

**Note of Public Meeting
Dunrossness Hall
Wednesday 30 September 2009 at 6.30pm**

Council Officials

H Sutherland, Executive Director – Education and Social Care
G Greenhill, Executive Director – Infrastructure
J Riise, Head of Legal and Administration

Chairperson

H Sutherland, Executive Director – Education and Social Care, presided.

[The Chairperson advised that a film crew was in attendance, and would film the introductory part of the meeting only].

Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director – Education and Social Care

My name is Hazel Sutherland, and I am the Executive Director of Education and Social Care for the Council. The reason I am here is I suppose, I am a neutral person - I've had nothing to do with the Viking Energy proposal or the Planning application. I'm here as being the Chair for you tonight, and this is an opportunity for you to express your views on this proposal. The purpose is absolutely about gathering your views, it will be an open mic session where we'll just pass around the mic where you can express your views to us in any way you want. It is not a debate as such, so it will not be a question and answer session, but it will just be an opportunity for you to speak. That will then form of part of a report going up to Council, alongside the planning application in early November, and then that then goes on to the Scottish Government at the end of November for a final decision. As I said, the format will be an open mic, so we have colleagues here who will go around with the mic, so please indicate to my by raising your hand up or whatever, that you would like to speak. All your views are welcome whatever you feel. It's going to be recorded, I hope that is ok with you, and that really is just to make sure we have a record of what you say, and Louise will also do a minute to back that up. If you could say your name before you speak if you feel comfortable with doing that that again gives us a good indication as to what your views are. I'll try to take you one by one, and what I've done in previous nights is to try to make sure that everybody has the chance to speak first if they want to do so and then come back to you again if you have further views later on in the night. The other two nights, then we've chosen to have a vote in the hall, somewhere near the end of the night when people have had their say, that we appreciate that speaking in public and speaking into a mic can feel a bit intimidating for people, so the previous two nights we've chosen to have a roll-call vote in terms of whether you are for or against the proposal, or undecided. So I will get a feel from you later in the evening, if you want to do that here as well. And we are happy to do that if that feels ok for you.

I'm going to introduce my colleagues: Jan Riise is here to help with the procedural side of things, and Gordon Greenhill as well is a colleague here. I'm going to invite Gordon in a few minutes to say a few words about the position that the Councillors find themselves in, in terms of deciding on the planning application, and the representation of your views as well, as that is quite a tricky think to understand, and to deal with. But the main purpose of tonight, is for you to express your views to us, which we will then take back to the Council, and please feel free to do so.

I'll now hand over to Gordon first, then I will pass over to you.

Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director – Infrastructure

Thanks Hazel. Hello I am Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director of Infrastructure. At the last two meetings its been quite apparent there has been some heated and emotive statements from the public, and some annoyance I would say from the public in relation to the Councillors not speaking. I would say it is a credit that you've got a full nap hand of all your Councillors turning up tonight, which is appreciated. They're here, like we are here, to hear your views and your comments. All of your comments will be taken away and placed with the Planner who is actually writing up the report and will be taken into account. It's very difficult for the Councillors because they cannot speak and voice an opinion until the Full Council meeting, cause its still a live planning application. So it is not out of disrespect to yourselves that they are not speaking, its because they are not allowed to, and its one where their silence isn't to be taken as anything other as they are here to represent you, to hear what you have to say, but they can't comment on a live planning application. They can at the debate on the 5 November when there may be some early fireworks in the Full Council meeting, so I would appreciate it if you do give the courtesy of acknowledging that whilst the Councillors have turned out as a sign of respect to yourselves to hear your views, they can't comment on your views. Thank you.

Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director

Can I ask the camera to go away please.

Now if anybody would like to start, we will get underway.

Andrew Halcrow

I just want to clarify a point that Gordon Greenhill said, when he said that Councillors weren't able to answer to us. The three Councillors who are also Directors of Viking Energy, they have been asked questions time and time again, by concerned Members of the public yet they haven't, or very very rarely, agreed to answer some of the these questions. Are they not at liberty to do so as Directors of Viking Energy?

Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director – Infrastructure

It isn't a question and answer session, but I will give you an answer on that one, in that they will be excluded from the debate in the Council, and won't have a vote, because obviously they have a direct interest.

Billy Fox

I live in Quarff. My views are pretty well known, I'm in the public domain and been at it for a couple of years now, so I will keep this statement fairly brief. I totally and utterly oppose the Viking Energy wind farm project. It is a project, if it went ahead at this moment in time that would be the largest onshore wind farm in Europe. The proposal is to put that into a group of islands into the central mainland of that group of islands, that total mass of the group of islands being less than 2% of the Scottish landmass. And about 0.14% of the European landmass. It is totally disproportionate with the Shetland landscape. Further to that the proposal is that it is going to be built on peat moorland in blanket bog, which is in itself a significant carbon sink, a globally important carbon sink. Scientific body of opinion is strengthening on that on a daily basis. The carbon audit payback on it, if you care to look at the Environmental Impact Assessment is seriously questionable, if you put in parameters that are actually the parameters that are really recommended for hydrology then you can push the carbon payback on a wind farm to twice the length of the wind farm's life, and if you actually take out parameters at the end where they state they will restore habitat and restore hydrology 100%, and actually put that to the other position, then the carbon payment goes into 3 figures. Also although it is not part of the planning process, the finances on this have been used by the developers to actually sell the project.

