

Hello

Here is Wigtown Comm. Council's response to your consultations. We are a statutory community group, responding as a collective, and we agree to our response being made public.

The consultation documents are extensive and difficult to negotiate as electronic documents. They are too large and colourful for us to print practicably and legibly. We could not therefore share them meaningfully with some members, and we could not easily contract the 250 odd pages into a meaningful summary for gathering views of our constituents. Hard copies of the documents - given their design and size - should have been provided for Community Council consideration.

There were public info. meetings but the Scottish Government chose to communicate that with Community Councils via local authorities, and in Dumfries & Galloway, the Council did not let us know about the events until they were almost all completed locally and those that were about to happen took place with no notice at all, so none of our Comm. Councillors, or indeed constituents, could be advised of the meetings in time to arrange to attend.

These issues are our main feedback - in other words, despite an adequate duration for consultation, the practical arrangements for consultation were in our opinion inadequate, and therefore we could not do justice to the consultation.

Our interest in marine renewables is based on concerns about local detrimental impact in areas of designated interest for off shore wind and for tidal projects, off Luce Bay in the Solway in particular. We are pleased to see likely impacts (on visual appearance, tourism, fishing, etc.) being taken into account in considering application in these areas. We are concerned that no grid connection in the area appears not to have been taken into account.

Regards
Nick Walker