

## **Shetland Islands Council – Public Consultation on Wind farm Proposals**

### **Transcript of Meeting held in Brae Public Hall**

**Monday 28 September 2009 at 6.30 p.m.**

Panel: Hazel Sutherland (Chair), SIC Depute Chief Executive  
Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director Infrastructure  
Jan Riise, Head of Legal and Administration

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#### Stuart Balfour, Sullom

Sustainable Shetland - how can we survive in a sustainable Shetland if we are a very small part of an unsustainable planet? We have an immeasurable proven carbon free renewable wind resource on Shetland and you are hindering its development process. I would like an answer from anybody from Sustainable Shetland

#### Hazel Sutherland

Not here for a debate on the pros and cons – turn your question into a statement as to what you feel about the planning application and the proposal.

#### Stuart Balfour

Well I feel that, like I said in my statement, we have the resource here and it's a global resource, its not Shetland's resource. You are all aware of what is happening in December, in Copenhagen, the Climate Change Summit. It's a serious issue that they are meeting to discuss, it's not just a hamefarin of all the countries meeting together. We have all the resource here, and in my opinion, for the under-fives we have to be responsible for them, because the threat to their existence in 2050 is too significant for us to ignore and we are hindering that process. We have to make sacrifices, and that's the hard truth. I am just saying this to get folk to react and take it from there.

#### Chris Barton

And its exactly the reason I am here is exactly in a sense in response to what this gentleman just said is that I am so concerned about the environment and global warming but I would love to have been able to support something like this initiative, however I just feel that its actually counter-productive, sadly. The damage that would be done to the environment, by building this massive wind farm, the peat that takes a year to lay down one millimetre I believe of peat. One year for just one millimetre. We can never go back on the damage that we created there, the damage is done by disturbing that peat, and to be able to transport the electricity or to send the electricity south, the damage to the environment, the marine environment, is just so considerable that I don't think we are going to achieve it. If we were going to have a wind farm somewhere perhaps in an industrial area similar to what we have in Amsterdam that would just be used locally without having to dig up the bed of the ocean to transport the electricity. That would make more sense to me, to provide it locally. I have just been to Fair Isle, and last year when I was there in October, one of the windmills was down. We went again in May and both wind turbines were out of action. I've just come back from there at the

weekend, and one of the wind turbines which has been out of action for a year is now up and running again. What's the long term? I'm concerned about the long-term viability. Will it ever pay for itself? I don't think environmentally it could ever pay for itself for the damage it will do locally, but I think economically, what is there length of life. Will we ever pay for the expense of transporting things south for the cost of building the turbines, repairing them when they are damaged? And that's just a little, I'm sure more people have more things to say. Thank you.

Hazel Sutherland

Thank you.

James Duncan

Admittedly I live slightly further away so I won't actually see any visual impact. I think there are a whole range of things here. The whole matter is what kind of Shetland do we want to see in 10, 15, 20, 25 years time. Do we want to attract young people back? Do we want to diversify the economy? Do we want to have a project in which there is a great deal of local participation and therefore a great deal of revenues flowing into the local economy? If you look at the moment, it's very very difficult to actually perceive Shetland as it is now, as it was back in the 1960s when I was growing up. There was very very little economic opportunity. There was no Charitable Trust, there was no Recreational Trust, there was no Welfare Trust, there was no SLAP, and there was no Development Trust. The quality of life, it may have been idyllic, but there wasn't very much economic opportunity. This we have here in Shetland a tremendous international wind resource. We must use that resource. We must capitalise on it. Visual impact as far as I can see is the only credible objection. The only credible objection. There is no credible objection to actually ploughing up the seabed to lay a cable. That's rubbish. Look at the pipelines on the seabed on the North Sea. I'm afraid you don't know what you are talking about. This is an opportunity if we pass it by we will regret it. And if you look at the opinion poll taken by the Shetland Times, 30% were clearly in favour. Look at the age group that is clearly in favour. That's the younger people. There are a lot of people around Shetland with grey hair, and we are getting more grey hairs as we get older. The profile of the population of Shetland is getting progressively older, where are the younger people going to come from, what are they going to do? If you ask young people of Shetland origin on the Mainland, would you come back to Shetland, some of them say perhaps if there was anything to do. I could go on talking about this for quite some time, but these are the key points I would like to make.

Joe Rocks

Couple of points that Chris made which I would like to address. One of them is to do with the effect on the disturbance of peat. I did a wee bit of research today in actual fact and although one of the big points made is what will the effect on peat be and what will the repayment be. Perhaps another consideration regarding carbon emissions is if you build a wind farm you have got an output of somewhere in excess of 500 megawatts. I worked out that that relates over 25 years if it runs at 50% efficiency, and Burradale runs at

57/58% at the moment so that doesn't seem unreasonable, its also the loss of power in transportation is estimated to be between 3 and 5%. So suggesting that wind turbines in Shetland might produce 50% efficiency isn't unreasonable. 50% productivity doesn't seem to me unreasonable, 58%, knock off a bit for the transfer and maybe you are down to 50%. That would be something like 54.75 billion kilowatts over 25 years. AN oil fired power station, to produce that, over that period of time, would create somewhere in the region of 53.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide. So if you don't build a wind farm, some power station somewhere is going to produce 53.65 million tonnes. The wind farm, and there were calculations done in Sweden on this and calculations done by the Parliamentary Office in the UK. A standard wind farm, and its possible this is not standard because of its location, but a standard wind farm its estimated that over the full life of its existence, a standard wind farm of this size would produce .3m tonnes of carbon dioxide as opposed to 53.6m tonnes from an oil fired station. In other words you are going to save 99.44% of the carbon emissions that you would get if you didn't build a wind farm. Now building a wind farm in this location on peat will presumably lead to additional release of CO2. The amount of peat that will be disturbed is estimated to be just under a million tonnes in actual fact. Now a million tonnes of peat it seems to me is definitely not going to release more than million tonnes of CO2. It can't do, its got water in it, its got goodness knows what else. So a million tonnes of peat is going to be disturbed, some of it will be put back, but it will be disturbed anyway, and if you assumed that all of that million tonnes released its CO2 and all of the million tonnes was CO2, you would have a total CO2 production from the wind farm of 1.3m tonnes over 25 years. Compared with 53.6m tonnes from a power station, an oil power station. Even once you allow for the peat, you have still got saving of 97%. 97% less CO2 produced if you put the wind farms up than you would have if you produced the electricity from an oil fired power station. Second point that you made madam was to do with the location. Absolutely right it is not the ideal location. Let me see, where do they put oil rigs, they put them in the North Sea, they put them in the Gulf of Mexico, they put them in the Middle East, they put them where the oil is. Put the wind farms where the wind is and unquestionably we have a fine wind resource here on Shetland. Thank you.

