

## **Cyngor Cymuned Llanbadrig Community Council**

### **Minutes of the special meeting held at the Library on Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 6.30 to discuss the Council's response to Horizon's Consultation Document – Wylfa Newydd**

#### **Present –**

Derek Owen, Elfed Jones, Jack Longman, Marilyn Hughes, Dave Livingstone, Carys Davies, Dei Owens, Tony Hughes

Cllr Wil Hughes, Cllr Richard Jones, Cllr Aled Morris Jones  
Marton Fabok (Research Student), Carli Evans-Thau (Clerk)

#### **Apologies –**

Julia Dobson, Rose Griffiths

#### **Declaration of Interest -**

Julia Dobson was not present at the meeting on the advice of Monitoring Officer Lynn Ball due to having personal and prejudicial interest.

#### **Welcome -**

The Chair welcomed all present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Community Council's response to the current consultation document presented by Horizon with regard to Wylfa Newydd.

Prior to discussing the consultation, the Chair took the opportunity to remind everyone that it is important to respect and remember that some things discussed at Council meetings are sensitive and confidential, especially legal matters and as such that information must not be divulged until the Council (or sub-committee) have approved its release or the solicitors have said otherwise.

Marton Fabok asked whether the members were happy for him to be taking notes. All present were happy for him to stay as Marton has been a part of the community for the last six months and his information gathering is for the purpose of his research project.

#### **Consultation Document –**

The importance of responding to the consultation document was emphasised by all present and it was agreed that the project will bring about a number of life changing developments that will have both positive and negative effects on the community and its people. It is essential that the Council record any concerns and development ideas and that Horizon are made aware of the communities' expectancy of them as a developer.

It was noted that unlike some other communities, Llanbadrig have lived with nuclear power for a number of years and have learnt from experience. To date, employment opportunities and community support has been good, but it could have been better.

It was agreed that the Community Council cannot, and do not wish to stop the development but rather, raise awareness of local issues and ask the developers to take action to mitigate them. Wylfa Newydd will form part of the Llanbadrig Community for future generations and as such it is important to get the best for the community and to 'get it right'.

A number of points were raised and discussed haphazardly and it was agreed to look at the official feedback form prepared by Horizon, complete the answer boxes with the ideas and concerns raised as best possible and if required, to attach an additional covering letter outlining any additional points of note.

#### **Feedback Form –**

##### **1 – Do you have any general comments about the project?**

The members felt that Horizon was expecting to be able to develop as they wish, and without opposition. The Wylfa Newydd Project is a huge scale development, especially so in a picturesque, rural community such as Llanbadrig. Although there is the promise of employment opportunities, it is essential that the steps are taken by Horizon to listen to the community and take steps to mitigate the changes that will be brought about by the development. Concerns include the roads (a5025), Y Rhyd Cemetery, pressure on health and leisure services and security both on site and the local area due to high influx of employees and contractors to the immediate area. The effect of the development on local tourism is also of concern, especially with

noise levels, dust and increased level of traffic. More detail is included in the answers to the questions that follow.

## **2 – Do you have any comments about the way in which the consultation is being carried out?**

Due to the scale of the project, it was felt that engagement was not as high as it could be as a number of residents felt that ‘they are coming anyway, we can’t change it’. Members felt that the information available at open meetings and surgeries could be varied and more detailed. To date, it was felt that the information was the same at each meeting and thus people were possibly losing interest in the project and not engaging with Horizon.

The level of detail, or more specifically, the lack of detail in the consultation document was of concern to the members present and it was felt that a number of issues were being brushed aside. Llanbadrig and the wider community do not just want Horizon’s money but also specific answers with regard to a development that will be life changing for all in the community.

It was noted that some other channels such as social media could be used more alongside public meetings to disseminate information and keep those interested up to date with the developments.

## **3 – Do you have any comments relating to the preliminary environmental information report presented by Horizon?**

There is concern that most matters seem to have been ‘mainly settled’ whilst many questions remain unanswered.

How is Horizon planning to mitigate the changes and disruption to footpaths, especially the coastal path?

There is only one mention of the Anglesey County Council’s Supplementary Planning Guidance on Nuclear Build. Does this mean that Horizon will be doing what they please with disregard to the local communities?

There is no mention about Cemlyn Bay, a recognised site of worldwide importance, and a protected RSPB site. The wildlife there will not tolerate the major changes afoot further along the coastline.

It was agreed by all members present that Mr Alan Raymant should be invited to attend a full council meeting in the new year along with Mr Charlie Tasker so that concerns could be addressed and question asked face to face.

