that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the planning authority (Scottish Borders Council); there will be an opportunity to submit representations to the planning authority should a planning application be made.

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know. For those receiving this newsletter by post, we obtained your address through a national postcode database. If you do not wish to receive more information from us about this proposal, please write to us and let us know.

Exhibition Newspaper Advert

HIGHLEE WIND FARM

Public Exhibition

RES invites local people interested in learning about the proposed Highlee Hill Wind Farm located near Chesters in the Scottish Borders, to come along to the following public exhibition.

Thursday 7th January 2016, 11am – 8pm
Southdean Hall, Chesters, Hawick, TD9 8TH

An opportunity to meet staff, ask questions and find out more about the proposed 13 turbine project.

In accordance with Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Scotland Regulations 2008, Pre Application Consultation 7(2). Any persons wishing to submit comments can do so either in writing or by email to: *Ruth Elder, Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ* or *ruth.elder@res-ltd.com*. The closing date for the submission of comments is 5th February 2016. Persons submitting comments in response to the Pre-Application Consultation are advised that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the planning authority (Scottish Borders Council); there will be an opportunity to submit representations to the planning authority should a planning application be made.



For more information, please contact Ruth Elder:

☎ 0141 404 5528
✉ ruth.elder@res-ltd.com
🌐 www.highleehill-windfarm.co.uk

res

Exhibition Questionnaire

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation with the communities around our wind farm developments. We are keen to hear your views on our proposed Highlee Hill Wind Farm. We would appreciate it if you would take a minute to provide us with some feedback.

1. How did you find out about the exhibition?

- Letter through the door
- Advert in Southern Reporter/Hawick News/Selkirk Advertiser
- Website: www.highleehill-windfarm.co.uk
- Poster (please specify location) _____
- Other (please specify) _____

2. Before coming to the public exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Highlee Hill Wind Farm?

- Know a lot
- Know quite a lot
- Know a little
- Know very little
- Know nothing at all

3. Having attended this exhibition, to what extent do you feel we have increased your understanding and information about the proposed Highlee Hill Wind Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Not at all

4. Which part of the exhibition did you find most useful today?

- The information boards
- The photomontages
- The ability to ask RES questions and provide feedback directly to the project team
- Other (please specify) _____

