

RWE npower renewables

KILN PIT HILL WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT PACKAGE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION RESPONSES & NEXT STEPS

An **RWE** Innogy company

Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Package

Introduction

In April 2012, RWE npower renewables (RWE NRL) gave local people the opportunity to have their say on how the Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Package might be developed. Many thanks to those of you who took time to respond, your contributions are greatly appreciated. The results of the consultation have now been considered, and the next steps to be taken are detailed in this document.

To find out more about the Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm please visit –

www.npower-renewables.com/KilnPitHill-local-benefits

General principles

- A community benefits fund is being offered voluntarily by RWE npower renewables in association with Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm;
- The fund will be worth £15,000 per year, index linked in line with inflation, over the operational life of the wind farm (up to 25 years).
- This means a total fund in the region of £375,000 over the operational life time of the wind farm;
- The first fund payment will be made available shortly after the wind farm becomes fully operational which is likely to be May 2012;
- Secured for the future through a legal agreement with the administering body;
- Administered by independent local charity the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland;
- A transparent administration process with local people making the final decision on grants awarded;
- Simple, straightforward application process;
- Supporting environmental, educational, community and charitable activities.

Environmental education activity

- An environmental education workshop to be offered to Whittonstall, Ebchester and Shotley Bridge Primary Schools;
- Provided by our environmental education partner www.rowanbank.org.uk;
- Half day fun, interactive, curriculum linked workshop aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils;
- Workshop aims; to learn about climate change, renewables energy, what pupils can do to help the environment and to have lots of fun!
- In addition, we have developed a set of curriculum linked educational resources, which are available for all teachers to download from our website; www.npower-renewables.com/educationresources
- We are also providing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Education Day at Corbridge Middle School in association with our STEM education partner www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk.

Local economic benefit

During the development and construction of Kiln Pit Hill contracts with local companies represent significant investment into the local economy. Contracts with local companies include:

M Design, Newcastle, (designing and building the substation)

DA Dodds Building Services, Ebchester, (stone)

Anvil Construction, Consett, (building the substation)

Balfour Beatty, Newcastle, (electrical design and installation)

Steadfast Security, County Durham, (security services)

Easy Hire, Consett, (plant and tool suppliers)

Hubbway Plant, Cramlington, (plant & tool hire).

Matthew Charlton & Sons Ltd, Hexham, (roof for the control building)

Sustain Landscapes Ltd, Consett, (landscaping)

Martin Jewitt Plant Hire, Consett.

The Community Consultation on the Fund

The consultation on community benefit from Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm took place in April and May 2012. To ensure the funds have maximum benefit to the community, RWE NRL consulted on various options regarding the structure of the fund.

A consultation document was made available on our website and a press release was issued to local media with information about the consultation process which was open to all groups and individuals based within a 5km radius of the site. This document outlined the proposed structure and administration of the Community Fund and a map demonstrated the potential area of benefit for the Fund.

The consultation generated a lot of interest and significant amount of feedback from residents and community groups within the Shotley Low Quarter Parish. Below is a summary of the consultation feedback and an outline of plans going forward:

Geographical boundaries of the fund

<p>Our proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We proposed an area of benefit to include all communities within 5km of the boundary of the site. • When defining the geographical area of benefit for our community funds we usually consider a combination of the following factors: the proximity of communities to the development; visual impact of the development; level of disruption during construction period; how the location is used for work or recreation by the wider community; and the density of the local population.
<p>Consultation Responses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One respondent suggested reducing the area of benefit to Shotley Low Quarter Parish for the first 7-10 years of operation. • Four respondents suggested an initial area of benefit of Shotley Low Quarter which would then be increased, but did not specify a time period. • One suggested a reduced area of benefit for at least the first few years of operation. • One suggested reducing the area of benefit to a distance of 2.5km
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first 3 years of the funds operation the area of benefit will be limited to the Shotley Low Quarter Parish as this was the view supported by the majority of the respondents (see attached map). • After 3 years, a review of the viability of this area of benefit will take place in consultation with the community. This will result in the continuation of this existing area of benefit for an additional defined period or an extension to encompass a wider area. • When the local panel is establishing the criteria for the fund we will suggest they consider building in some flexibility to enable organisations and projects that are based outside the area of benefit but which significantly benefit communities inside the area of benefit, to receive support.

Local issues the fund could address and activities or projects that might benefit

<p>Education</p> <p>Whittonstall First School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A designated outdoor classroom complete with outdoor equipment to improve and develop gross motor skills across the age ranges including: Nature seating – benches, story telling chair, Amphitheatre seating for field area (community use also), outdoor musical instruments, shade sail. > Tools, equipment and cooking pots/utensils for use as part of the forest school
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Education Continued...