They don't know what the capital costs is going to be, they don't know what the transmission charges are going to be, they don't know how much they are going to get from the electricity when they sell, and yet they are giving projections on revenue. Now Allan Wishart was on Radio Shetland tonight refuting the fact that figures had come out from a commercially confidential seminar held after the last Shetland Charitable Trust meeting, saying that the £81m that the Councillor who released those figures was part of a scenario, so he was saying that the figures are imponderables, yet it has never stopped Viking Energy from continually totting out that we are going to make £37m per annum from this project. So that is really the basis of my objections to all this, but it is a seriously important issue. I think if it went ahead, I think you get people saying that this is what the future of Shetland is, and this what is actually going to attract people into Shetland, and keep people in Shetland, well I actually think it will do entirely the opposite, I think it will drive people away and even a possibility that people even may leave Shetland. I will just finish by saying that I know that a vote/show of hands has been taken at the last 2 meetings, so I would just say at this moment in time that I would like that to be done this evening as well.

Alvid Wengum?

I am from Germany, and since June I have been in Shetland and I want to stay here. I think I have some additional comments to that what was just said. I didn't come here, and I don't want to come here for wind farm project. I like the people, I like the island, and I like the natural environment. To the costs, I think I haven't heard something about what happens if the wind farm is at the end of its life cycle, which costs will rise then to get it rebuilt maybe. And everybody speaks only that the project will become a success, and the money that it earned by the project, or may be earned, I haven't heard anything about if the project fails, how will the finances of Shetland develop if the project doesn't make a profit. So I haven't seen a project developing plan, and I only hear from... for me it is like a static investment planning. I am missing a dynamic investment plan, everyone says the project is there and that will be the earnings, but I don't think that 150 windmills will be here from one day to the other, over which time shall they be built, who shall build them? I am convinced there are not the people in Shetland to build the windmills, we don't have the people here I think, and most of the people are employed so there are no people left and maybe there are engineers needed. And what was very impressive for me was the first time I saw the documentary which was shown in, for example, the Hoswick Visitor Centre. There was a small room and there are several pages, and books, and photographs from the landscape, then on the next side is the same picture again and to see what it would look like when the windmills are standing there. So overall, you see from very far you see all the windmills in the area. For me I summarise this with the word "view pollution". Now back to the targets the Council has set, they want to have in 2025, 25,000 people on the island, and that is where they want to go. And I back to the argument before, I don't think people will come when the windmills are built, I think the asset of Shetland is the nature and not the windmills.

Susie Jolly

My name is Susie Jolly of Jolly Typing Services. I am a newcomer to Shetland, I moved here only in June. I have been following on the internet, and also more recently in the local press, and have been speaking to my neighbours about the proposed wind farm. I lived in East London, we've got the wind farms in East London too, just down the A13. We've also got experience in East London of Councillors, Mayors, Government telling us how we are all in favour of London hosting the Olympic Games. Part of this, and its a very important part in my mere opinion, is democracy. Councillors should be listening and representing the people who voted for them. Ok, I didn't vote for them because I wasn't here, a lot of people in London are definitely against having the Olympics there, we also

had it in London with regard to the Euro Tunnel – oh, there was to be no compulsory purchase of houses – there were. This is highly relevant, because one point the gentlemen said, was about the Councillors. I've also worked as a Complaints Investigation Officer – you know that it has already been stated about the conflict of interest, they shouldn't be Directors of Viking Energy. Turning to the actual wind farm, it is in my opinion too large for Shetland. I took the time to have a conversation with the Project Officer of Viking Energy – David Thomson. It was very civilised and he did answer some points that I raised. He did state that the energy would first of all be going to the Shetland people but I understand that it has been bounced about that it won't. He couldn't answer what was going to happen to the peat, he couldn't give a clear definitive answer on some of the other points, but he did agree with me on a very important point that I raised, he said yes theoretically, to the fact that my understanding, and forgive me I may be naïve as a newcomer to the island, or the group of islands, is regards to the fact that you have got the Shetland Islands Council and the Charitable Trust, now if a Councillor resigns, my understanding is, that it would then be ex-officio and they can no longer be a member of the Trust, and it is proposed that Viking Energy will, in terms of the Scottish Electrical Power company, the Power Company would own 50% and that the Charitable Trust would own 50%. There is nothing to stop, as far as I am aware, and again I could be wrong, but the Viking Energy Project Officer agreed with me, that there's nothing to stop a Councillor being a Director of Viking Energy and at some stage the Council, perhaps later on down the line, deciding to sell their share or part of their share and for the Councillor to profit from it. Again, as Billy Fox said, and I applaud Billy for the stance and the time and the effort he is taking in regards to this. It is too big. You've got the EU Directives, that have also with regards to the guidelines to how close a wind farm should be to someone's house, and you're breaking the EU Directive, but David Thomson just wants to refer to a Scottish Act of Parliament, as opposed to the EU legislation also. But never mind the EU, what about your own legislation. I looked at moving to Shetland, and thought if I win the national lottery brilliant I may be able to buy a nice house – I haven't won the lottery – and perhaps a little wind turbine. Oh, no you can't do that according to the Shetland Planning Department, if I am too near the main road because of the risk of an accident, with the sun reflecting on the blades. Well how close are all of these proposed windmills going to a road, so none of them are going to catch on the sun? You've got the wildlife, we come here and what really got me is when I spoke to someone in Shetlands Council, was "that you knew there was going to be a wind farm up here before you moved, didn't you". No, it's in the planning process, and from the people I've met who have welcomed me to Shetland it is a resounding 'No' – listen to the people.

