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Beneath the rule of men entirely great
The pen is mightier than the sword



IMPRESSION OF WHAT MAY COME TO PASS, IF *YOU* ALLOW IT!



Image courtesy of the Nigg Awareness Group

Like thousands of others, including members of Nigg Awareness Group (NAG) I am not against the establishing of wind turbines, provided that they are built where they are as unobtrusive as possible and as much consideration as possible, for our countryside and its residents is a foregone requisite.

However Nigg Hill is definitely outwith that definition and as it is a one of natural beauty and historical interest, it must be protected against unseemly and untimely marring by the erection of five wind turbines all about 400 feet high.

Nearly as high as the proposed wind turbines, is the self esteem of the self elected members of the Fearn Peninsula Development Trust, (FPDT) who without prearranged public consultation announced that they, Alan Maclean, James Gordon, John Scott, Billy Mackenzie, Peter MacKenzie and Maureen Ross were giving themselves carte blanche to administer any public money that would accrue for the wind farm development should Planning Permission be granted.

The most alarming information that is at hand about the self appointed members is that the majority of them have strong agricultural connections. So could we see a plethora of wind generators appearing in locations such as the on Knockshortie, (the hill behind Portmahomack), or on the Tarrel Cliffs or any other location the Falck Renewables fan club fancies?

In addition the members of the FPDT are being 'carried away' with the promise from Falck that there could be quite a jackpot at the 'end of the rainbow'. Unfortunately this may not be the case as understandably wind turbines depend on **wind** to

provide riches for sharing with our community.

Falck Development Manager, Alasdair MacPherson, has had discussions with unelected FPDT relating to the possible inclusion of a 'community turbine' and apparently his company has found that it is possible to include such, in the proposed development.

Mr MacPherson went on to say that he expected the 'group' to be formalised as required prior to the project becoming operational.

Personally not for one moment do I doubt the integrity of any member of the FPDT, as I am certain that they are '**all on the square**', however I deplore their assumption the we, the rest of the community within their proposed catchment area, are willing to go 'cap in hand' for hand outs for our respective community needs. And how can that non-representative body avoid bias?

FPDT's proposed constitution, if adopted, allows the present self appointed group, the first four years of their administration without opposition. Further more the same constitution allows the proposed members to dictate just who can become a member and at the same time hold authority to expel any member who they believe is disruptive! In other words should some member challenge their authority, they can implement that option and expel that member.

I believe that either the local community councils, or Highland Council, should have full responsibility for the holding and distribution of community funds garnered from Falck or any other turbine developer.

Ed.

LETTERS

Dear Euilleam,

Received a copy of the letter you sent to Alasdair MacPherson, Falck.

I attach a copy of the constitution adopted by the group earlier this year - your comment re 'unable or unwilling' has prompted me to ensure the constitution gets posted on our web-site along with copy of minutes to date for all to see and this will be done this week.

This constitution was set up to allow us to work within certain aims and objectives which at this point in time is totally adequate and all that is needed, this was made clear to all the community council representatives at a meeting in the Seaboard Memorial Hall in July - (at which John Boocock was present).

However, if planning permission is granted the group will then pursue full Trust status and all that that involves legally. The model for delivering the community turbine the FPDT has favoured is similar to that at Earlsburn near Fintry - where the developer builds and operates the turbine on behalf of the Trust. If planning is refused then we are back to where we were before this all kicked off.

If you wish any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards Maureen.

Dear Maureen,

Thank you for your e-mail and attachment re my letter to Mr MacPherson over the proposed Nigg Hill development. K.A.L.E. C.C. Chairman, John Boocock, was totally surprised that you had forwarded to me a copy of the 'Trust's' proposed constitution before circulating it to all the C.Cs. concerned. In fact Mr Boocock had forwarded a copy of your e-mail dated 28th June to my computer, hence my scepticism.

Briefly your proposed constitution is unacceptable and it is with great surprise that I understand Falck has had discussions with that group of unelected people, (F.P.D. T.). The fact that the developer is prepared to offer a financial incentive to a 'fan club' smacks of lack of forethought on their behalf and to some perhaps that of a 'Brown Envelope scenario' designed to promote their (Falck's) Planning Application. Such shenanigans can only reflect on both the developer and its 'fan club' and as such must not only be unworthy of support, but rather

that of condemnation.

The F.P.D.T. proposed constitution gives the present self appointed group, Alan Maclean, James Gordon, John Scott, Billy Mackenzie, Peter MacKenzie and yourself, carte blanche and if adopted 'you' will have snatched control of, what after all will be public money, to be spent on possible projects close to 'your' collective heart. This hijacking will be further enhanced by the fact that your proposed constitution will allow youse to select members exclusively, over a four year period, or to expel those whom may not kowtow to your collective ideals, at will.

Whilst not against 'windmills' generally I am totally opposed to the proposed development on **Nigg Hill by Falck Renewables**, on various grounds, not least the fact that as far as I can ascertain the public are being denied the whole truth.