Hazel Sutherland

Thank you.

Ian Malcolmson, Nesting

I started this debate a long long time ago being very pro wind farm. I'm now very against this particular wind farm, this is not a good wind farm. It contradicts so many of the basic criteria that wind farms should have, through health, economics, but particularly through the damage to the environment. This particular wind farm is too big for this island. I live in Nesting and as part of the planning process, the planning department is supposed to produce a development plan for wind farms and unfortunately they haven't done that in this case, or they haven't done that at all. They did produce reports for the development plan, and one of them was the landscape impact analysis, which shows in my particular neighbourhood there should be twelve turbines, there

is actually 41. Its far far far too big for this island. And until people realise that, if people like me are totally for wind farms but not totally for cutting your own head off. It just doesn't make sense. I could go on for hours and hours and hours, and I'd love to go on and I'd love to have the debate with anybody, but like I say, I have gone from one extreme to realising that its not the right scheme for Shetland.

#### Pia Duernberger

I want to brief because my understanding of this meeting is that what you want is to gauge what people really want of the Council. So I'm going to be as brief as possible, and so I'm asking my Councillors to reject this planning application on, for me, on environmental grounds. I also ask them to act as Councillors and not as Trustees of the Charitable Trust. It's a point I would like to stress, and I would also like to ask the panel, this debate has been going on a long time and the timescale, the time limit for the objections has passed, and everybody has a chance to say a sentence or two, but just make clear what you want your Councillors to do. I think that's my understanding of the purpose of this meeting. Thank you.

#### Tony Erwood

I have a suspicion that this argument is mostly about the visual impact of the proposed wind farm and not about many of the other what I would have to describe as salacious arguments to do with the construction of it. There has been so much written about various things that just don't hold up. The so-called disturbance of the peat. What on earth does that mean. If you dig up peat and just move it, that doesn't release carbon dioxide, if you dry it out that doesn't release carbon dioxide, what releases carbon dioxide is burning it. We have been doing that very well over many many years. And just for the record, burning peat on a weight for weight basis releases about the same amount of carbon dioxide, as does burning coal or burning oil, there's not much difference in them. So this idea that suddenly if you take peat and disturb it somehow or other and you are going to release such a lot of carbon dioxide, that is just nonsense. If you really want to release what relatively modest amount of carbon dioxide is stored in it, the same as you were getting coal or oil for the same amount of weight, just burn it. That's the best you can do to get the carbon dioxide out of it. But just moving it doesn't do anything. Now actually this proposed wind farm is actually an opportunity to invest money into managing the peat which doesn't happen at the moment. No one in their right mind is going to spend money on managing peat at the moment because there is no financial incentive to do it but here is an opportunity to actually use money from the investment in the wind farm to actually manage peat, much of it on the hilltops being eroded away and that's a slow process of oxidation that releases carbon dioxide very slowly, but that's happening at the moment. Couple of other things I would like to say. There have been various comments in various parts of the press about the efficiency of transporting power south. Joe just now mentioned the figure, and I got an update on that because I actually spoke to Scottish Hydro Transmission who are the people responsible for designing the link, and the actual figure designed figure for the link including the converter stations is 94% efficiency so that 6% will be lost, but 94% end to end, that's the actual figure. The UK

grid has also been commented on about how much power is lost in that. The actual overall operating efficiency for the national grid is in the order of 97%. Yes it does continuously lose about 500 megawatts across the whole country, but then it transports about 40 gigawatts around the country. That's around about 97% or better overall efficiency. While I'm on my feet, I have quite a strong feeling about what we are going to pass on to future generations. This problem of climate change is not just something you read about in the paper. Its serious, its real and its going to get very very bad and these discussions around the world that are going on between all the major countries about how to cut down on carbon emissions is being done for real. They know there is a big problem, we know there is a big problem, we have to play our part. Shetland's carbon footprint is just awful. We are 22,000 people living in the North Sea and everything we need is brought here on one or more freight ships a night, two ferries that go in opposite directions each night, and other ships too, planes each day and the carbon footprint for those is pretty bad. Now of course we could just say well lets play our part by cutting down on those. Well, okay, we'll have one ferry sailing a week shall we, and one freight ship a week and perhaps a couple of planes a day. Who's up for that? Who would like to see that? I don't see many hands going up. Because that is what we are talking about. If we want to get to be, for example, similar to 22,000 living around Aberdeen who don't need this luxury of having everything brought to them in the middle of the North Sea. Then fine, but I don't think many people are going to be prepared to do that. Now the other problem that we have of course as we mentioned, the Shetland economy is going to run out of oil and that's going down and it will continue to go down and it will eventually fizzle out and there's a couple of generations in Shetland that have grown up not knowing what its like to scratch a living. I have only lived in Shetland for eight years, but know talking to people who go back that far that it was difficult, the jobs just weren't around. And that is how things will become. We're already seeing the Council being squeezed on income, things are going to have to be cut and it will get worse and worse, that's just the way things are going to be unless we find something that will take the place of oil and we've got the best wind resource, one of the best wind resources in the world and what does the world need is energy. To my mind it's a complete no brainer. You know, we should not even be thinking about not doing it we should just go ahead and embrace it. I think the argument is all about the visual impact. Most people will say they don't, or many people say they don't like the look of it and that's what they're arguing about. Its not about the technicalities.

#### Helen Watkins

I have worked here for eight years and had a home here for ten years. I intend to make Shetland my permanent home and this is the first time I spoken out about any issue because I have felt that as an incomer it was for Shetlanders to decide. I can see thought that this is a really really important decision on which the community is very divided and would urge my Councillors to please oppose this proposal. I think it is vital that they to so because from what we have heard tonight there is a lot of technical argument on both sides and I think the only way that that will come out is if there is a proper public inquiry. But if the Council just lets this go through I think there will be a grave

perception that there has been an influence from their membership of the Charitable Trust, the fact that they have already gone so far down the road with Scottish & Southern Electricity. So I won't rehearse all the arguments again. I do think its very important that environmental factors are considered. This is not just about visual impact. These turbines are too big and there are going to be too many of them. We do need renewable electricity and we do need to reduce our carbon footprint and we have to all think very seriously about how we individually can do that. But just turning Shetland into an offshore wind farm is not the answer. We have a contribution to make, we can have more Burradales, but I've been up there under them, there is an impact, yes we have to accept that, but not on this scale I urge you. And I should also say that as well as encouraging tourists to come, the environment does also bring in some skilled employees of which Shetland does need, and I think in due course it will bring back some of your young people. Destroy it at your peril. Thank you.

#### Linda Marshall, Whalsay

I don't understand all the technical issues but I just wonder where these jobs are going to come from. How is Shetland going to gain jobwise by a wind farm. Can somebody tell me?