Raymond Fuchs

There's a very simple equation in physics that says that electricity if it is going to be transmitted any distance without wasting most of the heating up the conductors has to be transmitted at very high voltage, hundreds of thousands of volts, so this is why on the national grid on the mainland we see big pylons high up in the air because the air is an insulator, and you can transmit the electricity at the necessary voltage, without it breaking away from its bounds. The Interconnect from here to the mainland, goes under the sea which is a very good conductor of electricity. Electricity still has to be at hundreds of thousands of volts potential otherwise most of the energy generated by the wind farm would simply heat up the conductors – this is quite uncontroversial, this is simple basic physics. Now it seems to me it is pretty windy on the west coast of mainland Scotland, now it can't be a whole hell of a lot more windy here, can it? So how is the electricity generated by the wind farm here, going to be commercially competitive with electricity generated on the mainland of Scotland? It seems to me that this interconnector, is probably, I don't know if such a thing has been attempted anywhere else, but it is an extraordinary undertaking to transmit a high volume of electric current at a very very high

voltage under the sea – I'm sure it can be done, we've managed to put a man on the moon 40 years ago, but it costs quite a lot of money. What's it going to cost, is the cost more than outweighed, which it would have to be, by the extra windiness of Shetland, compared with mainland Scotland. I really find this hard to believe. I think there might be a case. I think there are maintenance issues. I think we all know how salt gets into the hinges on our windows, there are issues I think with turbines generally, but there might be a case for being self sufficient in electricity, but I just can't see how it can possibly add up that a major wind farm in Shetland, given this issue of the interconnector, can possibly be commercially competitive with one on the Scottish mainland, where the power can be transmitted to its destination over conventional pylons, which is a tried and tested technology, the economics of which are well understood.

Martin Heubeck, Dunrossness

It really is just a follow up to the last statement. The reason I am against the wind farm is because I just don't believe the figures in the carbon audit. The Viking Energy figures don't include a carbon audit, which in other words, is how much is this going to save the climate compared to how much carbon is going to be used up building the damned thing. But they don't include the interconnector cable, I mean how much copper is going to be mined and used in that cable, which wouldn't be needed if the thing had been built on the mainland. It doesn't include the converter station in Kergord. The three things should be combined as a package, and a professional carbon audit should be devised for the Viking proposal and then compared with building a similar facility nearer the centres of population in presumably the Central Belt. I have friends who have been spending the last 3-5 summers surveying moorland areas for breeding birds both up here and down in the Central Belt, and there is vast areas of Central Belt moorland that in terms of the ornithological interest, they just are insignificant compared to the area that the Viking Energy has planned for. So it is the issue of the carbon audit, will even bounce out, will it be negative, will it be positive, I think there is far too much uncertainty over that. And especially comparing the whole package of the interconnector, the converter station and the windmills in Shetland, remote from populations so you've got to bring in workforce, and extra transport costs, all that added in. That is really why I am against it.

Alan Pring

I object to the wind farm on two main points:

1. The visual impact; and,
2. The economics.

My wife and I came to Shetland 31 years ago on a 3 year contract, and obviously we are still here. We're not stuck here, we could live anywhere in the world, but we feel privileged to live here. I see in the paper, and hear on the radio, that some people are considering leaving Shetland because of the wind farm; other people say they are never coming to Shetland again on holiday if it is built. The visual impact will be horrendous. The other concern that I have is finance. I think the project, could if it goes ahead, ruin Shetland, bankrupt it in effect. In last Saturday's Daily Telegraph in the financial section there was a report on Scottish and Southern Electricity, pointing out that SSE has debts of £5.5 billion, not million – billion. The debt is bigger than the worth of the company, it also discloses that in the last 3 years every capital expenditure by the company has been on loans. Now listening to the radio tonight, it might be debateable, but I understand that the Charitable Trust could be putting up £81m in 3 years of cash. That is Shetland's cash – it belongs to everybody in this room. If Viking Energy put up money via Scottish and Southern they will have to borrow it. If the costs run over what are projected, and they always do, they will turn around and say to Shetland that we want more money. Where is Shetland going to

get the money – borrow it? All companies when they issue a prospectus, like Viking Energy, paint a glorious picture. I remember when the Channel Tunnel shares were offered for sale to the general public, tens of thousands of people poured money in. The shares that they bought are worthless, they are gone, because as the costs soared, the Channel tunnel company needed more and more money, but it wasn't forthcoming, the investors didn't have it so they had to turn to the banks, the banks loaned money in exchange for shares and the process went on, and eventually all the equity and all the shares were owned by the banks and they still do. Now after 30 years or more, the tunnel is beginning to make a profit, but all the profit goes to the banks to pay the interest on the debt. There's no money coming to any investors, the banks have it. And listening to the projections of the costs, they can't do it. The value of the £ is falling before your very eyes, so everything bought from abroad is going to cost more. I understand that most of the equipment is coming from abroad, so the costs are going to go up, and what I dread to see, is the fact that Shetland will be asked for more money. We won't have it, money will have to be raised from the banks, and Shetland will wind up with nothing. No income. Nothing.

Ann Thomason

I live in Levenwick. I don't understand a great deal of the technicality that's been discussed, but I just wanted to say that although I'm not against windmills as such, I think they are very elegant at a certain size, and I'm not against the idea of sharing our wind resource, as we certainly have that resource, but I just think it is too large and too destructive to the environment, and geology. There are uncertainties, it is huge and it is very scary so I am against the current plan. I think it should be adjusted perhaps.

