

# PENNANT WALTERS

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**MYNYDD Y GLYN WIND FARM  
PROJECT BENEFITS STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 2022**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Current legislation – at a national and local level recognises the climate change emergency as a pressing concern. The approach taken by the UK and Wales to address climate change has been shaped and informed by a range of international agreements and climate change obligations including the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Compact reflecting the UK's role as a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

A significant amount of policy and guidance has been prepared to support renewable energy generation to meet the various targets set out. This statement focuses specifically on the targets set by Welsh Government in Future Wales: the national plan (2040) relating to local ownership, which include:

- For one gigawatt of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2030; and
- For new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership from 2020.

Together with a target for 70% of electricity consumption to be generated from renewable energy by 2030.

In February 2020, the Welsh Government published a Policy Statement relating to local ownership (*Local Ownership of Energy Generation in Wales – Benefitting Wales Today and for Future Generations (2020)*).

This Policy Statement sets out the following:

- Since 2010, renewable electricity generation in Wales has trebled;
- In 2018, renewable generators in Wales produced electricity equating to 50% of Wales' use.
- At the end of 2018 Wales had 778MW of renewable energy capacity in local ownership, against our 1 GW target.

The Policy Statement confirms that, while Wales has made considerable gains to ensuring renewable energy projects have some form of public ownership, the aim is *“for Welsh Government, energy developers and the people of Wales to work together to deliver renewable energy and embrace the opportunities and benefits presented by the transition to a low carbon economy.”*

To understand this aim, the Policy Statement clarifies the definition of local ownership as *“energy installations, located in Wales, which are owned by one or more individuals or organisations wholly owned and based in Wales, or organisations whose principal headquarters are located in Wales. This includes the following categories:*

- *Businesses;*
- *Farms and estates;*
- *Households and other domestic scale generation;*
- *Local Authorities;*
- *Other public sector organisations;*
- *Registered Social Landlords;*
- *Third sector organisations including social enterprises and charities, their subsidiaries, trading arms and special purpose vehicles.”*

The Policy Statement defines shared ownership as *“a project owned by more than one legal entity. Examples set out include “where the ownership of a project is shared between a developer and a community group, individuals, landowners, or a public sector organisation. Shared ownership projects can involve more than one commercial organisation. However, in order to be considered as a shared ownership project under the target set by the Welsh*

*Government, we would expect one or more of the owning bodies to be in one of the categories included in the definition of 'local ownership.'*

Helpful advice within the Policy Statement sets out that energy projects can provide financial and non-financial benefits in the following ways:

- *Ownership*
- *Payments to landowners*
- *Supply chain jobs/profit during construction and Operation and Maintenance*
- *Non-domestic rates payments*
- *Legacy infrastructure such as roads, grid and broadband*
- *Investor profit*
- *Community Benefit Funds*
- *Non-financial benefits*

The Policy Statement confirms that *"the Welsh Government supports renewable and low carbon energy projects developed by communities or benefit the host community or Wales as a whole. The social, environmental and economic benefits associated with any development should be fully factored into, and given weight in, the decision-making process. However, planning decisions must be based on an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development, irrespective of who the applicant is."*

In light of the above, this Project Benefits Statement (PBS) seeks to provide an overview of the potential local benefits that the Mynydd y Glyn wind farm development could deliver.

Pennant Walters, the applicant for the project, is fully aware of the opportunities that wind farm developments can provide for communities given its involvement and contributions made with its existing operational wind farms (more on this is set out in section 2 of this statement).

This statement provide further information on how the company supports communities on the other projects that have been delivered and are operational. Through this statement, we also look to set out a summary of the benefits available and demonstrate how we have engaged with communities and stakeholders to ensure we continue to approach delivering community benefits in the most effective way.

## **2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

This section of the statement provides an overview of the applicant and the project.

### **2.1.1 The applicant**

Pennant Walters' website provides considerable information about the company, its operational projects and how funds have been made available and distributed to communities around those schemes.

In summary, Pennant Walters is a Walters Group company with a focus on renewable energy. Walters currently employs over 500 staff from its headquarters in Hirwaun.