#### Kenny Johnson

Just to answer the jobs thing. The payments to the Charitable Trust is what will guarantee jobs on one thing from this wind farm project. The other thing is that there will be 40 or 50 direct jobs but there will be a lot more jobs maintaining the windmills and stuff which local companies can then develop the expertise to do. The same as what local companies have done for Sullom Voe, so we now have a couple of fairly decent companies working worldwide out of the oil industry because the specialised their talents from Sullom Voe. It kind of brings me to the point I wanted to make is that the economy of the world since the industrial revolution has been based on energy. Now, if it was oil or uranium that was below the Kames we wouldn't even be having this meeting because it would just be gone ahead and exploited whether we wanted it or not. We have a responsibility to pay our way energy-wise in the world. Now we are fortunate that we are having the option to be part of this, rather than what Skye has had done to them and practically everywhere else that's just had a wind farm imposed on them without them having a shareholding in it at all. So, from that point of view, I think that I would like to encourage the Councillors to definitely go ahead and to really make sure that we become a shareholder in this. Not that we become a wind farm that we are not shareholders in.

#### John Sutherland

I'm a member of the Wind Farm Supporters. Why did the group get together? Well, we were listening to all these scare stories that has been going around for the last year and we thought we would have to put the record straight and so the group has got together as a kind of maybe older group, with some younger members too. And the older group can mind what it was like back in the 50s and 60s when there were no jobs here in Shetland and if you want to look back prior to the oil days, just think what was here. In this

area we had four knitwear factories and three fish factories. And there are none of them going to come back. So, from the last meeting I have spoken to two or three individuals not knowing their views on the wind farm and their biggest concern is the visual impact, and all the rest of it means nothing at all. Now the visual impact side of it, fair enough if we could get 50 windmills I would be all for that, but we have been told that 150 is what is needed for the inter connecting cable. So this being the case I'm all for the 150. Now there are other smaller wind projects. Take North Yell, its depending on this too. They have a project that is sitting there that could go ahead if this connecting cable comes and they are always looking for some kind of employment in North Roe well something like that could always happen in North Roe as a community project. Can it pay? That the other big question. Of course it can pay. The one at Burradale, that small wind farm earns £1.3m per year. The first ones went up 9 years ago and its all paid for now. . The Charitable Trust has the oil money revenue dwindling away. Where's it going to come from to pay for the staff for our care homes, maintaining our leisure centres and all the services that we have gotten used to. So, my question is what is going to give employment in the future if this wind farm does not go ahead.

#### Suzanne Malcolmson, Nesting

I would like to record that I am opposed to the wind farm. I would like to support a wind farm but I think it's a shame where we are now in a situation where you feel you either have to be for this particular wind farm or against it altogether. I would like to have thought that the Shetland Islands Council could have looked at how much of a wind farm Shetland could support and what would be right for us rather than it being economically driven and being told that we had to have 150 because that's what made it financially viable. And also I'd like to say as an objector its nothing to do with visual, I mean I think the visual impact is important but that's not where my main concerns are. It is with the health and well-being of the people who are living very much under the shadow of these turbines. The Burradale ones are very small in comparison to what's being proposed, and Scottish planning policy guidelines suggest that nobody should be living closer than 2km to a wind turbine, a lot of these, at least one third of these proposed wind turbines are closer than 2 km, some are closer than a mile to where people are living. Because of the effects of noise, flicker and issues like that that make them unhealthy for people, particularly small children to be living so close, and I would have liked to have thought the Council would have looked at this and decided where it was safe and suitable for windmills to be built and not have people living so close. If this isn't the case, there are places like Denmark and Sweden who have been living with wind mills a lot longer than Scotland have. They're looking at research into this now and they are coming up with the same conclusion that living in such close proximity to them is not good for people's long term health. So I would like to think that that is a debate that needs to be had before we embrace this wholeheartedly. I mean we can surely have windmills but we can look at where they can be sited and what size they can be. Thank you.

### Karen Heatherington

I would like to oppose the wind farm and I hope that my councillors take that into account. This is because of the environmental impact it will have, the effect on wildlife and birds as we heard on Radio Shetland another issue tonight, and also because of our general quality of life. We speak about having care assistants and leisure centres, there is more to quality of life than that.

### Ian Tait

It's a shame that so much of the, so many of the protagonists in favour of this wind farm seem to equate all the issues to money, and there is a fair degree of disingenuousness to do with that because of course everything is equated to the wind farm is going to foster the environment and care for the environment and its going to allow nature trails and access paths and all the rest of those things to carve up the environment and it seems to be a kind of, it's a bit of conundrum really that they are trying to say that its good for the environment and yet they are going to tear up the environment and I think that folk who try to castigate Sustainable Shetland try to characterise it as being "oh they don't want to have these things in their back garden, they don't want to see the biggest wind farm in Europe in Shetland because of the visual impact." Well that's not the real issue. The fact is that it is absolutely totally disproportionate. I think it was the gentleman in front of me from Nesting that said that. It seems to be the kind of giganto maniac antics of a totalitarian regime and we are just told that we want this thing. An additional point I would like to mention is quite illustrative and it relates to what two of the speakers from the other side of the hall here mentioned about the Councillors. At the public meeting that was staged here by the Delting Community Council then I said to one of my Councillors how many folk would need to say to you that they were opposed to the wind farm to make you change your view. Because I think there was 31 or 29 speakers that spoke at that meeting and all but one were against the wind farm. Now what he said was quite illustrative, he said "I don't think that will need to be happening Ian, I'm convinced most folk in Delting are in favour of it." So that's us told. The last thing I would like to mention is to do with the impact, the real impact, the physical impact of the wind farm. It is not the height of the turbines I don't think that will be a great benefit to the visual layout of Shetland obviously, but it's all the infrastructure, the roads and more so the turbine bases. Because my own specialism is in cultural heritage and archaeology and that side of things and any of us can go walk around Shetland and see the ruins of a prehistoric house that's maybe 5/6000 years old. Well how long do you think a steel reinforced concrete turbine base with many hundreds of thousands of tonnes of concrete is going to be there. 10,000 years? 50,000? 100,000? I don't think its sending the right message about sustainability.

### Jim Mainland

I would just like to say I'm very much against this wind farm. It's far too big, far too destructive and it's clearly divisive. How do you propose to quantify the responses that you are receiving tonight? Are you going to give each response a number of points or what? Could you just explain that.

Hazel Sutherland

There is no analysis on the views that are being heard tonight. It's just a simple recording of what you have expressed to us.

Member of Audience – off microphone

...But how are you going to know what the feeling or what the views are in this room?...

Hazel Sutherland

It's an open mike session and everybody is willing to speak. As we go through the evening I'll try to make sure that everybody who wishes to express a view has an opportunity to do so. My job here tonight is to listen to your views and to make sure that's properly recorded as part of the process.

