

Garve & District Community Council

Achanalt House
Achanalt
By Garve
Ross-shire
IV23 2QD

Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Executive
2nd Floor
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 6AT

8 December 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

Wind Farm application Lochluichart

Application Number: 05/01052/S36RC

Applicant: LZN Ltd 20 Grosvenor Hill, London W1K 3HQ Agent: Savills, Wimborne

The Garve and District Community Council duly submit the following request and objection to development of the above referenced project and giving the following reasons.

Extension to time given for objections:

The Community Council and the community that falls within the boundary of the Garve and District Community Council request an extension to the time given to submit objections for the proposed planning application.

- 1) There has been no representation, correspondence or discussions with the Community Council until after the Application for planning was lodged.
- 2) Neither the applicant or their agent submitted any documentation that related to the application, scientific findings, environmental studies or results of any surveys carried out until the Community Council requested information, following the application for planning.
- 3) Due to the nature of the community at large, not all the residents received notification of the application till the 6 December 2005 leaving it woefully late to seek information and read the extensive documentation that is only available from three outlets that have restricted access and limited opening times.
- 4) Allowing for time restraints and the festive season it would be difficult for many in the community to submit correspondence that would be guaranteed to arrive on time.

Objection to the Planning Application:

Following a request from the Community Council the agents for the applicant (Savills) gave a presentation to the public Community Council meeting that was well supported by the local community. The community having heard the representation and viewing the slide show subsequently voted to ask the Community Council to put before the Scottish Executive an objection for planning permission and sighted the following reasons.

- 1) The visual impact on an area of outstanding beauty was such that local inhabitants, hill walkers and tourist would loss the natural benefit of an area unique and not being obstructed currently by any man made objects.

- 2) With the size and height of the proposed development they would be visible from the A835 – A832, Ben Wyvis, Little Wyvis, Beinn Dearg, Gorstan, Lochluichart, Inchbae and Aultguish, there are a number of other points within a wide area where they would be seen by hill walkers and climbers.
- 3) Data produced by the agent on issues such as that from the Scottish Heritage was out of date and the maps produced did not show a true picture as that issued by the Highland Council.
- 4) The developer's agent could not answer the question to what method will be used to transport the power produced from the site when developed. There is currently no means of moving the energy produced into the local area or the National grid and with none currently planned.
- 5) One survey identified that a rare bird uses the proposed sight and had a flight path close to the turbines.
- 6) Another slide identified the proposed transportation route each sections of the turbine would take; this included a section of road on the A835 between Contin and Garve. This is not only an accident black spot, but a more recent survey by another power company showed that this road would be unsuitable for the type and size of vehicles used due to grounding of the trailers on the undulating carriageway.
- 7) Grid reference 232508 – 867035 falls into an MOD low fly zone that is used regular by the RAF. Each Turbine will be 125 meters or approximately 412.5 feet add this to the height of the ground, that some of the units will be placed on, leads to an unacceptable high risk from low flying aircraft.
- 8) The late presentation by the agent left many unanswered question, this was further confused by the agent comparing this development of 43 turbines with the development in Swaffham Norfolk that has just one turbine.
- 9) It is estimated that this site would produce electricity for 70,000 homes none of which would be used to supply any of the properties in the Garve and District Communities Council area.

We look forward to your early response on both the issues raised and the points we have highlighted.

Yours sincerely
Garve and District Community Council

Donald G Northwood
Secretary