



ARCUS

**HAVERIGG II AND III WIND FARMS LIFE EXTENSION
JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared on behalf of Thrive Renewables (Haverigg II) Ltd and Windcluster Ltd ('the Applicants') in support of two planning applications under Section 73 of the *Town and Country Planning Act (1990)* to extend the operational lifespan of the Haverigg II and Haverigg III Wind Farms to the west of the main village of Haverigg, and south of the A5903. The applications seek to extend the operational period of Haverigg II from 2022 to 2032, and that of Haverigg III from 2025 to 2040. Full details of the applications are provided within their respective Planning Statements.

Section 73 applications pertaining to wind development are exempt from the requirement for pre-application consultation with the community, as set out in Article 3 of the *Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) (Order) 2015*. However, the Applicants have taken an open and inclusive approach and have carried out an extensive pre-application consultation with the local community and the Town and Parish Councils.

While the proposed extensions are subject to two separate planning applications, the Applicants (Thrive Renewables (Haverigg II) Ltd for Haverigg II and Windcluster Ltd for Haverigg III) agreed to undertake consultation with the local community jointly, in the interests of clarity and accessibility for consultees.

This Statement of Community Involvement sets out the steps taken to consult with the local community and Town and Parish Councils prior to the submission of the planning applications and summarises the responses received.

2 CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation Area

The area to be included within the community consultation was defined based on the populated areas nearest to the wind farms and from which the wind farms would be most visible. The villages of Haverigg, Silecroft and Kirksanton were therefore included in the consultation area. These areas have historically taken an interest and engaged in previous consultations related to wind development within and near the Site. Millom was not included due to the very low level of visibility of the wind turbines from the town.

The extent of the consultation area is shown on the plan at Appendix 1.

2.2 Consultation Letter

On 7 October 2019, a consultation letter was distributed to each of the residential and commercial properties within the consultation area. A third-party letter distribution service was engaged to ensure that the letter reached all properties within the consultation area. 861 copies of the letter were distributed in total.

The letter provided general information about the wind farms and the proposed extension of time, as well as the time and location of the consultation event which recipients were invited to attend. Recipients were invited to provide comments using a feedback form which was enclosed with the letter.

The consultation letter and feedback form are included at Appendix 2.

2.3 Town and Parish Councils

Consultation letters were sent to the clerks of Millom Town Council, Whicham Parish Council and Millom Without Parish Councils on October 7 2019. In addition, emails were sent to the Council Clerks to enquire whether the letter had been received and if local councillors required further information. The Clerk of Millom Town Council requested further information about community benefit schemes, which was subsequently provided. No further comments or requests were received from the Town or Parish Councils.

2.4 Consultation Event

A drop-in consultation event was held on 23 October from 2pm to 8pm at the Lighthouse Centre in the centre of Haverigg.

Exhibition boards were put up at the venue to show photographs of the existing wind farms and provide information on the applicants, the history of the site and the proposed life extension. A copy of the exhibition boards is included at Appendix 3. Attendees were invited to view the exhibition boards and draft copies of the relevant technical reports were made available to view upon request. Representatives of Thrive Renewables, Windcluster Ltd, the planning/environmental consultants (Arcus) and asset managers (Bridge Wind Management Ltd) were on hand to discuss the proposal with attendees and respond to any queries during the course of the event.

Eleven local residents attended the event with a formal register taken upon their arrival. Comment forms were made available and members of the public were encouraged to offer their written feedback. Most attendees chose to discuss their views directly with the members of the project team rather than filling in the response forms. In addition, email addresses for contacts within Thrive Renewables and Windcluster Ltd were shared with local residents in case of any further queries.



Fig1 - Consultation event venue with exhibition boards and comments box (Source: Thrive Renewables)

3 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3.1 Verbal responses

The majority of attendees at the consultation expressed support for or a neutral stance towards the proposed extension of time once they understood that no changes were proposed to the site and that the existing turbines would remain in place without replacement or alteration. However, some concerns were raised regarding the following issues:

- Potholes along North Lane, which is a private road;
- The impact of wind turbines on human health;
- Occasional shadow flicker experienced in room facing the wind farm;

- Potential increases in height or number of turbines at wind farm;
- The compatibility of the wind farm with the moto-cross track;
- Noise from the turbines;
- Impact on bird populations;
- The purpose of continued on-shore wind generation instead of moving the turbines off-shore; and
- Public benefits/grants for community use;

The majority of the comments and queries raised by the attendees are addressed in the planning statement and accompanying reports.

3.2 Written responses

Nine written responses were received via the comments box at the consultation event, post and email. Of the responses received, five expressed support, two were neutral and two expressed opposition to the proposed life extension.

The responses received were as follows:

1. *I support this proposal. I live nearby.*
2. *I support this proposal. I live nearby. I did have several questions, however, following the consultation and responses to the questions asked my concerns have been addressed.*
3. *I support this proposal. I live nearby. I believe the sensible way forward regarding energy production is via renewable sources. I felt the consultation process today was excellent.*
4. *I support this proposal. I live nearby. Do not like how they look and would not like any more on land.*
5. *I live nearby. I have no objections to the turbines as they stay but am concerned about the state of North Lane and would appreciate financial help.*
6. *I do not feel strongly about this proposal. I live nearby. The turbines can stay or be removed, I don't mind which. However, I would strongly object to more being added.*
7. *I support this proposal. I live nearby. Trouble free. Money coming back locally. Thank you.*
8. *Wind farms should not be imposed on local communities, but confined to OFF SHORE. I live close to the wind farm and have to suffer the site and sound of this unsightly blight on this beautiful coastline. As for your £27000 community donations this works out to £15.00 per month per turbine.*
9. *Re your consultation letter about the potential 10 – 15 years renewal proposal of the above – I would like to record my opposition to your plans. I, with other local people successfully opposed an earlier wind farm planning application (HMP Haverigg Wind Farm) stretching from 2012 to 2018 and to say the least, was very unhappy with the antics of the developer, the local Councillors and Copeland Planning Official's trying to run rough shot over local opposition. I do not trust your assurances of 'no changes to wind turbines and new building works'. What I went through over the 8 years was a series of Planning Meetings, the changing views of Councillors to the proposals – some citing that no view would be damaged, no noise or flickering etc when expert reports stated the opposite. I was the first person to voice my opposition, because I was the only person notified of the First Planning Meeting – others who attended the first Planning Meeting were not allowed to speak at the Meeting because they had not been notified it was taking place.*

4 CONCLUSION

A thorough consultation with the local community was undertaken prior to the submission of the planning applications, involving distribution of a consultation letter and feedback forms to residents and Parish/Town Councils, a public consultation drop-in event and availability for further correspondence with local residents as required. The majority of the responses received from local residents were positive and the concerns raised by consultees which relate to material planning considerations have been addressed in the Planning Statement and accompanying technical reports.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Area Map



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Consultation Map Area



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Consultation Map Area
Figure 1

**Haverigg II and III Wind Farm
Life Extension
Statement of Community Involvement**