Member of Audience – off microphone

It would be very simple if you had a show of hands.

Hazel Sutherland

Thanks. I'll just keep recording the views for the moment and see how we go.

Ruth Granger

I just would want to say to you that I'm opposed to this wind farm and I would urge my Councillors to oppose it as well. I do agree that we could have done with a show of hands because there's a lot of folk like myself that are very nervous about speaking in public actually. I'm very disappointed as well with the Council that there's no meetings on the isles. I've had to come down from Unst today and I think you would have a far more balanced opinion if you held some meetings on the outer isles.

Charlie Gallagher, Sullom

I was one of the 60% originally probably like the gentleman, Ian, over there who was all for the wind farms. That was based on a community idea which is what I believe the Government was actually trying to set out to do. That is whereby we would have windmills situated throughout the islands and that would include Yell and Unst, Foula and Whalsay etc., and we would generate sufficient electricity when the wind blew, which is quite a lot as we all know, to meet our own needs. We then would have turbines probably about the size of Burradale which would be a couple, maybe at Hillswick and so on, all throughout the islands, and I think if the question was, and thank goodness the Shetland Times did have the opinion poll, but I only wish they had asked one more question and that is 'if we build sufficient windmills to serve the islands and at a height that would be reasonable, would you support that?' I think the answer might have been quite different. The other thing is as well when we come on to what people think, we have got a fair cross section here tonight and I think I'm getting the general drift of things, most people, or a fair majority of them, are against, but a lot of them are saying, like me, that for the benefit of the planet we would like renewable energy but I don't want to be the power station for Europe. I mean, just to give you an example of how people are moaning. Down at Hunterston they don't want nuclear power so they are building a coal fire station and people are up in arms about that. I mean, what

do people want. People want electricity so we have got to have power from somewhere but we do not need 150, we do not need an inter connector, the idea they say is that on a quiet day they will be able to send power back to us from the mainland. Does that mean that the power station at Lerwick becomes redundant. Because sods law will step in here. There will be a nice quiet freezing day in November or January. We'll probably have several feet of snow. There will be no wind so no power from the windmills and what's going to happen? Somebody is going to drag a trawl through the cable. No power. Where's the nearest cable ship to repair it? Is it, you know, it takes maybe a day, two days to steam to it. They then have to find the broken ends. They have to join it back in. By that time we will probably have gone a week without power. So you've got to look at that side of it as well. But this whole thing has been driven by money. Pure money and pure greed. To get money for sending the power South. They don't give a damn about our environment. We are the ones that are going to have to live with it. It's our houses that are going to see it, that are going to be blighted in price because of it. So, Councillors, vote against. Coming to the Councillors, I would dearly like the Councillors who have an interest in the Amenity Trust, who have an interest as being Directors of Viking Energy, and who are Councillors. Now I elected you to represent me and my views. I would like those views represented not with your other hats on, because you can't sail under two masters. Your master is the electorate that elected you so either get out as a Councillor or get out as Directors of Viking Energy. You cannot sail under two masters and there is a ship lying off Foula, or bits of it, that in the 1914-18 war tried to sail under two masters and she ran on the reef. So there you go. Thank you.

#### Julia Odie

I would just like to go on record again as objecting to this application. I'm all for sustainable energy but I think it should be a local solution for local need. In answer to the lady in front of me, I'll stand up and have my voice counted, well I'm sitting down, but I object.

#### David Odie

I am one of these young people that is apparently for it, except I have come up here from Edinburgh to say I'm against it. I grew up five miles down the road, and according to the planning, where I live is going to be surrounded by windmills on all sides. That's not where I want to bring my bairns up to live. I've come up here to Shetland to live, to raise my bairns where I got raised. I don't want them raised surrounded by windmills. Not the Shetland I know and it's not the Shetland I want it to be. Yes it's about visual impact but it's about environmental impact and the impact it's going to have on kids raised under them. If I'm going to have kids raised under [windmills] on all sides, I might as well bloody raise them down in Edinburgh.

#### Justin Watson, Nesting

In a world focussed on sustainable energy I think we have a duty to ensure that any wind farm proposal meets solid green credentials and in this instance the Viking Energy proposal doesn't. There are some grave unrealistic assumptions made in the Environmental Impact Assessment which the

Amenity Trust and other statutory consultees found and from the cradle to the grave this certainly isn't a green project and on that note it should be fully opposed.

### Brian Marshall, Whalsay

As you will gather I'm a "soothmoother", but I have been in Shetland about 40 years. I doubt if I'd have been in Shetland for 40 years and hopefully making a contribution to the society I live in, had I had to drive down to Lerwick through a huge industrial site occupying perhaps about 10% of Shetland's total land area. I think it's a bit ironic that as far as I understand the Sullom Voe development tried to be tucked away into the land as far as it could be so it didn't make too much of a visual impact, and go from something like that to something which couldn't make a more visual impact if they set out to try is quite something. The highest bit of land on Whalsay is the Ward of Clett which I was checking right before I came out, is 119m. We are talking to the tips of these rotors 145m, so you could stand on top of the Ward of Clett if there was one of these behemoths planted down in the harbour and you would have to look up 26 further metres to see the tip of a revolving rotor. Now that's the scale of the individual unit, multiply this 150 times and its really quite something. Another thing that concerns me a little bit is, could this be the thin end of the wedge. I can think back to the time of the salmon farm era when the salmon farms were all supposed to be under Shetland control, controlled by local individuals and bit by bit, piece by piece, control is passed out and away from Shetland. I have a feeling that if there's an interconnector there with any spare capacity whatsoever its just a matter of time before somebody else comes knocking at the door saying they want more wind generators somewhere else, and to carry things to their logical conclusion if Shetland is such a productive site for wind energy why stick at 10% of its land mass, why not 20, 25%, 30, 35% 50%, who is to say where the end lies. I have precious little faith in the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood to come up with an even handed decision on this when it reaches them. We've seen what happened with the site of special scientific interest at the Menie estate just south of Aberdeen, and they thought that was worth developing just for a golf course, so what they're quite going to do for a wind farm I don't know. So I think the decision has got to be a local one, and people have already made their objections known that people are sitting here wearing several different caps, or the Councillors are, and I think that's wrong. I think we are not being democratically represented and I think Councillors have to think very carefully about their position on this one. As you will have gathered I am opposed to the development as it's now constituted, although I am not opposed to wind farms and indeed I think there are circumstances where they can actually enhance a view, but don't think this is one of them. There are too many, they're too big, and they are in the wrong place. And I don't think the environmental impact assessment actually compared sites either. If we have to have wind farms in Shetland stuck on top of hills are these the best sites that they are in, are these the sites where there's going to be least impact on wildlife. I mean its an awful shame to preserve the goose that lays the golden egg and to lose our whimbrel and golden plover and by golly they will go if not by being built on just by increased disturbance in the area. It doesn't have to be the fact that they can be bisected or dissected by revolving rotor, although

that certainly will happen after a lot of years. I think this is something we should, requires very very careful consideration indeed. And like my wife, I'm not quite sure where all these jobs are going to come from. Yes certainly some jobs may be preserved. Yes some people will come back to Shetland because there are jobs for them, but by the same token there may be quite a lot of people who come to Shetland to fill vital posts who are no longer attracted to it, and that has to be something that's considered also.

