



ABERGELLI POWER PROJECT

Abergelli Farm,
Felindre, Swansea

Summary of 2014 Consultation Activities

January 2018

www.abergellipower.co.uk

SUMMARY OF 2014 CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

APL first announced its proposals for the Project in May 2014 and conducted its consultation activities in two phases: an initial phase of consultation between May and September 2014, and a period of statutory consultation in October and November 2014. The sections below detail the various consultation activities undertaken during 2014.

1. 2014 NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

In May/June 2014, APL undertook an introductory information programme and non-statutory consultation exercise. This included:

- a. Discussions with officers and councillors at CCS about the Project and the proposed non-statutory consultation exercise including exhibition venues and representatives who should be invited.
- b. As every home and business in the CCZ is represented by a CCS county councillor and a community council, APL communicated its plans to the local councils and community council, as well as the local MP Martin Caton, local AM Edwina Hart and regional AMs. APL had an ongoing programme of engagement with the AMs and MP in question to discuss the Project and answer any questions they may have.
- c. As part of the non-statutory consultation, a Project website was launched to coincide with the Project being introduced to the local community. The website (www.abergellipower.co.uk) provides information on the Project and enables people to ask questions and provide feedback to APL about the Project. The website is bilingual, in both English and Welsh. It carries the latest information about the Project (technical, environmental and communications), contact details and a mechanism to enable people to ask questions and provide feedback.
- d. As part of the non-statutory consultation, a letter of introduction about the Project was sent to approximately 5,500 households and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the Project Site. The letter contained details about the Project and an invitation to attend information exhibitions near the Project Site. The letter was sent and distributed by Royal Mail a week prior to the first exhibition date, and was produced in both English and Welsh.
- e. As part of the non-statutory consultation in 2014, exhibitions were held at the following locations to give local people the maximum opportunity to attend:
 - Thursday, June 19th - Forge Fach Community Resource Centre, Clydach (1.00pm till 7.00pm);
 - Friday, June 20th - Felindre Welfare Hall, Felindre (1.00pm till 7.00pm); and
 - Saturday, June 21st - Tircoed Village Hall, Tircoed (10.00am till 3.00pm)
- f. Exhibition locations were chosen because they were considered convenient to those communities within the CCZ that surround the Project Site. These events featured relevant information that was known at the time in a variety of formats (display panels, maps, plans,

leaflet etc.) about the proposal, in both English and Welsh. Members of the APL project team were available to discuss the proposal, answer questions and to receive feedback from members of the public. Feedback was sought during the non-statutory consultation / information period as to whether APL should do anything differently during the statutory consultation process.

- g. APL used venues that met Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requirements and upon a reasonable and timely request had provisions in place for those with special requirements who were unable to attend or access a consultation event (for example, private transport to the exhibition event).
- h. More than 90 people attended the exhibitions, including local councillors. The local media (print, TV, radio and online) published news reports about the exhibitions in advance of them being held.
- i. APL issued news releases before the exhibitions were held, and these were posted on the APL website. The news releases were issued to the local media and reports were published in the media as a result.
- j. APL advertised the informal information exhibitions via a display advertisement in the South Wales Evening Post newspaper, published on June 12th 2014.
- k. A leaflet about the Project was produced for people who attended the exhibition, and additional copies were provided to local councillors and others for wider dissemination. The leaflet contained details of the Project, the consultation process, an indicative timeframe for the Project's development and also the APL website address and contact details. In addition, a feedback form was available for people to fill in on the day or to return via Freepost to APL.
- l. Posters advertising the consultation events were displayed at community venues within the CCZ, for example local shops, post offices and doctors' surgeries.
- m. Since May 2014, the APL website has carried information about the Project (technical, environmental and communications). Contact details and a mechanism to enable people to ask questions and provide feedback has remained available.
- n. APL considered the provision, upon request, of written materials about the Project in different formats (for example, large print or braille).
- o. Comments and queries via telephone (as well as via post, email or fax) were accepted during the periods of non-statutory and statutory consultation in 2014.
- p. In summary, the Project was introduced to the local community to raise awareness of its key points. The statutory consultation process detailed in section 2.0 (below) built upon this awareness with a view to gaining formal feedback from local people and interested stakeholders before the application for the DCO is submitted.

2. 2014 STATUTORY CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY & ACCESSIBILITY

The period of statutory consultation was conducted between October 13th and 16th November 2014 (a 35 day period):

- APL consulted with officers at CCS on the content of the consultation plan and the draft SoCC.
- APL began statutory consultation engagement with elected members of CCS, community councils, the local MP and AMs whose constituency covers the CCZ.
- APL used elected members of CCS and community councils as communication channels, via meetings and correspondence, to share information and seek community feedback during the period of statutory consultation.
- Exhibitions/consultation events were held at the following locations:
 - Llangyfelach Church Hall;
 - Felindre Welfare Hall;
 - Forge Fach Resource Centre, Clydach; and
 - Tircoed Village Hall.
- These events featured relevant information in a variety of formats (display panels, plans, leaflet etc) about the Project, in both English and Welsh. The Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was also made available for review. Members of the APL project team were available to discuss the Project, answer questions and to receive feedback from members of the public. A total of 106 people attended the public exhibitions.
- In consultation with CCS, APL shared information about the Project with those “hard to reach groups” living and working within the CCZ. These groups were accessed through informal and formal channels - via council services and relevant specialist organisations (for example the local branches of the Women’s Institute and local business representative groups such as the South Wales Chamber of Commerce).
- APL advertised the consultation events via the Swansea-based South Wales Evening Post, for two weeks prior to the first event taking place. In addition APL announced via the issue of news releases to local and regional news publications, the local radio and TV stations (and via online media) that the events were taking place. The content gave information on APL’s proposals and details of the consultation events, including contact information.
- A leaflet about the Project and the consultation programme was distributed by Royal Mail to households, businesses and institutions in the CCZ to coincide with the start of the consultation period, and in advance of the first consultation event, informing them of the consultation events taking place. The leaflet included details of the Project, the location and dates of the consultation events, the APL website address. This leaflet was produced in both English and Welsh.
- Posters advertising the consultation events was displayed at community venues within the CCZ and the OCZ, for example local libraries, local shops and post offices, local schools and

colleges and doctors' surgeries.

- APL informed those community councils within the OCZ about the Project and the exhibition/consultation event via letter.
- The APL team actively and reactively met with individuals and interested groups in the local area as part of the formal consultation period to answer questions and provide updates about the Project.
- The APL website carried the latest information about the Project (technical, environmental and communications), contact details and a mechanism to enable people to ask questions and provide feedback.

A range of feedback was provided, predominantly relating to the need for the Project, site selection process, consultation process, community benefits and potential landscape, transport and socio-economic impacts. Comments and queries via telephone (as well as via post, email or fax) were considered and addressed within the scheme where possible, as well as comments noted. Details of how these responses were taken into account will be included in the Consultation report that will accompany the DCO Application.