- > Increasing young people's environmental awareness and involvement through provision of an outdoor science station to facilitate investigations, data collection, knowledge and understanding. Also development of the existing pond area
- > Potential to generate renewable energy to reduce energy bill costs and potentially creating an income source for the School.
- > Further developing the school playing field as a community facility.
- > Support for the School Gardening Club by purchasing equipment such as a polytunnel or greenhouse to enable the children to learn from growing plants and produce.

Sport

- > Provision of a multi-use games area in Whittonstall which could be used by the school, local community and wider community for football, netball and basketball etc.

Equestrian

- > Indoor riding school with a large car park to help with training, coaching and competitions including toilet facilities, an office and meeting room and a viewing gallery. These facilities would be available for training for driving clubs, RDA, pony clubs, riding clubs and dog agility.
- > Payment scheme to farmers to give is off road access for riding on agreed parts of their land
- > Fence to mark edge of road on south lane, to allow path, riding on hard core area.
- > Wide verges around a 1km radius of the turbines cleared to provide 3 meter wide tracks for walkers and riders to get off the very narrow dangerous country lanes.

Developing Whittonstall Church into a multi use building

Supporting plans to develop a joint church and village hall with a secure, grassed play area on the unused section of the graveyard.

Access to the countryside

- > Improvement to footpaths and bridleways – improving upkeep and signage to benefit the whole community and support growth in tourism.
- > Development of part of Whittonstall Churchyard into a local Nature Reserve

Support for local businesses and individuals

Measures to increase broadband speed in Shotley Low Quarter Parish via a broadband hub in Whittonstall from the exchange in Ebchester.

St Johns Community Hall, Snods Edge.

A variety of potential projects were suggested including:

- > A vermin proof building for the storage of children's soft play equipment, scenery for the drama group and other general tools and sundries as there is not enough storage space and the existing storage building is not fit for purpose.
- > A new sports pavilion/changing facilities for local sports clubs to use.
- > Extension to the car park/resurfacing existing car park
- > A green or renewable energy supply, along with a new heating system and improved insulation of the building to reduce both running costs and carbon emissions
- > Resurfacing and new nets for tennis court.
- > New notice board.
- > General upkeep, maintenance and repairs of the building.
- > Outdoor children's play area – would also benefit young families from outside the Parish.
- > Speed calming measures
- > Installation, rental and upkeep of a WIFI system for the hall plus laptops/computers-as requested by the youth club.

Northumberland Guiding Association

- > **Provision of full disability access and upgrade to toilet block, septic tank provision, wood store, security and adventure play area**

Community transport scheme

Opportunities for local groups to access flexible funding

Active groups in Shotley Low Quarter Parish that were suggested as potential beneficiaries include:

Senior youth club, Junior youth club, Baby and Toddlers group, Sports club, Music group, Karate club, Gardening club, Flower club, The Quest club, The Woman's Institute, Snods Edge Wives club, Sunday school, amateur dramatics.

Safety

Improved road signage.

Pedestrian crossing for outside Whittonstall Primary School.

Maintenance of seats and benches within Shotley Low Quarter

Removal of over grown shrubs, bushes, trees and grass and rubbish to improve the appearance of the area.

All the suggestions above have been passed to the Community Foundation who will discuss them at the first training/induction session for the grants panel who will be making decisions on the allocation of funding. All respondents will be sent an application form in due course to enable them to consider making formal applications for funding.

Introducing the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland (CF)?

- The Fund will be held and administered by independent third party the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland (The CF):
<http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/>
- The CF is a properly constituted charity, registered with, and regulated by the Charity Commission;
 - The CF will advertise the availability of funds and manage the administration of the whole application process including distributing funding;
 - The CF will be responsible for the monitoring process for individual grants and for reporting to RWE npower renewables;
 - All decisions about allocation of funding will be made by a grants panel of local representatives, recruited, trained and managed by the CF;
 - The CF has a strong track record in making sure funding gets to small, grass roots community projects that really make a difference in local communities and that really need the support.
 - The CF's services attract a management fee (10% of the fund's value) which RWE npower renewables will pay in addition to the fund.
- The CF also hold a number of other funds which groups in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland are able to apply for, therefore there may be opportunities for applicants to the Kiln Pit Hill Community Benefit Fund to apply for other funds using the same simple application form. For more information on the other grant schemes they manage please visit the CF's website.

Next steps in establishing the Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

The Community Foundation will convene and train a local panel who will finalise the application process for the fund and who will ultimately make decisions on the allocation of monies from the fund. Once the fund is open for application we will promote it in local press and application forms will be available from the Community Foundation and also from RWE npower renewables website:

www.npower-renewables.com/KilnPitHill-local-benefits

Many thanks for your interest in the Kiln Pit Hill Community Benefit Fund. We look forward to seeing the fund open for applications and making a difference locally in the very near future. If you have any other comments or questions please contact:

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