Karen Angus

There's 4 points that concern me. I'm against the windmill project as it is. The first one, to follow on what the gentlemen said about finance, I'm not very good with numbers, but I seem to remember they were going to be spending 2 or 3 times the total value of the Charitable Trust reserves, where a lot of money will have to be raised through bank loans. Now banks when they are lending money usually require some kind of security or collateral, so what is Viking Energy/Shetland planning to offer as a security if they can't meet the repayments? Land? Are they going to trade some of the oil revenue, all of it? The fish? Slavery? So the money is a big worry. Second, Scottish and Southern Energy are very keen indeed on getting this interconnector cable installed under the sea so they are obviously very determined to export power from Shetland. So if or when the turbines actually fail, if the national grid can't cope with fluctuating levels of power, or when the turbines have outlived their natural lifespan of 25 years serviceable age. Could there be any plans to create some other form of energy generation up here? Possibly a nuclear power station, maybe just build one at the beginning... I did hear a quote some years ago – the one way to guarantee nuclear power is to build wind farms. I don't know if anybody else saw the BBC Hard Talk interview with James Lovelock, he actually said a rude word that I won't repeat, but he said basically that wind power just doesn't work and the way to go is nuclear due because of our insatiable demand for electricity.

Another point is that I don't believe that any studies yet been done into the amount of ultra low frequency, or extra low frequency or infrasound as its known, and electro magnetic frequency, electro magnetic fields given off by a turbine 145 metres high, well 150 of them, so apart from the effect on humans and animals and wildlife in the radius, what effect will that have on fish. Because a large part of Shetland's economy depends on fish, whether it's sea fishing with people coming up here, or fish farming, as well as commercial fishing. Some Japanese people keep goldfish in their houses as a sort of early warning system when there is going to be an earthquake, because when there's infrasound the fish'

behaviour becomes very erratic and they trash around in the bowl, I don't believe there has been any studies done into the effect, or how much infrasound is going to be given off by a turbine of 145 metres high. And also would that comply with the Scottish Legislation known as the Salmon Laws, I've not actually researched them, but I know they exist. And also my last point, there are no results yet, there are studies ongoing, but as far as I am aware no results, on the effects of electro magnetic fields given off from an inter-connecting cable – a DC cable - and how far a radius that would be likely to reach. I'm just wondering what effect will that have on fish, on migratory fish, Shetland is fairly dependent on the fishing industry and this cable is going to go through a lot of herring spawning grounds, so if there is a large electric field being given off could that interfere with salmon, herring, the commercial fish stocks, so could there be a knock-on effect on the fishing industry. I just think there are too many unanswered questions about the whole project, apart from whatever body else has said.

Stuart Hill

I just have 2 points to make. Firstly I don't like the blackmail that Shetland is being subjected to, for instance when the boss of Scottish and Southern says that they will go it along if Viking Energy pulls out, and there's been a lot of talk lately along the lines that if Viking Energy doesn't go ahead with their project, somebody else will, and the community won't benefit. This all pre-supposes that planning permission is a foregone conclusion. We were told that nothing would happen without our approval, so these people know something that we don't. There are plenty of sound ecological and financial arguments against the Viking project, but my second point concerns the interconnector cable, as has been mentioned before. Once we have it there will be no need for our own power station because we would be connected to the national grid, we would get our power from the mainland when there was not enough wind to supply the turbines, so we would be entirely dependent on this long thin umbilical cord. If the cable was to be damaged, and it wouldn't need much to do that, Shetland would simply shut down until it is repaired and causing unimaginable damage. The only way to guard against that would be for the power station to remain and be on standby, running at its most inefficient, and totally negating the so called green benefits of wind energy, which still remains one of the most expensive methods of electricity generation. And by the way, if anybody still thinks that the Viking Energy project will mean cheap electricity for Shetland, they better think again, Europe doesn't allow it, we still have to pay the standard rate for our electricity, even though we pay extra for oil and petrol. The only way we can get cheaper electricity is by small-scale local production. Shetland should not be afraid to stand on its own two feet, supply its own energy by all means, but not be a power station for Scotland and the UK. Our money has been used to finance the Viking Energy project this far, and it continues to be spent. In spite of all the money spent, and in spite of all their efforts, they have failed to convince the people of Shetland that the doubtful benefits outweigh the considerable disadvantages. These meetings are to inform the SIC about the feelings of the Shetland people about the Viking Energy project - if the people of Shetland don't want it, then the SIC is duty bound to put a stop to it, to make sure it doesn't happen, and ensure that planning permission is not given for the Viking Energy scheme or anything like it.

Jimmy Smith

Looking around here, I don't think I'm going to get any applause, cause I'm in favour of it - if it makes money for Shetland, if it doesn't make money for Shetland then forget it. Now my problem is that I think we are going to get a wind farm up here, whether we have anything to do with it or not. Stuart Hill has just said we are being blackmailed by Scottish and Southern, and they will go for it alone, and the Council can at that point refuse planning permission, then they go to appeal. Donald Trump did. In fact Alex Salmon went to him and told them to appeal, and now they are going for compulsory purchase for the

houses that folk won't sell to him. We don't have control of this, the Scottish Government is hell bent on getting a lot of renewables, we have a good scheme here, and we have an undeniable resource in wind. The wind up here is better than on the west coast, I've seen the figures, significantly better. Another thing Stuart Hill also said was they would shut the power station down, or we'll have to keep it running, we won't. There are plans to build a completely new one because the old one does not meet the emission controls. It will be shut, it will sit there, because they will not let Shetland sit with one interconnector, Orkney has 2 interconnectors and they still have a power station. It's shut down, they can fire it up in 10 minutes, but its shut down, its on standby. Other things we've had here – the one objection I can see reason with is that it will visibly impair the north end of Shetland; some folk say it will be a blot on the landscape, it's a subjective view. I think it will be visibly intrusive, there's no doubt about that; nobody will ever claim that it won't be seen. The figures have been argued over here, whether it will make money for Shetland, or whether it won't make money for Shetland, whether it will disturb fish in the sea – there are interconnectors running all over the world, under sea interconnectors, France to England there's a big one there, England gets a lot of its power from nuclear stations in France, and there's no sign of any damage to the fish down that way that can be laid down to the interconnector. They are also saying disturbing peat will cause landslips, now we have had significant landslips, if you were coming down from the North you would have seen the landslips getting here, the only place the land didn't slide was where there were 2 peat roads and all the peat banks, severely disturbed peat. Now all the power they said, could be going south, it will no, it's been set up so it can stick around here. There are other folk objecting on grounds I don't agree with, there's been every sort of objection that I've heard can be countered, folk have to get the figures. If this is going to make money for Shetland, I'm for it, Southern Energy comes in and takes over, and everything goes out the sooth mooth, the power, the money, and Shetland actually needs money, the Charitable Trust money is running down, the Council's reserves is running down. We're building Mareel, we're putting £40 odd million on a new school, £20 million into housing, 2 new tugs at Sullom Voe, what other.... a lot of schemes. I think the Councillors have to listen to the folk now, but they have to plan for our bairns and grandbairns, because I'm going to get no good out of this wind farm, my bairns might and my grandbairns might. Thank you.