#### Phillip Andrews

I agree entirely with the previous speaker. I would like to offer a piece of information. On the way here, I called by at the head of Swinister Voe and took photographs of Fora Ness. The highest tip of Fora Ness stands at 100 metres from sea level. That's 330 feet. That will be the height of the rotor hub on a turbine. The question we need to ask ourselves, do we want to have something that size 150 times over standing on the Lang Kames and anywhere else Viking Energy decide to put their turbines. Thank you.

#### Gibby Johnson

This reminds me very much of the debate that went on when the oil came to Shetland first. And where would we have been today if oil had not come. Where would all the folk working at Sullom Voe today, where would they have been, would they have been South now? I hope our Councillors will vote for it.

#### Bertha Clubb

I'm not going into details. We've heard plenty of details, we've studied it all. I just want to make a simple point about the Council. I want to address them and say that I want them to consider that before this project hit the fan, I don't remember hearing any panic or scare mongering about the future of Shetland. Shetland has been creative innovative and successful, as in many places are which are considered to be on the edge worldwide. I was at a lecture recently at the Orkney Science Festival, and there was a woman spoke specifically about areas like ours who have necessity has become the mother of invention and folk have come up with solutions to problems, and I think Shetland is pretty good at that. There is one thing that I have noticed over a period of time and many other people have mentioned. There has been quite an obsession in Shetland, I don't mean among the Shetlanders, I mean about the Councillors who represent us over several councils now, and obsession about putting Shetland on the map in terms of the scale of the projects. The Bressay Bridge would put us on the map, not exactly the Sydney Bridge, but we all noted that comment. This has gone on and on with several projects and this is the next flagship project. This kind of comment culminated in something that I was really horrified, when I heard Radio Shetland programme, passing a comment on the arts programme for Shetland for the following year, and it concluded by saying we really want Shetland to be the best islands in the world. Small can be beautiful. In my opinion, Burradale is living proof of this. The need to go further in the attempt to beat Scotland in producing the biggest wind farm in Europe. Shetland, the little box in the corner of the map, compared with the whole map of Scotland, if you can imagine that, why should we be providing the next goal is for Shetland to

provide the biggest wind farm in Europe, a giant offshore wind farm called Shetland.

Jimmy Duncan

Just to recap a point. This idyllic lifestyle a lot of people seem to talk about, this idyllic lifestyle we had in the 1950s and 60s wasn't so idyllic at all. The lifestyle we have today, if we want to maintain it, we need economic inflows. Its as simple as that.

Ellis Johnson

I'm strongly against it, its too big. Cut it down a bit and you could think about it.

Jenny Murray

I would like to say that I'm opposed to the wind farm because of the size of this. I think I'm not against renewable energy, but its too big for this island and if the Scottish Government is hell bent on wind farms, let them fill Rannoch Moor with it, but I don't hear that option being mentioned.

Kenny Hughson

I agree with the last two speakers. I'm not against wind farms as a principle and a smaller wind farm I would support, but I'm totally against this project. Thank you.

Margaret Roberts

I would just like to say that I'm one of those folk that's very much conflicted over all of this stuff. I've heard a lot from folk who feel very passionately for and very passionately against the wind farm. There is a myriad of issues which I think is very difficult for the bulk of us that's not read – have you seen the environmental impact assessment? I have its this high, and I'll not be reading it all, so I cant really judge which of the arguments holds water. So I'm loathe to come out on one side or the other because of the amount of divisiveness that this is causing within the community. If I say I'm for it I'll be upsetting a lot of folk that I know is against it. So where I would be is that maybe there is a case for making an objection and going to public enquiry so that we really can get to the bottom of it without having to do that on a local basis and with some independent assessment of it.

Suzie Jacobs, Lunning

You can tell from my accent that I originated from America. Of all the beautiful places in the world I chose to come and live out my years in Shetland. I love it here, I love the people here and I commend them most of the time for their great good sense, their great common sense. I have moved here from a community in the desert of California where there has been a wind farm for well over 20 years, 25 years. Its gotten bigger and bigger over the years, it has never made any money and that's because of the way legally everything was set up. The power from the wind farm is not used in the state of California until all of the big powerful power companies that have fossil fuel burning plants don't have a enough to supply, and then the wind supply kicks in. In the meantime, the people in the desert community where the wind farm

exists, still cannot access that powers. They still have to buy power that is produced in the fossil fuel burning plants until there isn't enough in the whole state. So I would just admonish the Council, please, please, the devil is in the details and I'm not sure that they have been doing their due diligence in looking after the real welfare of the Shetlanders.

#### Raymond Coutts

I just want to register as totally against the wind farm. Why not just build 2000 of them and send all the Shetlanders down to mainland Scotland, and leave all the workers here with them. That's how it's going.

#### Susan Davidson, Eshaness

I live beside a wind turbine and I can certainly say that it is visually there all the time and also audibly as well. I object to the size of this wind farm. I think we should be looking at other ways perhaps of reducing our carbon footprint before we go ahead with this.

#### Margaret Duncan

I lived at Graven at the start of the Sullom Voe era. Unless mistaken, I do not believe that the Wind Farm will produce the amount of jobs that Sullom Voe has produced over the years. And I'm very much against it.

#### Alice Ratter

I was born in the early 50s so I've been here for quite a while. I am not opposed to renewable energy in any way but the scale of this wind farm is far too big for Shetland. It's not only the turbines I think as Ian said, it's all the infrastructure, all the roads, all the disturbance all the concrete that's going to be poured in. There's a lot of other things as well against the wind farm. There's the birds, as we heard on Radio Shetland tonight, they have discovered it does make a big difference to the birds. I think it's not so much the bird strikes, it's the disturbance of the nesting sites, the birds nest where the wind farm would be going, because of the isolation, because there is no disturbance there. It's only going to be supposed to be only 50 or so jobs. It cannot be compared to the Sullom Voe Terminal, because the Sullom Voe Terminal brought so much employment to Shetland and that's what, it was people getting jobs there that have boosted the community, the economy of the islands has been boosted because of the amount of workers at the Terminal not the few jobs that there is going to be with the Wind Farm. I'm really too nervous to speak about this, I've forgotten half of what I was going to say, but I'll leave it at that.