5. What do you think about the layout for Highlee Hill Wind Farm?

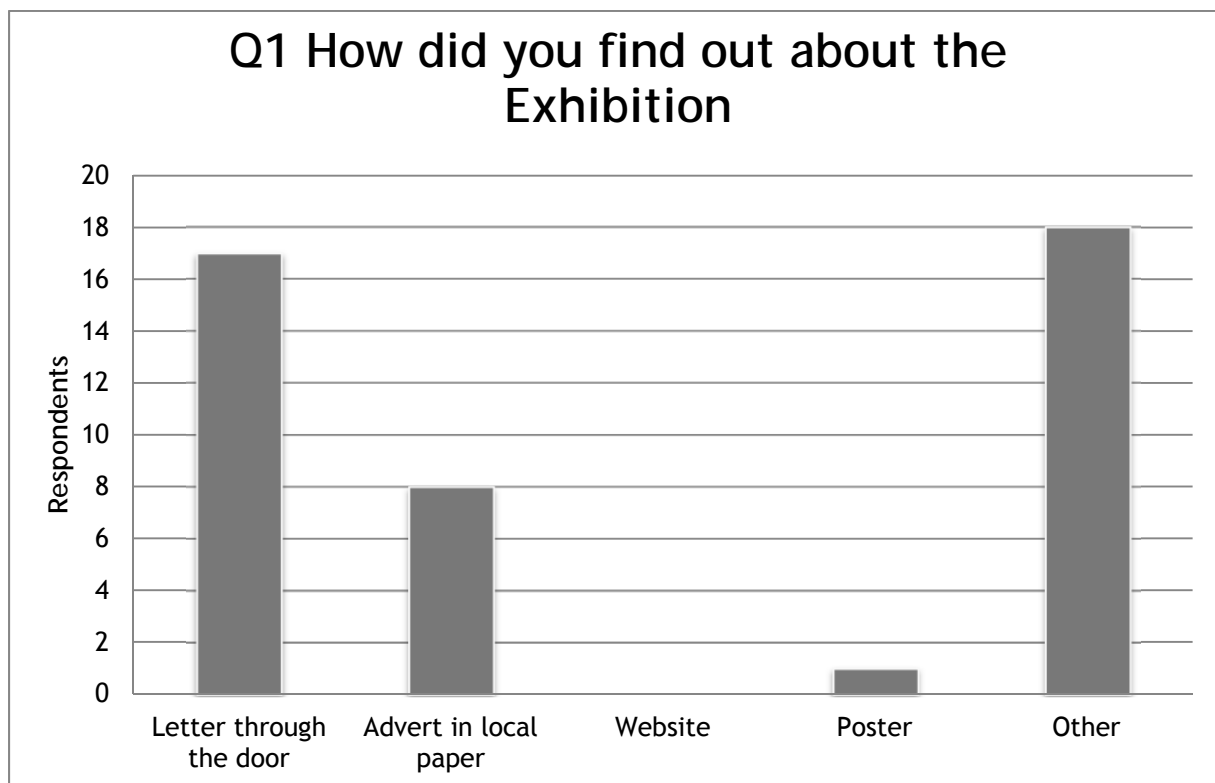
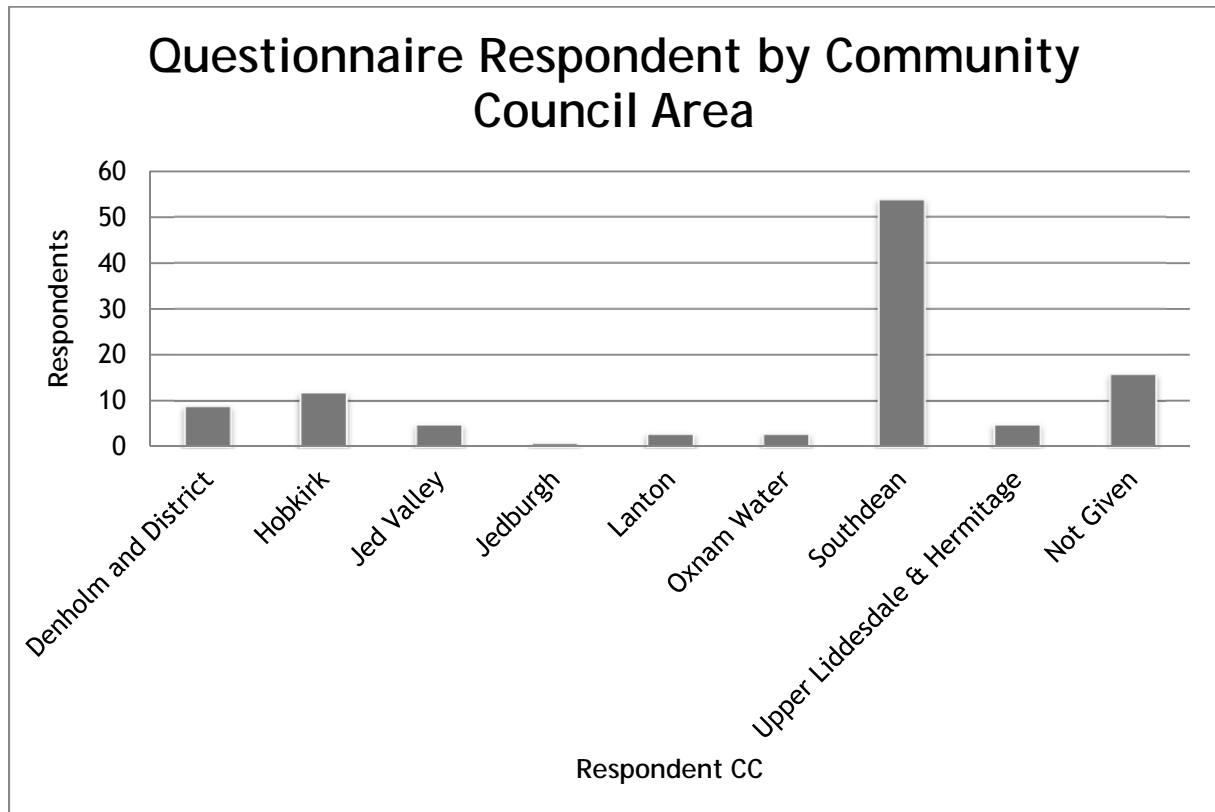
- I am happy with proposed layout
- I am neutral towards to the current proposed layout
- I have concerns about proposed layout (please suggest any changes to the layout below)
- I don't like wind farms in general

