

Fairlie Community Council --meeting 1930hrs 1 October 2023 at Semple Centre.

Attending. FCC Rita Holmes (chair) , Alan Holden (taking minutes),David Telford, Malcolm Milne, Mairi Wyatt, David Nairn. Councillor Marshall + 5 public.

Apologies. Marco Piva, Ian Murdoch, Ian Hunter,

Approval of September 2023 minutes, Accepted by DT seconded by DN.

Councillors report - no report for this meeting. TM would make comments on topics when needed.

Police report --- no report received this month. (several months since we last had a report).

1. Hunterston Parc Liaison Group Update.

NB FCC members RH, JP, Councillors Murdoch and Marshall attended this and Dr John Riddell chaired the meeting. Many of the NAC Councillors and other area CC members did not attend. The FAST RIG TEST FACILITY is being set up on the old rig construction site. The planned 'infill' of the basin will use sand material dredged up from the Fairlie channel along with sand dredged up to make deep water berthing alongside the proposed new quay wall. The levelled area will be used to assemble wind turbine modules to be used for various off shore wind farms and floating wind farm turbines. Most equipment will come in by ship to the new quay.

DT asked about the previous plans for oil rig decommissioning, TM said that the planning consent for this project has expired, along with the money promised to support this project.

Peel Port are considering allowing 'Cruise Ships' to berth at the main jetty.

There will be 'ship to barge' transfer of rock material being done for several months. The rock is going to Millport to build the offshore breakwater.

Comments were made about 'noise at night time'.

RH is anticipating receipt of full minutes being issued for the Parc Liaison Group meeting.

2 Introduction of and brief update from XLCC's liaison Officer.

Chris Rae who has replaced Mr Hulme (NB XLCC holding event in West Kilbride on the 12th October)

The UK government is reported as supporting the plans for XLCC and the X Links project for electrical supplies from Morocco . The planned cable factory costs have increased and it is now reported that £1.4 b£ is required, liaison with investment banks continues.

The aim is to build a factory facility capable of having 6 lines of cable production. Initially 3 lines of cable manufacturing will be operated producing HV DC cable for 525 Kv, this will be the one and only type of cable being manufactured. The other three production lines will be installed if another 500m£ can be raised if the X Link project goes ahead. Initial cable production will be intended for UK off shore wind farms and sub sea cable links. The aim being to produce 2,600Km of cable per year. The X Link plan aims at construction in 2025. A further sub sea cable link between Germany and Spain is being considered to aid the transfer of energy in Europe.

XLCC have employed 5 apprentices started work at offices in Kilmarnock, and following a training program which will involve some training in Germany. In the longer term a training centre is being considered for Irvine to train 'cable jointers' (60 needed). A 'Director of cables' has also been appointed.

The Hunterston factory site preparation is due to start in Q2 of 2024, with ground clearance in Q3 of 2024 and 'tower building' planned for Q2 of 2025.

The overall aim is to have new cable ready for sale in 2028.

The tower will be 185mtr tall and will have an office area within it at 150mtr level.

The proposed 'Bond for Tower demolition' is to be financed by XLCC but no statement yet as to who will hold this Bond.

The 'cable pulling track' along the jetty, final design is aimed at 2024 and at the moment will be aimed at being in a tunnel attached under the jetty.

The 'Cable laying vessel' design is on display in London Science Museum, it will be 200mtr long and 30mtr wide, and when in port will attach to the East side of the jetty. Will probably come to collect cable 6 to 10 times per year. The contract to build the vessel has not yet been agreed, but may soon be signed. The ship engines will run on methanol and ship will come to Hunterston jetty approaching from the South. No methanol is intended for storage at Hunterston. Previously stated that electrical propulsion will be used when near to port, and shore supplied power will be available for a ship moored at the jetty. This will reduce any noise problems.

Other deliveries to Hunterston Site, the aim is to use sea and rail deliveries as much as possible during construction and operation. Any road deliveries will come in from the south on A78. Discussions on a transport plan are ongoing with Transport Scotland and Network Rail.

The next 'Public meeting' and consultation is planned for 12th October in West Kilbride village hall. (1230 - 1530hrs) More detail and answers to questions are on the XLCC website.

3 Hunterston SSG Update

Reactor 3 defueling is complete and fuel has gone off to Sellafield. Reactor 4 defueling is due to start before the end of 2023 and the aim is to complete this reactor by mid 2025.

'A' Station - grouting/ encapsulation has not yet started on the waste boxes. Wet ILW store permission time line has been extended.

4 North Southannan Forestry project

Forestry logs from Fairlie glen South side will be brought down to Montgomery Rd for loading onto trucks. All of the trees from other areas being felled will be taken along towards the Moor Road for extraction.

5 Crosbie Windfarm/ Battery storage proposal Update (Alan Holden, Mairi Wyatt and I met with Galileo representatives at their invitation)

The towers of the wind turbines will be 200Mtrs high and there will be 13 of them mostly near to the Moor Road area. Each will be 7Mw capacity along with a plan for battery storage. It is on Montgomery Estate land and because the total capacity is over 50Mw the planning decision has to go to Scottish Govt. Concerns have already been expressed about the size of these turbines, (normally a size for offshore use) damage to moorland area and the problem of an access route. A potential 'Community Benefit' of £5,000 per Mw is planned as is normal.

6 Fast Rig Project on the Marine Construction site/(NDA has interest)--- work has started at the oil rig construction site.

7 RAS Recycled Aquaculture System --- proposal has noted contamination of the site area with iron residue.

8 Heavy Construction traffic to Hunterston Estate Battery storage site

Council traffic management plan and conditions for this says no heavy traffic through Fairlie. This traffic of HGV's has now stopped after our complaint.

9 Coastal Path Update. - work due to start soon. Restrictions are planned for Causeway will last for 4 months. Details on NAC website and in the press.

10 Halloween / Bonfire Night --- no word yet about bonfire/ fireworks.

AOB . nothing new.

Next meeting is Monday 6th November at 7:30pm in the Semple Centre.