#### Owen Barton

I'd urge you to object to the wind farm. I think that Shetland is too important environmentally and too sensitive for a wind farm this size and I don't think that Shetland should be sacrificed whilst on the UK mainland there is oil power stations being built and airports being expanded. I think first of all we've got to reduce our carbon footprints as much as possible and energy use before we make such a sacrifice. And I also think that the environmental impact worst case scenario is far too big and too risky and therefore the precautionary principle should be applied to this planning.

Kathleen Tait

I would just like to make a suggestion. Since the Chair is not prepared to have a vote maybe it would only be fair to pass the microphone around to everybody who's not had their say. All they have to do is say for against or if living in fear of the lynch mob, say undecided. And everybody's opinion will be registered.

Andrew Hall, Brae

I think that's a bit unfair to actually say that people are scared of the lynch mob. I think its fair to say that there is a fantastic amount of information out there that people are genuinely struggling to understand what's being said for and against. They are just having trouble trying to decide whether or not they are for or against it. Personally, I can't make up my mind. I'm for wind farms but then in another respect I think the size is too big but then another way I think well we need money to come into this community so that the Council can maintain the services that we have enjoyed for the past 20 years. So I think people need to acknowledge that there are plenty of people out there that just cannot make up their mind and its whether or not I can leave my local councillors to act on my behalf, presume that they have got far more information or time to spend on this than I have. I would like to say that I'm not for it, or against it, because I can't make up my mind. Simple as that.

Joyce Sim

I'm against the project. The reason I stood up is because Andrew said I'll have my councillors make decisions about it, and I think that's part of the problem. I don't think we can have councillors who are representing us because they are on Viking Energy. So I'm against it anyway.

Louise Watson, Nesting

I would just like to say that I oppose this wind farm because I don't think its environmentally sound. I think its too big. I also don't like the idea that two out of my three local councillors are actually directors of Viking Energy and cannot represent my views and the area that we live is heavily impacted by the wind farm.

Les Murray

I would just like to say that if the purpose of us all being here tonight is to gauge the feeling of the community why do we not have a show of hands.

Hazel Sutherland

I'm more than happy to do that, what I was trying to do to begin with is to try and give everyone the opportunity to speak first so that they could express their views. But if we come back to that at the end then I'm happy to do that if that's the feeling of the hall. But if folk could get the chance to say what they want to say.

Les Murray

I would just like to say that I am totally against it because of the scale of it, the visual impact, all the things I'm hearing for the same argument tonight.

### Agnes Leask

I was originally undecided. But now I'm totally against it. Its far too big a scheme for the land mass of Shetland. There is a question I would like to ask but I don't expect to get an answer. If Shetland hadn't had the Charitable Trust would Viking Energy ever have got up and running? And what will happen when the Charitable Trust money is done. Will they simply pick up their bags and go and leave us with nothing. For goodness sake stop and think and stop this huge development before it goes any further and uses up any more money and ends up destroying the environment, which I'm very much interested in. For example now, if a crofter catches a bonxie killing a lamb and shoots him, that crofter can be fined. Is Viking Energy going to be fined every time a windmill kills one of the rare birds.

### Philip Ashley-Smith

I have had the good fortune to have lived in Shetland for a few years. Delighted to have the opportunity to come and live here. I'm actually very much in favour of the wind farm and my reasoning is I would say look around you. Shetland has the finest facilities anywhere in Britain, and those facilities are not there by good luck. They are there by the good fortune of what happened in the 1970s. And if something is not done to maintain that, then those facilities will wither away on the vine, there will not be job opportunities for young people and there will only be oldies left like me inhabiting the place wondering where on earth we are going to get our next crust from. If that sounds over dramatic, I used to live in the North East of England in the 1960s so I know what deprivation looks like, I know what it looks like when people don't have jobs. I know what it looks like when there is no money around in the community. A lot is being said tonight about the fact that money isn't everything. I know it isn't everything but it does make the world go round. I think you have got to think very very hard and long before you reject this opportunity and one final thing I would say is that actually view the opportunity for Shetland to contribute to an environmental cause of helping to reduce global warming as an opportunity, not as a threat. Thank you.

### Charlie Gallagher

Just like to get back to the point that I forgot about. Somebody else mentioned the flagship policies. There's flagship goes sailing down Yell Sound there was a flagship policy of the Shetland Islands Council. It bypasses us now and we spent an awful lot of money in that. The Council is good at spending money on consultants so let them have a very quick referendum of all the people of Shetland, and let the people decide that way. That way you will get the best possible indication of what people think. Here you are getting a sort of small section of it, just like the opinion poll in the Shetland Times. The only way to get the true views is a referendum. A postal vote could be arranged very quickly, the unions seem to do it when there are strikes involved. So how about it. Thank you.

### Kevin Learnmonth

I'm very much opposed to this project. A lot has been spoken about money and if you could caricature the folk say in support of the project its either

because it will make money or because its good for the environment, but I don't think either of those stand up. I'm concerned that Councillors through the Charitable Trust will pour money into this project because as soon as they commit money to this project there is not money available to reinvest, there's not money available to pay annually the costs for halls like this, for care homes and for the other Trusts in Shetland. There's about £180m in total in the Charitable Trust. The Charitable Trust share of this project is £260m. This project is about going from surplus into debt on the off chance that it might come off. It is not a sure-fire winner. Secondly, on the environment. Everything is going to have a visual impact. My concern is not the visual impact. My concern is the environment. The carbon model, the official scientific model that the Scottish Government funded that Viking Energy used in their EIA shows that worst case scenario is 22 years carbon impact so the wind farm has to work perfectly every day for 22 years and at the end of the 22 years it covers its carbon impact. That's with full site restoration and full restoration of the hydrology. It's a tick box, that's how simple it is. Will site be restored, yes or no, and they have ticked yes. If you change it to will the site be restored, well maybe, we don't know if its going to work, the carbon payback becomes hundreds of years. It's actually not just maybe a bit bad, it could be worse that a coal burning power station. It is not a green project.

#### John Thorn

Just like to state that I'm not for and I'm not against the wind farm. I have been very fortunate enough to read a lot of the documentation, just because of the position I hold. My concerns are that there is stuff in the documents that doesn't become public knowledge, and I've got concerns that if there are certain issues raised why are they omitted from some of the documents that goes on and gets created. From the point of view that I would like to say as a local person is that everybody is saying about the jobs it will create. You know what about the jobs that are going to be lost whilst we wait for a wind farm getting built. You know we are looking at 5, 6, 7 years before a spade is put in the ground. There could be a lot of jobs actually lost in that period of time and also a lot of people then leaving the island to look for alternative work. Thank you.