Founded in 2003, Pennant Wales is Wales' largest home-grown energy developer. The company holds a portfolio of renewable energy sites/schemes including 6 wind farms and solar developments – generating a total of 127MW. A further 100MW is currently in the planning system. Mynydd y Glyn is one of a number of new wind farm sites that the company is promoting to help meet the Welsh Government's target of 70% of electricity consumption to be generated from renewable energy by 2030. Pennant Walters' focus is to deliver new onshore wind on suitable sites in south and mid-Wales.

Pennant Walters maintains control of all its operational wind farm sites – taking all sites through from inception, through the planning process to construction and on to operation. This continuity helps develop long-standing relationships with local communities and stakeholders as proven from the company's current operational sites.

Pennant Walters also operate community funds for each of its wind farm projects. These funds have been secured through various mechanisms, but all ensure that the money available from the company for the projects is invested into the local communities in the area surrounding the projects.

To date, around £4 million has been distributed in South Wales to qualifying initiatives. Further information on each of the projects is included on Pennant Walters' website.

### **2.1.2 The project**

Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement provides more information on the project – this section of the statement provides a brief overview of the site and the main aspects of the proposed development.

The site lies within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) administrative area and is located on the summit and upper slopes of Mynydd y Glyn to the south of the Rhondda River, 3km to the west of Pontypridd. As currently defined, the site extends to approximately 208 hectares, consisting of upland habitat, mostly improved and semi-improved grassland that has been used for agricultural grazing. The nearest settlements are Porth, Trebanog, Tonyrefail and Trehafod.

Our proposals for Mynydd y Glyn wind farm include:

- up to seven wind turbines with a blade height of up to 155m;
- substation and transformer housing;
- temporary contractor compounds;
- grid connection;

- crane pads and cabling;
- new access and junction off the highway; and
- improvements to existing access tracks.

The project team is confident the site can accommodate seven wind turbines, generating up to 30MW of electricity.

The wind farm will be designed with an operational life of 30 years, exporting renewable energy directly to the National Grid.

Pennant Walters has an accepted grid offer from Western Power Distribution for a 33kV connection at Upper Boat. The connection comprises 1.5km of new line on wooden poles and a further 7.5km underground via ducting in the highway network.

Access to the wind farm site would be from a newly-proposed construction vehicle access on the A4233 Trebanog Road. The proposed site access is located approximately 1.2km north-east of the A4233/A4119 roundabout. Relevant surveys were undertaken to inform the design specification of the proposed access, which includes a new right turn lane on the A4233 so that traffic turning right into the site does not block main road traffic.

If approved and once the proposed wind farm is constructed, the proposed access from the A4233 will be retained for routine maintenance vehicles that will visit the site on an infrequent basis. The access would be gated at all other times when not in use by the occasional routine maintenance vehicle.

As the scheme comprises an electricity generating station with a potential generating capacity of between 10MW and 350MW, it falls within the definition of a 'Development of National Significance' (DNS) under Section 4 of the Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016, for the purposes of section 62(D) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by s19 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

### 3 PROJECT BENEFITS

The section of the statement summarises the project benefits available as a result of the proposed development – at a local level together with the wider, national benefits.

#### 3.1.1 Local level benefits

##### **Community benefit fund**

###### *Summary of approach*

The Mynydd y Glyn project is committed to providing an annual Community Benefit Fund of approximately £150,000 a year (or £4.5 million over the lifetime of the project). Based on the windfarm's proposed location, the fund is designed to be available to the communities of Trebanog, Tonyrefail, Trehafod and Porth, principally.