Alan Eunson

I agree with Jim Smith here. I think that this wind farm should be built; it's a way to capture some resources that Shetland has. And it will make employment for the upcoming generations. The finances are entirely for the folk that are working with the money. All I can see is a resource that can keep employment, its not going to be pretty I agree with you, but if anybody looks from the Scalloway side to the Scord of Scalloway that's no pretty either, but its been around all my minding, and employing people all my minding, and there's eared a lot of money out of the Scord of Scalloway. No its no pretty, so yes the wind farm will be a blight on the landscape, but that is something you have to put up with if you are going to keep the young generations in employment, and I think it should be built for that purpose.

Andrew Nicolson

I've been born and brought up in Shetland, and been here all my life. I left the school in 1976, and I'd just like to support Jimmy smith and Alan Eunson here. I'm for this wind farm. I've never been unemployed, I've had no need to be unemployed, but I do see the resources running down on the money side of things, the work the Council's done, I have every faith in our Councillors, we have a good bunch of Councillors, we may not always agree with them but they have a difficult job. We have a good bunch of Directors in Viking Energy, and Alan Wishart and his team I wish them all the best and hope it goes ahead.

Helen Moncrieff

I'm very against this proposal. I think a good thing that has come out of it is that it is bringing folk together so we can maybe try to look at solutions for the future on how to think about the economics and Shetland and how younger folk and the future generations can stay on. I would like to have bairns sometime and to bring them up in Shetland, but now with a huge big far out of scale wind farm... I don't believe a lot of the figures that have come out, I think we have been dealt propaganda, but the figures don't add up environmentally or economically as far as I can see. I would consider myself an environmentally minded person, but I don't think the carbon footprint stuff adds up, and I don't believe in the habitat management plan that's been put in with the whole environmental impact statement. And there's a few folk who would have liked to be here tonight, and they are wondering how they can put their opinions forward to the Council, and to urge their Councillors, well the folk I've been speaking to go against this planning permission, so it that could be made available some how.

Hazel Sutherland

Other people have submitted written submissions if they weren't able to attend in person, and they made written submissions, if you could encourage the folk you know to do that, then that's fine.

Ali Flaws

I'm 78 year old and I've lived here all my life. I was born in Quendale, and I'm still there yet. I think this windmills is the best project for Shetland in my lifetime. Everything I've ever worked for in my lifetime has cost a lot of money to produce whether it was rearing animals or growing tatties, but the wind is still coming here for nothing, and that's about the only thing they have not taken off us is the wind. The only thing wrong with the whole thing is that they might have built it south of Lerwick, it would have been fine down here, we have no deep peat, and we have no fancy birds, and I think it would be ideal south of Lerwick. There's someone laughing, laugh you, that will not bother me a bit. In the wartime here, there was big pylons on Noss Hill, there was 2 of them 360 feet high, 3 of them at 240 feet high, and 2 on Mossy hill at 400 feet, and it didn't look too bad, so a windmill or two wouldn't hurt us down here either. I would say it's a pity that people won't take up this chance when they have it, cause it might never come again. That's all I have to say about it, thanks for listening, and I hope they get on with it as soon as possible, and I would hope to be still living when they start turning.

Andrina Tulloch

I was brought up in the island of Yell, so I know all about peats and what have you. My memory of Yell was peats cut year, after year, after year, and I believe that went on for centuries, and whatever happened to the environment when we burned them was never considered. Peat was a fuel, and constituted for community survival. We could not survive without peats at that time. It kept the home fires burning. As regards the environment, its scenic appearance, telegraph hydro poles and electric pylons are currently necessary part of Shetland landscape and are unsightly as these turbines will be, and have ruined scenic areas but is accepted as progress, we've seen progress because we have been born and brought up here and we've seen progress with the oil terminal develop, and I for one was against that, and I ended up with egg on my face, as where would we be without the oil terminal, so generally I do have questions, but I agree with the project.

Karen Hall

I am not against renewable energy or wind farms in the right place, and at the right scale, but what I am concerned about is that this is far too large for Shetland, and the other

options are not being explored properly. No many people know, but there is certainly really ambitious targets from Scottish Government from the UK Government and from the European Commission to increase renewable energy targets, and quite rightly so, but if all the wind farms that are currently consented in Scotland are built and operate they will actually more than meet those Scottish Government targets, so the argument that we need Viking to meet those targets is not true. That is not to say that Shetland should not play its part and we shouldn't aim for higher targets, but there's other ways of doing that. We have a wave resource, a tide resource, and we can use a smaller wind farm. Why aren't we looking at the other options?