#### Arthur Grains

Speaking about jobs, the most jobs that - I'm against the wind farm – the most jobs that the wind farm will create is during the construction work. When its up and running it will not be like Sullom Voe where there are a lot of jobs there. It will not be like that. What I would like to see is the Council putting more thought into tidal power and less wind. Build a bridge to Yell or Unst, where the most expensive ferries. Bressay is the cheapest ferry to run. Incorporate a turbine in the bridge.

#### Steven Grains

I'm just against the whole thing, certainly on this scale. Just think that it will not matter a sink what the objectors have to say about it, even if it was 99%. Objectors toward the whole thing, but they will still go ahead with it, whether we object to it or not, and I just think there will be, no doubt there will be plenty of back handers going on. That's what I think.

Frank Hay

I would like to object to this quite strongly. I feel that its very bad for the environment, its far too big and some of the turbines are far too near to houses. Something would need to be done about that.

Alice Ratter

There was a lot of speak about climate change. This wind farm, although its maybe going to be the biggest one in Europe its not really going to make a big difference to climate change. You would need to speak to countries like China and places like that, and get them to review their policies before you are going to make any significant change. Speaking about wind farm and what a wonderful resource we have. This is not the only place that there is wind. Maybe right enough the wind here is very good for windmills, as Burradale has shown, but it's the whole scale of this project and just to pick up on the tidal power thing. I was at the community council meeting and I put forward the same sort of idea, would we not be better off with tidal power which is constant. You could have caus

Just a few facts about this interconnector cable which, there's a bit of misinformation has been going on round about that. It's rated capacity is 600 megawatts, that the design figure, that's about 10% over the maximum output of the wind farm. What does that actually mean? Well it means there is some spare capacity so that if it was found that it was worthwhile having a go at tidal power then there would be enough capacity in the cable to put a trial system in, its not that the cable would be full to capacity. The other thing is that this interconnector cable is fully reversible seamlessly able to take the flow of power in either direction and that means that power can be imported. The intention is a separate exercise to link the distribution system in Shetland to the interconnector so that we won't be reliant on the diesel power station. Diesel power stations is one of the worst ways to generate electricity. From a thermo dynamics point of view they are significantly less efficient than coal or oil, they are not good at all and I for one would not like to be living in Lerwick breathing in what comes out of those seven or so exhaust ports from the seven diesel engines that are down there. So, and on the subject of the power station, there is a design exercise going on at the moment to design a replacement power station regardless of whether or not the wind farm goes ahead, so if it doesn't go ahead they will definitely need a new power station because the present one is past its design life of 40 years or more and if the wind farm does go ahead then just as an absolute back up, because people are used to having electricity supplies 24 hours a day and get very upset if they do not get them 24 hours a day, there will be a diesel or some other technology power station there, a new one, to generate the power.

#### Marion Hughson

We seem to have promises of all this money we are going to make, but just now you can buy your electricity from where you want to buy it from, and we generate all this electricity, it goes to the mainland, we do not get any cheaper electricity in Shetland. You buy it from what source you want and then there's marine power comes on, maybe 5 years on. You get marine power and that's cheaper maybe. And then everybody goes on to that source, and here we are left with all this unearthly stuff that's going on. There are 8 quarries, and bore holes, and its just such a mess to our environment. We look just now at Mossy Hill and they are taking away 2 or 3 of there, well they are taking it down, and that's just a mess for maybe 1 stack of a windmill. The environment will take years to come back again. You cannot destroy it under concrete, and then take concrete away. You put in maybe 5 tonnes of concrete to put in a few strainers, and how much does that use compared with for the windmills. Its just going to completely destroy the place. I'm totally against this big wind farm of Viking Energy's and I'm totally against a limited company owning 5 or 10% of the community share, and it can be sold on tomorrow, or a year or two ahead. Thank you.

#### Linda Glanville

I notice people are starting to walk out, so just before we break up, I just wanted to register my vote for the wind farm.

#### Joe Rocks

Few points came up there. Firstly I'd like to say I like the look of windmills, I realise I'm alone in this room. I've seen wind farms, I've walked around them. I think they're attractive, I don't have a problem with the look of them at all. The issue of tidal power – I don't know if you remember about 20/23 years ago Howdens put up an experimental wind turbine just outside Voe at Sussetter Hill. It never, I don't think it ever produced any electricity, certainly nothing of any significance, so you could call that a waste of time, except for the fact that it was experimental and as a result, 15 years later, commercial wind farms, partly because of that, commercial wind farms started springing up. Tidal power is maybe at the same stage and it could be that in 15 years, tidal or wave, will start to produce power, but not just now, its not commercially viable, and it doesn't look to me as if the Government have got too much spare cash at the moment to start investing in experimental things. Wind farms are viable and therefore you can put money into them, they can be productive, they can meet the country's power requirements. As far as job creation is concerned, this gentleman said there would only be about 50 jobs. Quite right. Sullom Voe produced a lot of jobs someone mentioned, but more importantly, the biggest employer on the island, Shetland Islands Council I think. Because of the injection of money into the economy the SIC has been an affluent council and its been the major employer on the island. Its an opportunity for that to continue. Thank you.

#### Suzanne Malcolmson

I would just like to say again, that if Viking Energy were genuinely looking for the best interests of the Shetland people, there are now wind turbines being developed that produce a third more electricity for two thirds the size. Now these are now available but this planning application does not take those into account. If Viking Energy were looking at the best turbines available we could have a third less turbines for only two thirds the size, but this application, that's not what its for, so if we approve this application we are approving wind turbines that are 150 metres high and 150 of them across Shetland. I think its not so much a case of whether you are for or against renewable energy it's a case of whether you are for this particular application.

#### Ian Tait

A couple of the previous speakers here tonight who are in favour of the wind farm made a very valid point and that's the bygone days of the pre-oil era, poorer services and now we have got wonderful services and that's why we must have a wind farm, but that's putting the cart before the horse. What the Council has in effect done is they have put up this smokescreen of renewable energy and that's to make it palatable, but really its in order to mitigate against the fact that they have not been able to live within their means for years and years, so that now, finally Shetland, like the rest of the national and European economy is going belly up and they've got to sell it to the first snake oil salesman that comes along and that was Scottish and Southern Energy. So I think we should take a more balanced view, or the Council should take a more balanced view and think, right, well we have this level of services, we need money, how do we make money in an ethical fashion, not just for big bucks.

#### James Duncan

I think there is one point I would like to make. Back in the 1970s, when some of the Councillors of the day negotiated with the oil industry, all they got was criticism. They were very poorly understood. Public perception is not very well informed. But look at the legacy they left behind. The late John Jamieson, A I Tulloch, J W Blance, and probably several others I don't even know about. I also hear quite a lot of pointed criticism aimed at the Councillors as individuals and I think that's very very unfortunate. Maybe in 10 or 15 years time we will realise their diligence and their wisdom and we might congratulate them. Somebody at the front said something about there was probably a lot of backhanders going on. Absolutely disgusting.