## **4 - Do you have any comments on horizon’s coastal development proposals at Porth y Pistyll and Wylfa Head, relating to the cooling water system (including breakwaters) and Marine Off loading Facility?**

Concerns were raised with regard to the bird sanctuary at Cemlyn and the adverse effect of construction and development nearby. It was felt that the development of Wylfa Newydd will wipe out part of the coast with regard to public access and wildlife.

Safety concerns were also raised with regard to the weather conditions often experienced on the sea outside Cemaes. Even with the breakwaters, the sea is still a potential issue, and vessels will need an alternative landing point (possibly Cemaes Harbour, but this will need some alterations to accommodate). Lifeboats are based at Moelfre and Holyhead – both some distance away from Cemaes should any problems arise at sea.

Another safety concern was the offloading of personnel should anyone be taken ill or have an accident at sea. What is Horizon’s plan in this instance? There would possibly be an opportunity to bring a safety boat around to the harbour but the main Pier is only accessible at high tide, and Pier Bach (and access to it by land) is in desperate need of renovation.

It was discussed whether it would be beneficial for Horizon to engage with, and consult with the emergency services, and possibly sponsor the services of the Air Ambulance for example. This would benefit both the company and the wider local community. It was understood that a separate task group has been set up by the emergency services to address potential issues.

## **5 - Do you have any comments on Horizon’s indicative landscape proposal?**

Tourism is important to Llanbadrig - It was noted that Anglesey is the most dependent county in the UK (on the income from tourism). As such it was felt that there was not sufficient detail in the information given to date as to how the landscaping would mitigate the disturbances caused by the construction work, and also how the industry would be protected for future generations.

Members were concerned as to how, and where 10 million tonnes of soil would be landscaped, and the effect it will have on the area e.g. rivers, sea, emphasis drainage issues already experienced in parts of the village such as the cemetery etc. Members were also concerned about the effect that the moving of this soil will have on the tourism industry both short and long term.

It is understood that there is a government subsidy / tax in relation to the soil that is to be moved. If so, will Llanbadrig be seeing any of it in terms of community benefit and improvements? After all it is the residents of Tregele and Cemaes who will be most affected by its moving? (noise, lights, dust, working 24/7, traffic)

More information is required on Horizon's plans to mitigate the effects of the new build on the immediate surroundings.

**6 - Do you have any comments or preferences on whether the power station buildings should be designed to blend in or make a striking architectural feature in the landscape?**

It was agreed that the new build should be built in a sympathetic manner, and blend in to its surrounding landscape as best possible. It was felt that a 'striking architectural feature' would be an eyesore as contemporary design soon becomes dated.

**7 - Do you have any comments relating to skills and training and the promotion of local and regional employment?**

It is essential for the survival of the local community that Horizon maximises local employment opportunities and makes full use of the supply chain. The company should support local people and businesses in any way possible and work with them to help them secure contracts and opportunities. Training opportunities should be offered to local people now so that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to gain employment on site as the projects gets underway. (Training in all trades that will be required on site, not just nuclear and engineering specific).

The question was asked whether there will be a new training centre on site. Wylfa Newydd will be an exciting development worldwide, and will provide an opportunity to also train operatives for future builds elsewhere in the world. Such facilities would also be available for local trainees.

Prior to Wylfa being developed, Anglesey was a relatively deprived area with low population and low wages. When Wylfa was developed, a large number of people working in construction and agriculture were lost to the nuclear industry. A number of local employers could not compete with the wages offered. Such businesses need to be supported by Horizon to gain the skills necessary to compete for opportunities on site.

When the construction of Wylfa was completed, the immediate area saw a dramatic increase in unemployment as workers and their families had moved into, and became part of the local community. This potential issue of unemployment also needs to be addressed through training and preparation for other employment opportunities when the construction of Wylfa Newydd is completed.

**8 - Do you have any comments relating to Horizon's engagement with the supply chain and proposals for buying from local and regional suppliers and businesses?**

Local businesses and suppliers need to be supported and given the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to enable them to compete for opportunities when they are available. Horizon needs to ensure that this support is available. Local businesses and suppliers are the current employers and employees in the community, and will hopefully still be in that position once the construction stage at Wylfa Newydd is complete.

It was noted that a number of small businesses will not be in a position to attend events and workshops advertised by Horizon, but they still need to be made aware of the opportunities available to them so that they can decide for themselves whether or not they wish to compete and be part of the bigger picture.

**9 - Do you have any comments on Horizon's draft integrated traffic and transport strategy (ITTS) principles?**

It was agreed that there was not enough detail provided at this stage to be able to comment fully. However it was noted that there is no mention of any of improvements to the A5025 from Cemaes towards Menai Bridge. It is nonsense to think that all vehicles linked to the new build will be coming to the site from the direction of Valley. Some contractors are already using the A5025 via Amlwch.