Janette Budge

I was brought up in Clousta. I would hate to see the hills desecrated in my opinion, I am against the wind farm, although I'm not against renewable energies, we have a wind turbine and a water turbine ourselves. But I don't believe in the process to make the roads, what they are proposing, I think to try to have floating roads is not going to work. I can't see how geo-mating is going to hold up trucks that are going to be carrying huge quantities of aggregates or whatever. All the water extraction from the lochs I am against, they are going to take water from the lochs to make the concrete. One of the other meetings I've been at it is the equivalent of about 50 ready mix trucks of water for one turbine base, and that is an unacceptable amount of water being extracted from the lochs. At Sullom Voe just now, in constructing the gas plant, they have had to put down metal plates in the tarmac at certain areas where there was services or at the edges of the roads, and that metal plates have even been pushed into the roads with the trucks running over them, and that is a hard tarmac road, with a hard face on it, so again that is going to blow their estimates of the carbon release out of the water really.

Ronnie Robertson

I've lived in Shetland all my life. I just want to say that I am totally opposed to it. I have no credibility for Viking Energy, I mean anybody who can build this size of wind farm in the North mainland of Shetland among all the peat, its complete absolute lunacy. Anybody wanting to build a farm there, they would look at the map of Shetland, they can see that if they went up as far as Unst, there's no peat at all, Fetlar no peat, its ideal, there is an old military road runs the length of Unst ready there for them, they have no credibility at all. That's all I have to say.

Blair Bruce

My mother's not from Shetland, and my father had to leave Shetland to make a living in the oil industry. One of the things that strikes me, as oil became more and more desperately sought in the countries that were going to throw their power against the oil exploiters, they arrived in the north sea and then beyond the north sea, and one of the things that my father was very very keen on was that wave and wind energy should be harnessed, however the environment that we are working in, it is full of archaeology, architecture and heritage that people really want to see. And in Nesting where I live the road access is going to cross the ground waters of at least the Quoys Burn and the burn that runs out of Dury, and this will affect the infrastructure of all that area which is also full of old peat roads which are far too steep for the sort of machinery that is needed to build these windmills, and finally, adding to what other people have said, the brochs all over Shetland, well over 2,000 years old, some on quite high hills, and you can't see a track anywhere of these things having been built, but that is far from the case with these windmills. I would just consider that say a bridge between the mainland and Yell, with stanchions, and windmills on the stanchions, and tidal energy running between the stanchions, you could do some remarkable things with windmills that weren't nearly as

high as the proposed things on tops of hills, but that's just added to what people have been saying.

Irvine Burgess

I've from the Ness, but I stay in Lerwick just now. No one is disputing the fact that Shetland does need some sort of regeneration in employment and trying to keep our youngsters in the isles because as they are haemorrhaging out at the moment, but as the lady said about working the peat hill and disturbing the moor, but that was entirely in proportion with the working environment and the progress or meeting your economic needs. This new project is entirely disproportionate to what Shetland has to offer, it would be a devastation in the process of getting the windmills up, if you could go 'click' and the windmills would be there, maybe you might be able to work it, but it really is the case of completely disproportionate to what we have to work with here. The figures are childish, what they are coming with from Viking directors, it really does not all up. And we all want progress and economic revival, and a future and sustainability, anything they are going to come out with, that I have seen so far, there are so many black areas. Fair enough, what Jimmy Smith said that he was for it, because it would make money, there is absolutely nothing so far to tell us it is going to make money and the risk is astronomical.

Jim Stout

I stay in Orcaquoy. I am totally against the whole scheme, but this is a general call on all Councillors to take a very careful note of the huge opposition to this project, remove themselves from the Boards of the Charitable Trust and Viking Energy and then at last try to fulfil their statutory duty to properly represent the views of their electorate and throw out this hair-brained scheme.

Kirsty Budge

I'm only 16, but I've stayed here all my life. I'm actually doing an exam tomorrow on water base and management in America, and I've got to write about the benefits and problems about building a dam, and one of the benefits is the hydroelectric power. I think the Hoover dam makes something like 4 billion Kw per hour, and that is enough to supply 500,000 houses I think, and that's a massive amount, and one of the major benefits to it. And in Spain then they have solar panels, like huge landmasses, so it is happening all over the world, and I do think in Shetland we should be using the wind that we have, and so I do think that we definitely should have this wind farm going up.

Neil Finlayson

I live in Levenwick. I have huge issues over the scale of the project, we are told we need to have a large number of windmills to make it economically viable, and this is to do, as far as I understand it, with the cost of the interconnector to the mainland. The Interconnector is so expensive so we are told we need to build a wind farm economically viable to pay for the interconnector. The interconnector could lead to a possible development of a renewable energy investment in Shetland, which I think we should work towards. There is huge potential for marine renewable energy use in Shetland, it would create jobs, it would bring employment to the area, it would provide money and economic security, and I think that would be the way to go, rather than a big wind farm, but if the wind farm is premised on the interconnector I would like to see the Council look more closely at the financing of the interconnector to see whether it can be paid for by other sources, so that we can hook up to the mainland, and develop other sources of marine renewable energy.

Alvid Wengum

For me, there exists also other renewable energies as just has been said – like marine. And back to employment it is a dream that a great project brings employment, look at large

companies all over the world, they work more and more with automation, and with production without people, and a large scale wind farm will not bring much employment. If the project runs good it brings money, it will not bring employment. Employment will be brought by small projects that fit in the area, but not large industrial projects. At the moment, and it maybe in the future as well, the windmills are serviced from Germany for cleaning, etc., so you see the employment is not in Shetland, its coming from Germany. And maybe it would be a first step to make the services done by Shetland people, for the 5-8 windmills we have at the moment, as we don't get this done. I think there is no more employment for Shetland with the project.

