

Twyn Hywel Energy Park Community Liaison Group

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Attendance:

Present

- Eluned Lewis (EL) – Community Investment Manager, Bute Energy
- Kadun Rees (KR) – External Affairs Coordinator, Bute Energy
- Gareth Edwards (GE) – Delivery Project Manager, Bute Energy
- Garry Hession (GH) – Natural power
- Mark Nickolson (MN) – Natural Power
- Sean Morgan (SM) - County Councillor
- Brenda Miles (BM) – County Councillor
- Dave Brunton (DB) – Senghenydd Youth Drop In centre
- Patricia Bull (PB) - Aber Valley Partnership
- Sadie Pash (SP) – Aber Valley Partnership
- Colin Langford (CL) - Aber Valley Partnership
- Joanne Davies (JD) - Senghenydd RFC
- Natalie Sargent (NS) – The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Apologies

- Colin Mann (CM) – County Councillor
- Hywel Gornow (HG) – County Councillor
- Angela karadog – County Councillor
- Lyn Bowen (LB) – Nelson RFC
- Kim Allen (KA) – Nelson Community Council
- Owen Hughes (OH) – Local youth representative
- Gina Jones (AP) – GAVO

Agenda overview

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
1. Project update – Gareth Edwards, Project Delivery Manager, Bute Energy / Natural Power, Programme Manager
2. Stakeholder engagement, CIO and local panel progress –Eluned Lewis, Bute Energy
3. Early release discussion – Eluned Lewis, Bute Energy
4. AOB

5. Date and location of next meeting

Discussions and notes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

KR and EL welcomed everyone to the meeting, and around the table introductions took place. KR noted all apologies received.

2. Project update

- GE outlined the work over the previous period, which includes:
 - Final CCBC pre - commencement planning conditions approved;
 - SAB approval for Parcel A (main site access road) obtained
 - Detailed designs being finalised
 - Utility and additional topographic surveys completed
 - Archaeological earthworks survey completed
 - 90% of vegetation clearance works completed
 - Enabling access track constructed at site entrance
 - Enabling works compound established
- GE then outlined the work to be expected over the coming weeks/months, including:
 - Finalisation of site clearance works
 - Installation of main construction compound
 - Borrow pit works - fencing, topsoil strip, overburden removal, stone extraction and processing
 - Access track, turbine hardstand and drainage construction: focus on site entrance to public road crossing, public road crossing to eastern turbine group
 - THEP substation plateau construction
 - Installation of Cilfynydd substation construction compound
 - Cilfynydd substation ground works: ducting, drainage and foundations installation
 - Grid cable civil works – open trench and horizontal directional drilling
- GE gave a summary of the pre-construction ecological survey (see slides for full details).
- GH and MN introduced Natural Power. The team manage approximately 40,000MW of energy projects across the UK and has a multidisciplinary team undertaking ground investigation and construction activities. Natural Power currently manages around 33% of the UK's renewable energy infrastructure.

- GE presented the ecological survey findings and archaeological survey results (see slides). GH confirmed that all necessary ecological mitigation measures will be in place before any work proceeds.
- GE provided an overview of construction traffic requirements. (see slides).

Members asked questions

- SM: asked how much material would be extracted from the borrow pit and its intended use. GE: Approximately 50,000 cubic metres of stone may be extracted, depending on quality. The material will be used as general fill within the site's earthworks.
- SM: Raised concerns regarding significant works at Cilfynydd Substation in Nelson and the cumulative impact on local traffic. GE: Confirmed that a resident letter drop is planned for properties around Llanfabon Road. SM: Requested that contractor compliance with speed limits be included within the communications.
- SM: Asked whether the site access tracks would be completed over the coming months. GE: Confirmed that access tracks will continue to be constructed and completed during this period.
- SM: Asked who would undertake the grid cable civil engineering works. GE: Confirmed that H&MV Engineering will carry out these works.
- NS: Asked whether any social value commitments from contractors had been published. EL: Confirmed that the project team has been working with all contractors on social value commitments and an update will be provided shortly. KR: Encouraged members to email any social value ideas for consideration.
- SM: Suggested additional signage at key junctions to prevent large vehicles attempting to access unsuitable roads.
- SM: Asked what times turbine deliveries would take place. GH: Advised that deliveries are expected to take place over an eight-week period and will depend on police availability, but the deliveries will take place around Spring 2027.
- CL: Asked about the height of the turbine towers. GE: Confirmed the towers will be approximately 119 metres high.
- BM: Asked about the extent of modifications required along the transport route from Nelson to the site. GE: Confirmed that the full transport route can be reviewed at a future CLG meeting.
- NS: Asked whether residents may need to move vehicles overnight during turbine deliveries. GE: Said this is unlikely.
- SM: Requested detailed information on vehicle numbers and movement types to help inform the public. GE: Noted that turbine deliveries are approximately 11 months away and that extensive communication with residents will take place beforehand. KR: Confirmed that resident letter drops and wider community

communications are being developed as part of a broader communications strategy to keep local communities informed about upcoming traffic impacts.

Actions

- All: to email the Twyn Hywel team with any social value suggestions or requests.

3. Stakeholder engagement, CIO and local panel progress

EL provided an update on recent stakeholder engagement, the newly formed CIO, and the recruitment of a local grants panel.

- EL thanked members for attending the construction launch event in June at Nelson RFC. Held on 26 June at Nelson RFC, this event marked the milestone of Twyn Hywel Energy Park moving into construction, with a stakeholder briefing held in the morning (CLG members invitation included) and a public drop - in session in the afternoon. Designed to provide information about what to expect during construction, meeting one of the key suppliers, understanding more about the work of the Community Investment team and feeding into local insight about the community.
- EL provided an update on the establishment of the national Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO registration is still in progress with the Charity Commission.
- EL noted that applications for the local community panel have officially closed, although expressions of interest can still be submitted.

Members asked questions

- Colin Langford raised difficulties with applying for the local panel, noting it had closed. Action: EL to check whether the link is still live and to email Colin following the meeting to confirm it if his application had been received or not.

Actions

- EL: to circulate application information again by email.

4. Early release discussion

EL outlined the various options for releasing early community benefit funds.

- EL confirmed that an early release of funding is planned for September. Work on community energy initiatives continues to progress. Initial assessments suggest that a community energy hydro project on site may be feasible, with further investigation ongoing.

- EL asked the group whether 25% of the Community Benefit Fund should be ringfenced specifically for community energy projects, or whether the fund should remain open with community energy projects applying through the standard process.
- NS: Declared an interest on behalf of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT), which is exploring community energy opportunities across Wales. CRT will shortly recruit a dedicated staff member to support this work.
- EL asked members to consider the allocated amounts of the early release (see slides for more information) and to discuss at a future meeting.

Members asked questions

- Members highlighted the need for a dedicated development role to support community mapping, project development, and community capacity building.

5. AOB

- All AOBs were addressed during the meeting.

6. Date and location of next meeting

Date: September tbc

Time: 18:30

Location: TBC

Session closed.

Actions from the meeting

Action	Lead
Email the Twyn Hywel team with any social value suggestions or requests.	All
Circulate local grant panel application information again by email.	EL
Collect email addresses and notify members when the application process is fully operational again.	EL