The possibility of barring all Wylfa traffic from using this stretch of road was discussed, but it is unreasonable to expect potential employees and contractors living in east Anglesey to travel to Valley to join the park and ride system. A similar service could be established at the Old Shell Site at Rhosgoch for example, with some improvements to the road to make it safer for the increased traffic. The members fully support the development of the Old Shell Site as accommodation and parking provision for the workforce.

The safety of local residents was discussed should there be a nuclear incident – are the roads adequate to be able to evacuate sufficient number of people from site? Would sufficient emergency services be able to get there?

**10 - Do you have any comments on Horizon's sea transport proposals?**

Safety concerns were raised with regard to the weather conditions often experienced on the sea outside Cemaes. Even with the breakwaters, the sea is still a potential issue, and vessels will need an alternative landing point (possibly Cemaes Harbour, but this will need some alterations to accommodate). Lifeboats are based at Moelfre and Holyhead – both some distance away from Cemaes should any problems arise at sea.

Another safety concern was the offloading of personnel should anyone be taken ill or have an accident at sea. What is Horizon's plan in this instance? There would possibly be an opportunity to bring a safety boat around to the harbour but the main Pier is only accessible at high tide, and Pier Bach (and access to it by land) is in desperate need of renovation.

It was discussed whether it would be beneficial for Horizon to engage with, and consult with the emergency services, and possibly sponsor the services of the Air Ambulance for example. This would benefit both the company and the wider local community. It was understood that a separate task group has been set up by the emergency services to address potential issues.

See also question 4 with regard to the concerns regarding disruption of wildlife caused by the development of the breakwaters and the construction general.

**11 - Do you have any comments on Horizon's road transport proposals?**

Please see also question 9.

Members were very concerned with regard to the use of the A5025 from Amlwch to Cemaes, and other rural 'short cuts' across the island. It is understood that there will be a park and ride service from Ty Croes, but it is unreasonable to expect contractors and employees from, for example Amlwch or Llanelian to travel to Ty Croes to use the service. What provision has been made for these people?

Transport proposals need to be addressed side by side with other proposals such as accommodation and parking. If the Old Shell Site at Rhosgoch is developed as a car parking and accommodation facility, then improvements to the road and a park and ride system needs to be developed in line with road improvements from the other side of the Island.

The proposed work to the A5025 between Valley and Cemaes will need to be completed before ANY work on site is started. It was agreed that the road improvements should not be seen as community benefit and mitigation as, without the improvements, Horizon would not be able to get their materials to site. As such the improvements from Valley to Cemaes are for Horizon's benefit.

The possibility of re-instating the old railway line as far as the Old Shell Site was also discussed, with the potential for a new section of track from Rhosgoch to Site.

**12 - Do you have any comments on the broad area of search or suggestion sites Horizon could develop for park and ride facilities, logistics centres or temporary worker accommodation?**

Please see also Questions 9 and 11

A petition in favour of the development of the land at Rhosgoch has already been submitted to Horizon demonstrating the support for the site locally.

The Council are very supportive of the development of the Old Shell Site as quality accommodation and car parking facilities for employees and contractors working on the New Wylfa Newydd project. The development of the site, if done properly will provide employment opportunities for local people, not only in the initial development of the site but also the maintenance and sustainability of the site for future years – grass cutting, building maintenance, cleaning etc.

Should the site be developed however, there is a need to look at the access roads and links between the Wylfa Newydd site (Cemaes), Rhosgoch site (Amlwch) and other places of interest such as Llangefni (Llannerch-y-medd road) and ensure that they are of an adequate standard for increased use.

It may be possible to also include leisure facilities on site, not only for residents but also for the local community.

### **13 - Do you have any comments or suggestions for long term legacy benefits or community facilities?**

In addition to the concerns and proposals indicated in the answers above, the members discussed at length a number of possible legacy benefits for the Llanbadrig community and beyond. These included (in no order of priority)

- Development of and safeguarding the leisure centre at Amlwch.
- Safeguarding the character and nature of the school at Cemaes
- Road improvements to the A5025 between Amlwch and Cemaes
- Development of the Rhosgoch site as a facility that will provide in-direct employment opportunities for future generations.
- Enhance the services available at the Amlwch Health Centre and Cemaes Surgery
- Ambulance and emergency services will be under additional pressure with the increase in population whilst the Wylfa Newydd project gets underway. It was suggested that Horizon support the services financially as these services, including the Air Ambulance and Ysbyty Gwynedd are also of benefit to the local community.
- Increased community safety and security – continuation and improvement of the service currently provided by the CNC and also increase community policing by the North Wales Police.
- Cemaes are facing the closure of community facilities such as the public toilets, the car park and the library. The Community Council would work with Horizon to ensure these facilities remain available for the community, taking into account the increased demand due to number of immigration into the area from contractors etc.
- Use of empty shop units in the high street to provide services such as a launderette would benefit the community as well as employees moving to the area.
- Contribution towards the cost of maintaining facilities such as the play area, cemetery, harbour etc for the use of the public.
- Possibility of developing facilities and services further afield such as the civilian airport at Valley, extending shuttle flights to Liverpool and Manchester for example.