Andrew Halcrow

I'm from Burra. Like a lot of folk in Shetland I'm all for renewable energy, but I am totally opposed to the Viking Energy scheme, as its been said here tonight, it is really far too big for Shetland, and too small for the planet. But what I think maybe scares me most about it, is the financial side, there are a lot of the supporters of the Viking Energy scheme say that anything really that it has going for it is the finance. There is going to be £37m coming into the Shetland economy each year, but in order to get to there we have to invest huge amounts of money. Just now they are asking us to invest almost half a billion pounds, and as we've seen from previous big projects, these projects never come in on budget, they always run over budget. And the bigger the project the bigger the overrun, so by the time we get to building this project it is going to be one billion pounds. And out of that Shetland has to put forward pretty much half of that, so we are looking at half a billion pounds, on a very very risky scheme. There is no guarantee it will work, it might work, we might get a return from it, but it could go disastrously wrong as well. There is an old proverb that's been running down through the years is, "never put all your eggs in one basket". Shetland has reserves of roughly say half a billion pounds, what Scottish and Southern wants us to do is to put all that money effectively into one scheme, and that seems a really risky scheme. I think it is completely ludicrous, I really can't see how anybody can support this project. I totally appose it.

Jimmy Smith

There's a lot of statements been made tonight that all projects come in over budget. They don't. I can give you a classic example in the south end of the island, the Sumburgh Airport runway and Improvement; we had enough money left over to tar the car park that wasn't even in the budget. On time, and under budget, with good management. It has also been said that we don't have the expertise up here, we don't have the expertise up here, we didn't have the expertise up here when the terminal came to Sullom Voe, but we do now. It has also been said that there will be no jobs, there will be no jobs if somebody else builds it, but if Viking Energy builds it I would hope that they'd base their office and the whole administration, the maintenance base and everything here. If somebody else builds it I have no idea where it will be. It could be a call centre in Bombay. They are also about the interconnector getting marine and tidal. Great. I'm all for it. Unfortunately that's really all at the infancy of technology. EMEC in Orkney is making a fortune testing tidal and wave machines, they're not ready, they're not developed, there's that many different types going round, they will end up with maybe 2 types. The same as with wind turbines, there are 2 main types, to end up with, then we can go for marine and we can go for tidal. I totally agree with tidal and wave power, although wave power could be visually intrusive off the west coast of Shetland, and certainly it will make navigation more difficult. Its been said about Scottish and Southern being heavily in debt, maybe they are, but they went up 5 points on the Stock Exchange yesterday. They say that large industrial projects do not bring in work, the building of Sullom Voe caused a lot of problems up here, it brought in a lot of money to Shetland, the working of Sullom Voe, a large industrial project, has made a fortune for Shetland, outwith the payments to the Council, for the employment it has

brought up her. I think we have to look at this, and if it can make money for Shetland go for it, and if doesn't make money for Shetland, nobody is going to build it. Scottish and Southern are not going to build it if they are not going to make money on it. All the other objections have a fair amount of fudge about them, the finances, I don't know, I'd need to do a lot more studying, and I think everybody would need to be a bit more studying, the carbon footprint, again a lot of more studying on it, but I think if it can make money for Shetland, even if is not incredibly green, I would go for it.

Martin Heubeck

Its just this is the pro-argument that I am beginning to receive, if it makes money for Shetland then go for it, but at what cost? We've heard the Scord quarry is a blot on the landscape, we've heard from people in favour of the wind farm that the north mainland now is going to be a blot on the landscape. What's going to be left? When I first came here in 1963, Shetland was a very different place, I accept all the arguments about employment and whatever, but at what cost if it is just simply about money, there is more to life than that.

Irvine Burgess

In reply to Jimmy Smith's comments, he keeps using the word 'if', 'if' it makes money, show us the proper figures that we can trust then you can make a reasoned decision on it. There is no point in having an argument 'if' it makes money; we need to know 'will' it make money before we make a decision.

Alan Pring

There have been several mentions of Sullom Voe as a comparison, over the years we've had many visitors come to Shetland to stay with us, and we've taken them on tours of the island. And many of them have asked where is the oil works, and we've taken them up to Sullom Voe and they say, "Where is it", they still can't really see it, it is out of sight. These turbines will be visible from goodness knows how many miles, and will be hideous to look at. I'm not against renewable energy, far from it, but talking about tidal power being dubious, it is not, there are plants all over the world using tidal energy. Now anyone that has taken a small boat around Sumburgh head, will know that twice a day the Atlantic tries to get into the north sea, and twice a day the north sea tries to get into the Atlantic, its not maybe, it will happen everyday for thousands and thousands of years to come, as long as the earth spins and the earth goes round the sun, and the moon goes round the earth, it will happen, forecastable right to the second virtually. All that needs to happen, and it is happening around the world is massive blocks of concrete are lowered down to the seabed with a turbine onboard, that produces the electricity both ways, coming and going, it does exist and it is far far more modern and up to date than wind farms, which are reliable on wind obviously, which can or cannot be, or can be too strong, or it can't be enough, but the flow of water is constant, it does not depend on the wind, but on the forces of gravity. It will flow and it is guaranteed, and it will come, I'm certain of that, it will come. We have the technology in this part of the world to take advantage of it, the expertise for the north sea is beyond compare, it could be done, and I think it will be done, and could be a huge threat to wind turbines. I'm against it.