If there is any Planning Gain gratuity available, should Nigg Hill development be granted the 'go ahead', then such monies MUST remain in the hands of the elected members of the Community Council in whose areas could, and will be affected, by such development. NOT self appointed members of the community.

Nor can it be ruled out, other members of our collective communities could also decide to launch a unilateral 'trust' claiming similar objectives to that of F.P.D.T. so where then would this leave Mr MacPherson of Falck Renewables? Or for that matter F.P.D.T?

Regards. Euilleam.

FIRST LAUNCH

When the first oilrig was launched from Nigg the builders attached a live tree to the uppermost reaches of its structure. The motto being 'no one builds higher than God'.

Great public excitement was the order of the day as the dock was flooded and ever so slowly the massive man made steel lattice work, some said it was a work of art, was towed out.

What will Falck Renewables motto be one wonders?

MORE LETTERS

13 September 2010

Dear Mr Ross,

Thank you for your letter dated 09th September.

As you may be aware, Falck Renewables submitted a planning application for a 5 turbine wind farm scheme on Nigg Hill in January 2008. This was followed by a further tranche of information which has just recently been lodged with Highland Council to supplement the initial document. As part of the initial submission, public exhibitions were held in Balintore, Nigg and Cromarty, and our recent submission has been followed up by a written invitation to all Community Councils on the Fearn Peninsula (including Kilmuir and Logie Easter) for an information meeting if requested by the Community Councils (see attached copy letter.)

Towards the end of last year Falck Renewables were approached by a group who were keen to see if a community turbine could be included as part of our overall scheme on Nigg Hill. We examined the proposal and found that a community turbine could be included without affecting our current planning application. We then held a follow up meeting and indicated that whilst we were supportive of a community turbine, any group which led this initiative would have to be representative of the wider geographic area of the Fearn Peninsula, to ensure the whole community was represented. We understand that the group has been formed on this basis.

To date there have been no formal agreements drawn up between Falck Renewables and Fearn Peninsula Development Trust (FPDT) as the project is still in the discussion stage. However, we (Falck Renewables) have made a public commitment that if the scheme is consented we will include a community turbine as part of the overall community benefit package arising out of the scheme. We would expect the FPDT to evolve and formalise their status, as required, prior to the project becoming operational.

Thank you for your interest and be assured we are happy to provide you with more information, or alternatively to meet up with you to discuss any specific queries you may have regarding the project.

16 August 2010

Copy

Dear Sirs,

Planning application reference 08/00066/FULRC
Proposed Wind Farm on Nigg Hill

We confirm that our Supplementary Environmental Information pack relating to the above application has been submitted to Highland Council, and we expect the document to be registered and issued to all consultees within the next week or so.

There has been no change to the design of the proposed scheme, and the current document submitted seeks to address comments and queries received from statutory consultees and others.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the scheme or seek clarification on any matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the above office.

Yours faithfully,



Alasdair MacPherson

**WHAT MAY COME TO PASS AND *YOU* CAN'T STOP IT!
A NON-ARTISTIC VIEW OF ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT
COULD HAPPEN AT C. F. P. A./GLOBAL ENERGY....DEVELOPMENT**

Readers of the 'Highlander' may well recall the secrecy that surrounded the planning and construction of the 'Big Shed'. One of the main reasons put forward by a spokesperson for the Global Energy Group was that their lease for the Nigg facility was due to run out at the end of May and that a lot of workpeople would lose their livelihood as a result.

Secondly the Group had high hopes that when the 'Big Shed' was completed there could be up to 500 new jobs created in fabrication work that would be carried out in the new building.

This expression of concern for the 'workforce' was welcomed by the Cromarty

Firth Highland Council's elected ward members. As can be vouchsafed by reference to the numerous reports in the local press at that time.

Now the vying for just who will be nominated as preferred bidder for the largely defunct Nigg Ferry Construction yard, between the Cromarty Firth Users Association, which includes the Port Services Group, Nicholson Engineering Services, Oilscuff, Intech Power and GQ Training, and the Birmingham based DSM and the Invergordon based Global Energy Group/C.F.P.A. begins, it transpires that Global Energy have not been ejected from the Nigg Yard, as

they claim that they are still operating from that base.

Quote, "We are still awaiting indication from the owners on their choice of preferred bidder. Of course we are still tenants at the yard and continue to work on a number of projects there." Such a statement contradicts previous statements made by the Global Energy Group. Is there anybody out there the general public of Easter Ross can truly believe?



Taking my fanciful scenario a yard or two further, if you will pardon my pun, it is not impossible that a rail shunting/yard could be reinstated where some years ago we had a level crossing going to the Naval Dockyard

and all that that entailed.

Such a facility in Invergordon could see waste being hauled in from, especially the north, by garbage carrying railway wagons, from the other direction, by sea.

The irony of this scenario is its possibility for reality and that it does make sense, despite what objectors say. Just imagine if the Global Energy Group and C.F.P.A. Started their very own rail freight company to do the job. Doubtless there are huge grants available for such entrepreneurial panache. Ed.