Layout comments: _____

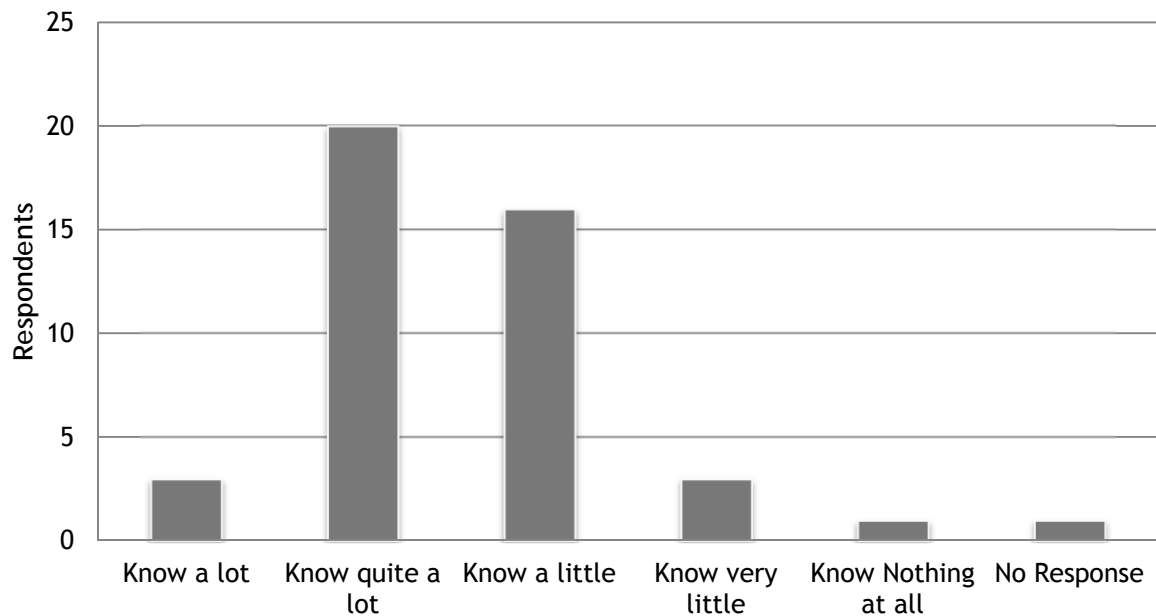
6. Additional Comments:

If you would like to be kept informed about the proposed Highlee Hill Wind Farm or have left a comment that you would like RES to contact you about, please leave your details here:

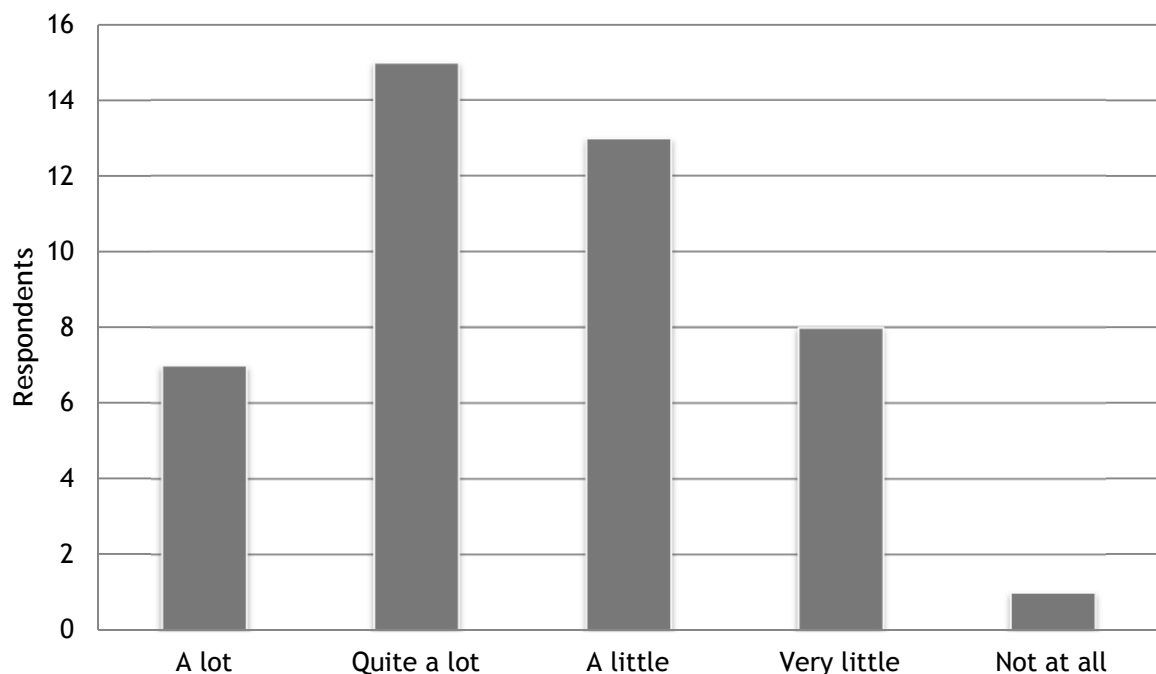
Name: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____



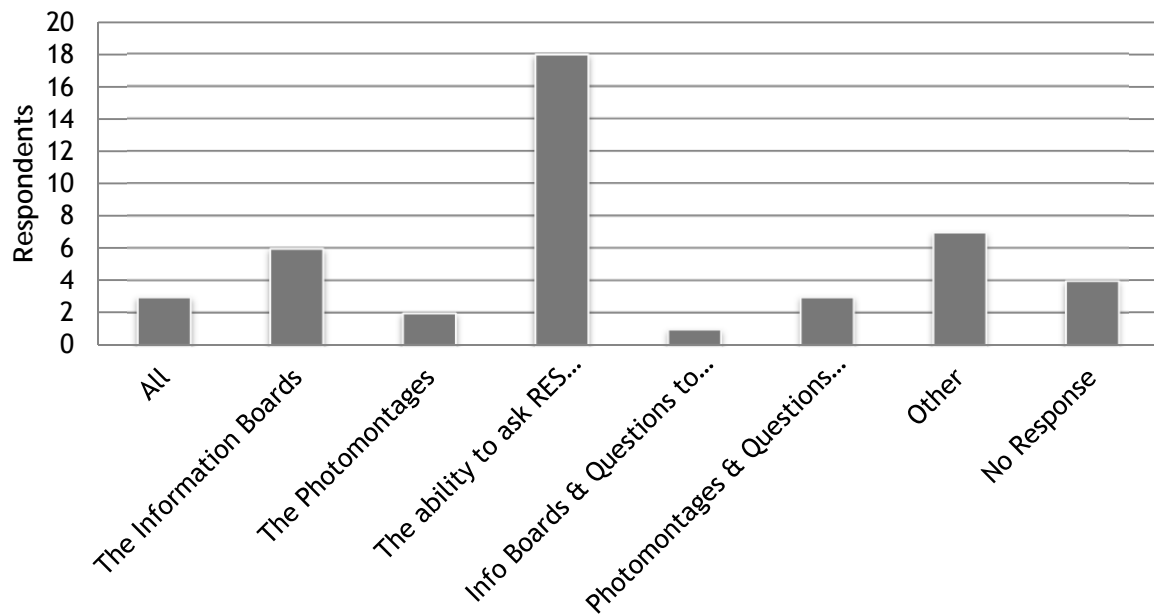
Q2 Knowledge Before Attending Exhibition