Billy Fox

The real problem with this whole situation is, at the end of the day, we've all got to get together and speak about this. Now the folk who are supporting this wind farms, I haven't heard any of them in this room, and I haven't heard any news back from any of the other meetings, and I've certainly not seen anything in the press recently that really quotes the greener argument, for them it is all about the money, so the big question is really, and I get asked this question what do we do if we don't get the wind farm. Well Shetland is very

well off, we have £180m in the Charitable Trust, so I believe, and I think we still have our ceiling of somewhere around £250m in the Reserve Fund, and we get something like £97m per annum from central government to run our affairs. Now if we can't put in an infrastructure for 22,000 folk with that kind of money, and maintain a quality of life that we actually do have just now, there is something far wrong with our housekeeping. And that is really where the problem is here. Now the scaremongers say that if the Viking Energy project doesn't come, what are the bairns going to do, what are we going to do? We are really asking to maintain a level of spend, which really has nothing to do with the quality of life, we are trying to maintain a level of spend that we have had here for the last 25 years or so, that was actually unrealistic. We need to actually start drawing in a bit here, and its not going to hurt us. I was speaking to somebody the other day and they were speaking about the Viking Energy wind farm and they were speaking about the lot of money it was going to bring in. He was a sceptic, and he says there is a queue forming for astro-turf pitches, and that's the way that we have 2 – 3 generations coming through now, that have known nothing other than our oil affluence, now we don't want to go back to the 50s but we are not going to go back to the 50s, that is absolute rubbish. We actually just simply have to take control of our own affairs, we actually have to stop the Council, and to take the word grandiose out of their vocabulary for a kick off, and we have to substitute that with the word 'adequate' and 'fit for purpose'. I don't want to see astro-turf pitches going up all over the place if we are going to have to put 476 ft high turbines through our hills, the other thing we get coming out from the doom sayers on this is when the oil running out, the oil isn't running out. Total is investing half a billion pounds in Sullom Voe, the total cost of the project I think is 2 billion pounds. It is a major gas-gathering hub for the west of Shetland and the Faroese sector now by the looks of things. But you can say where is the green argument here, well the thing is we are never going to get away from conventional generation for decades to come, because wind generation cannot do that for us. It is totally and utterly flawed if we think we can make wind generation a primary source of electricity, it simply is unrealistic. You have to have 90% conventional back up cause if the wind doesn't blow the lights will go out. That is an irrefutable fact, so we will have conventional generation for decades to come, but if we want to look at Shetland in isolation, if we want to look at what we have here for the future, and we're looking at the next 30 years here, this gas gathering hub, we have a gas fired power station at Sullom Voe just now, it supplies a third of Shetland's electricity as it is, and it has done so for about the last 15 years. Now gas in terms of burning and its omissions is something like 40% less that what we burn with the heavy fuel oil that we burn at the Lerwick Power Station. Now whether or not the wind farm comes we do have to build another power station by 2015 Scottish and Southern Energy are going to have to do something about putting a new power station in Shetland, as the Lerwick power station, as somebody mentioned earlier on, does not meet the omission targets. So what do we do in Shetland, we supply all our electricity for Sullom Voe, or we build another power station, if Scottish and Southern Energy wants to build another power station, we run a gas line to Sullom from that power station, we burn gas. So at a stroke, we actually cut our carbon emissions by somewhere in the region, if we take into consideration that we are actually already getting one third, then we probably actually cut it by 20/25%. That would give Shetland security of supply for its electricity for the next 30 years, and what does Shetland do in that interim time, we start developing renewables for Shetland, we use that as a window of opportunity to develop renewables, and the technology of renewables will improve, so that you will have wind generation where you can actually have storage facilities, in Japan for instance, at the moment, I believe there is a 50 mega watt wind farm going up, and they have 30 mega watts storage goes side by side with that. So the technology is being developed all the time. But wind generation, the way that wind generation, and wind farms are being developed at the moment are not realistic. The Government have set really unrealistic targets they cannot be met, they are being told by the generating

industries that they cannot be met, they are actually being told by the generating industries that in order to put the penetration of renewables on the UK grid that they are expecting, then you are actually going to have to start building more probably gas fired power stations to add to the conventional back up, and this is happening in European countries at the moment, because they have so much wind on their grid so they are having to build more conventional stations to back it up. So it really just doesn't add up, that's the problem, but in terms of Shetland's future, we have a huge future here yet, the gas, the oil is not going away for decades to come, ok so it is maybe not the green answer that we are looking for at the moment, but it gives us a window of opportunity to put our own renewables in that can apply to Shetland, and Shetland only, and we can actually set a fantastic example to the whole world. We could be a studying microcosm, of how globally you are actually going to have to attack this problem; we could actually attract a hell of a lot of folk here to see how we are doing it. We could make an industry of it in fact.

Hazel Sutherland

Is there nobody else wanting to speak. I'm going to move on now to see what you think about having a vote. I mentioned at the start of the meeting, that we'd done that at the other 2 meetings we'd been at, so just to get a feel from you, would you welcome that? Yes, ok, we'll go for that. What we've done in other places is quite straightforward, whether you are for, or against the proposal, or whether you are undecided. We just go for a show of hands, and the lasses will do that count. There are no issues about whether or not you are for or against renewables, just simply on the proposal that's before you today. Does that sound ok? 'Yes'.

There is one more question for you. There has been a request from the TV crew to film the vote, which they would do from the back of the hall, so there would be no face shots. I want to check that with you, cause this was not our intention at all that this be filmed, the meeting is a public meeting, and its your business and your expressions, so I will leave it to you to decide, if you feel comfortable, how do you feel about that? Who would like to be filmed from the back? (Show of hands) I think we are ok. I will ask you to vote for the proposal, against the proposal or whether you are undecided.

In the spirit of what we have been doing the rest of the week, if any of you have been to the previous meetings, not to vote at this point so it is a reflection of this meeting.

For	14
Against	60
Undecided	4

Thanks very much for coming along tonight, and thanks for taking part in such a reasoned debate, and we'll make sure your views get put into the process.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.