#### Philip Andrews

I get the feeling that we are looking at this from the wrong end of the telescope. One of the problems with Scottish and Southern Energy is that they waste huge amounts of heat every day, every hour, in the process of generating the electricity that we use. That heat does not seem to be available to be garnered for the district heating system which would cut the cost of heating the homes that are linked up in Lerwick to it, and it might even cut SSE's fuel bill, and it would also increase the apparent efficiency of the station which is now down to about 25%. I think that problem needs to be addressed long before anybody thinks about putting up any kind of wind farm in Shetland. Having said that, I'm not actually opposed to wind farms at all, but I am opposed to this one in terms of the effects of the quarries, in terms of the size of the turbines, in view of the fact that the whole engineering of the thing may not include buffered storage so it will actually add to the grid problems rather than reduce them. I think the whole thing needs to be examined very carefully and it needs to be thought out extremely carefully and in the meantime SSE needs to look at how much heat they waste at Gremista in the process of just generating up to 46 megawatts of electricity. Thank you.

#### Ian Malcolmson

I think there is a very important point about local democracy here that we have got to bridge and grasp the nettle. The Council is going to have a conflict of interest in Shetland. It does have a massive conflict of interest. And they have to realise that that's completely untenable. They have to step back from this and let the people of Shetland decide what's best for the people of Shetland and not just the directors of a private company.

#### John Sutherland

Much has been said about carbon emissions when all this moor is shifted, but I think there would be far more emissions when the roads were made from Gutcher to Sumburgh than what would be through the hills if this goes ahead. Is it not right to say that Shetland is growing rich on the back of the industry which is the greatest polluter the world has ever seen? And I do not see anybody working up there thinking "oh we maybe shouldn't be working here with all this pollution". Secondly, tourism. Fair enough, we all want to see tourists coming here. It's a 5 month season, and the tourists will not feed the population for the next 7 month. Then back to jobs again. One thing I can think about was a concert in Voe in 1980 and Laureen Johnson wrote a song that told about the women giving up the knitting machines and going to work

in Calback and Firth, and I can always remember the last two lines, and then somebody will maybe tell us what jobs we are going to have after this, "What's going to happen when the oil is all gone, and we have to go back to the maakin machine?" So what's going to be the jobs, somebody from Sustainable Shetland here tonight must be able, or have some idea about what jobs are going to be here after the oil is gone.

Johanna Scott, Leeds, West Yorkshire

I happen to be one of those pesky tourists. It took me a whole 24 hours to get here, but one of the reasons I came back after having worked here a few summers ago, is because of the appeal of the look of the land, the way it just looks and I think that for all the fact that there are so many people that are for the wind farms are sitting there going that the aesthetic appeal isn't worth it, I came back because of the aesthetic appeal. I didn't come back because of the wind farms. Also, somebody mentioned that wind happens everywhere. Yes it happens in West Yorkshire too, and the Highlands and pretty much everywhere else I have travelled up and down Great Britain and everything else. I would rather my energy came from local wind farms. For example if I want green energy in Leeds I want it to come from somewhere near Leeds because then I know the impact its having on the environment around me. In fact I would hate to have my energy come from Shetland when it takes me 24 hours to get here.

Kevin Learnmouth

Like Linda, I'm a bit concerned that time is wearing on and some folk are starting to drift away. I've done a rough tally as we have been going through this. I have got 9 folk spoken for the project and 5 undecided, and 37 against the project. That's fairly significant numbers but I'm also concerned that some folk haven't said anything and are likely by this stage not going to say anything. And with your permission I'd like us to go for a show of hands.

Hazel Sutherland

Shortly yes, I just want to make sure that everybody has there say.

Morag Hay

I'm totally against this destruction of Shetland.

Phil Smith

I'm objecting against the wind farm as well, and I urge the Councillors to object to it as well. Thank you.

Kathleen Gardener, Nesting

I would just like to register my opposition to this wind farm. Its far too big for our islands and its not going to do that much to sort the global energy problem.

Stuart Balfour

I did not say that I was in favour of the project correctly. You can count me as well. But going back global. I just think we have to set an example and basically you are gambling with the lives of the under fives. You're dragging

your heels for things like visual impact, and you have to act constructively with Viking Energy and the Council, the folk from Nesting, Sustainable Shetland, you should be working on it together. To work a way out that's the best for everybody, because if you don't do that, Powergen will be here in 2018 and they will be wanting to do the same thing. It will be a different story, it will be through compulsory order by a Scottish Government. Through the negotiations for climate change you will not have a choice. So make your own minds up, that's my opinion.

#### Ian Malcolmson

Just like to respond to a couple of points that were made there. Whoever comes and does a scheme in Shetland has to get planning permission. Everybody has got to go through the same process, whether the Council is part of it, or whether the Council is not part of it, they have to get planning permission, so lets knock that one on the head right to start off with. The second thing was the comment there about the five year olds and how important it was for them. When I started looking into the wind farms I was amazed at the amount of information that it is detrimental to the health of young children. If you live within 2 kilometres of these wind farms, the noise impact is really really bad for kids health. Basically they suffer from sleep deprivation because these things go on 24 hours a day, you can hear them 24 hours a day, when you wake up at night, you cannot get back to sleep again. There has been countless, countless, studies to prove that. Now there are studies on the other side that say its fine, but surely to God in Shetland we, it must be beyond reasonable doubt before you are going to put a turbine that's going to affect the health of our children. Its not beyond reasonable doubt. The wind farms are not the green thing that everybody thinks they are, they are actually really dangerous if you do not do them correctly and this scheme does not do them correctly.

#### Hazel Sutherland

Just going to have a show of hands. Not going to go into any detail about for or against renewables, that's been made clear. The expression from the floor is that you want to have you views expressed in terms of whether you are for or against this particular application. This is just an indication of the feeling of the room. Its one of the mechanisms for consultation. This was additional to what folk have available to them through the planning application process as well. So if you want to make your individual views known as well then that's there for you. But tonight I think we'll have a show of hands and I'm going to ask Louise and Leisel to do the counting.

I think we'll go for, for the proposed planning application, against the proposed planning application, and those of you who are undecided and feel free to vote any way you want.

For the planning application as put forward - 18

Against the planning application – 58

Undecided – 5

Thank you. Anybody else want to express any views? No. okay. Can I just thank you all very much for coming along tonight and thanks very much for your contributions and your reasoned debate as we have gone through the night, and you have listened well and made your points very well and thank you for doing that.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.

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END