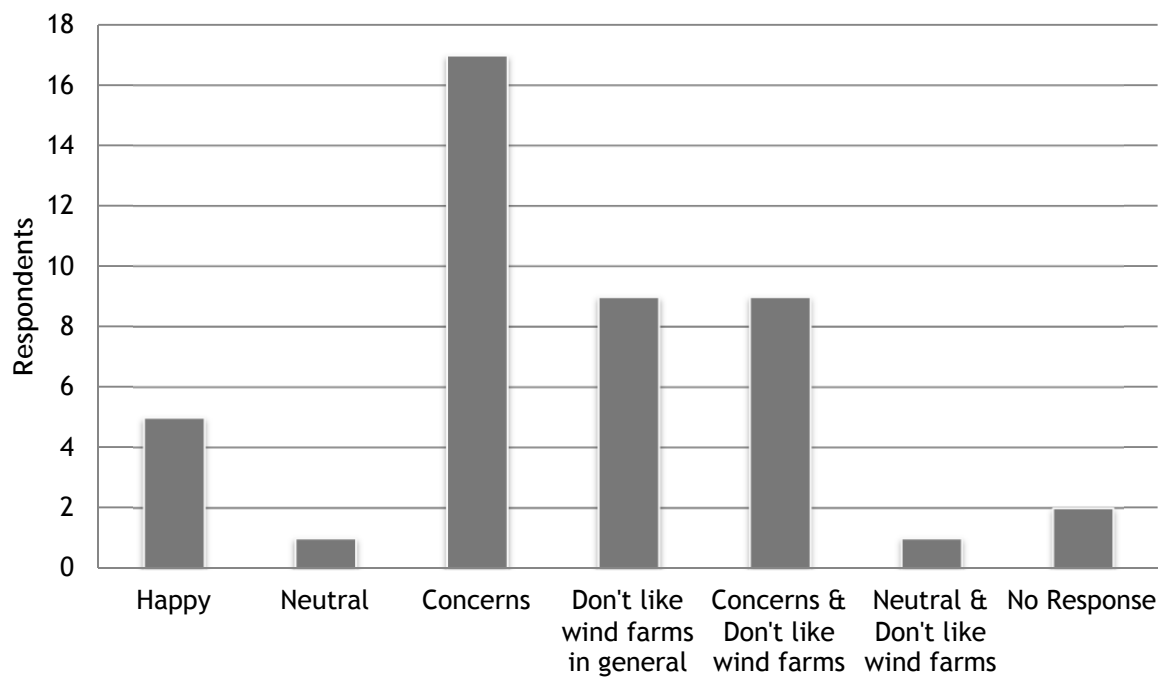
Q3 Knowledge After Attending Exhibition



Q4 Which part of the Exhibition most useful



Q5 Reaction to the proposed layout



Summary of Comments from Exhibition Questionnaires

Some responses in relation to Question 5a 'Layout Comments'

- Not opposed to wind farms generally but feels there are too many in the Scottish Borders and is against this development
- A lot of local scaremongering goes on.
- This is not a suitable site for 175m turbines.

Some responses in relation to Question 6 'Additional Comments'

- I think the local community should embrace the concept. Perhaps use the now closed school as a resource centre
- We hope to have this area designated as a National Park. This proposal does not sit well with it. It is detrimental to the tourist areas of this part of Scotland.
- The proposal is well presented. However, Carter Bar on the A68 is the ONLY scenic road entrance to Scotland. The view is exceptional and widely known and should not be desecrated.
- We found the members of the RES Project Team to be very knowledgeable and informative.
- Although our questions were answered, our concerns regarding visual, audible and construction traffic impact remain the same.
- Entirely in favour once my concern about the aviation lights was answered.