It was also discussed whether or not it would be possible for the people of Llanbadrig – Tregle and Cemaes especially to be provided with free electricity due to the disruption caused and close proximity to the new build site.

A regular (annual) income for the Community Council as a percentage of the electricity generated on site would ensure that the council has the means to address community issues and provide a service to the people of Llanbadrig in line with their expectations, whilst also providing the means to develop facilities and amenities for the future.

It was a concern that should any such funding is made available, it would be made available to the County Council at Llangefni and that the funds would be dispersed island wide and beyond (as far as Trawsfynydd and Liverpool – what is Horizon's definition of 'local?'). It is essential that any funds allocated by Horizon for the mitigation of disruption and future development be readily available to those most affected at Tregle and Cemaes.

#### **14 - Do you have any additional comments on Horizon's project proposals?**

**The general consensus with regard to the consultation document is that it does not contain sufficient detail to be able to make informed decisions about future developments that will have a dramatic effect on local residents whether involved in the project or not.**

The main concern with regard to the Wylfa Newydd project was that the information provided was on a 'need to know basis' and that unless the right questions were asked to the right people, the information was not readily available.

It was noted that although the project is yet to gain final approval, it is already having an effect on the local community. Local landmarks are being demolished and house prices in the immediate area are decreasing in value.

Local services are also being lost. Treglele have already relinquished the Douglas Inn, the Garage shop and fuel station has to close due to its location and the closure of the sports and social club on the current Wylfa site is also imminent. It was understood that Horizon would rather put funding towards the Amlwch leisure centre, but the local community needs both facilities. Run properly, a sports and social club could incorporate a variety of facilities and services and could be profitable.

There was concern that the consultation document does not actually state that only two reactors will be located on site. Members were concerned that when approval is given for the first stage of development that the north east corner of Anglesey will disappear off the radar as Nuclear development spirals out of control as far as the community is concerned.

There is also the need to address the issue of moving the electricity to the mainland. There are already 78 pylons along the island – any developer should respect the residents and where ever possible lay any new cable underground. Anglesey is rural, pretty and dependent on tourism. How the island is viewed by potential visitors, as well as local residents, is essential for the survival of the tourism industry.

It was agreed that the services currently on offer at Treglele and Cemaes will not be sufficient for the proposed influx of workers (6000-8000 at peak) and the villages will have to grow to accommodate. This will be a challenge whilst retaining the very character of the area that is so attractive to visitors and the tourism industry on which the area is so dependent.

Concern was also voiced with regard to the availability of properties to rent for local people, who have been brought up in the area and with family living nearby. No matter what provision is put in place, future employees and contractors will want to live as close as possible to their place of work.

It was agreed that the Llanbadrig community should seek to be compensated from day one – the increase in traffic has already begun, the landscape is already changing.

It was noted that the acreage of Wylfa is nothing in comparison to that of Wylfa Newydd. It was understood that radioactive waste was also to be stored on site for up to 150 years. This was also of concern.

It was agreed that Llanbadrig Community Council approach Horizon and Cronfa Padrig in order to seek funding to pay for an independent advisor / consultant who will be able to advise on legal matters relating to the new build. It is only when discussing such large projects do we as a Council realise how small an organisation we are, and the importance of working together with other local councils to ensure that the communities are protected when work on Wylfa Newydd commences.

The Community Council are already in contact with Sedgemoor Council in order to learn from their experiences with regard to the development of Hinkley Point C and to share ideas on how best to mitigate potential problems.

It was agreed that the Council stage a public meeting and consultation prior to the next stage of Horizon's consultation. It was felt that at the time when Wylfa was being developed, people looked at the employment opportunities and nothing else, not realising the real impact at the time. It is essential that the Council and community engage with Horizon at each step of development so that they are made aware of the needs

and demands of the community. it was agreed to arrange such a meeting with the relevant representatives in the new year.

**Any Other Business -**

It was suggested that a representative from PAWB come to speak to the Council. It was agreed that the Council was not opposed to the Wylfa Newydd development but rather needs to work to get the best out of the project for the benefit of the community for future generations.

Marton Pabok thanked the Council for being so welcoming and explained that this would be his last meeting and the end of his stay in Cemaes. He emphasised that he had enjoyed his stay and learnt a lot about the village and the community. All present wished him the best of luck for the future.

The Chair thanked all for their attendance and input to the discussion and the meeting closed at 9pm.

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