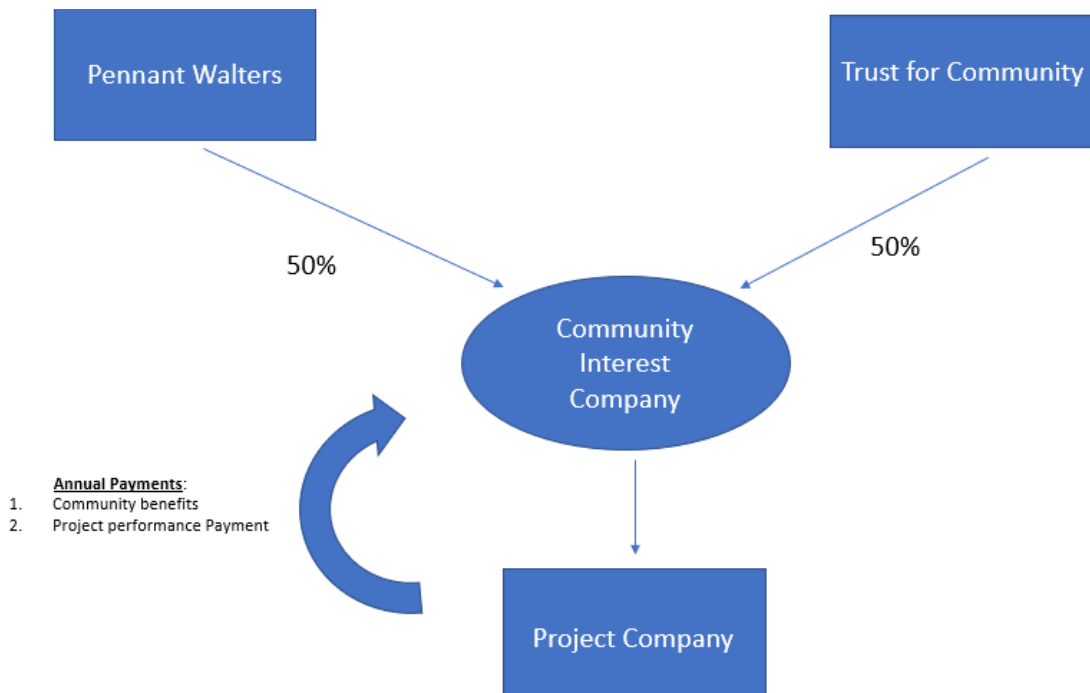
The fund will allow groups to apply for grants between £100 and £50,000 during a single application round each year. However, applications can be made for support over several sequential years.

For applications of over £10,000, priority will be given to groups that can demonstrate they will be contributing towards the project. This might be cash from the group, a grant from another fund that has been secured or a pending grant application. It could also be a gift in-kind of labour and / or materials.

###### *Organisational structure*

We propose that the community benefits fund (to include the annual amount and project performance payment) is managed by a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) set up for the project.

The broad organisational structure is included below.



It proposes that the CIC would be represented by Pennant Walters – as a company we want to retain our involvement in the community. Sitting alongside Pennant Walters we have proposed the CIC will include community stakeholder representatives (trust for the community). This could be ward councillors from the surrounding communities and/or a representative from another organisation that plays a key role in the delivery of projects and initiatives in the area, for example, Gwent Wildlife Trust. Local connections and experience on community engagement is essential to help manage the funds available by the CIC.

The CIC will manage the fund and will continue to engage with the communities, making sure the purpose of the fund stays relevant to the interests and needs of the local community. The new body will not only oversee the fund but will also ensure the direct local community investment brings maximum benefit to the area – making sure the money is well spent, targeted towards projects and activities that offer maximum value for money and a good return on investment for the community.

The fund made available by the proposed development will be available to the project company to spend and invest in qualifying projects (please see below).

Any surpluses from the development would be reinvested into the project company for further spend within the communities.

#### *When to apply*

The wind farm operational year closes each year after the fund is distributed to the successful applicants (following the approval of the Board Paper detailing the applicants for the year). Applications to the fund can be made in any month of the relevant operational year.

#### *How to apply*

Individuals or groups can apply directly or via a councillor or community councillor either by phone, letter or email. Typical projects based on the distribution of funds on current projects usually include community developments and sports or youth developments – some examples include:

- Projects to improve public amenities e.g. community halls, sports facilities, school playgrounds, gardens;
- Footpath works
- Environmental and wildlife projects including projects to improve public parks and open spaces
- Activities / events to engage the local community
- Energy efficiency or renewable energy projects, such as insulation, efficient boilers or small-scale renewable energy installations at community amenities.

The above list is not exhaustive and is provided to give a flavour of how the money has been used on other projects to date.

#### *Eligible organisations*

Those eligible to apply for funding include:

- Voluntary and community groups;
- Parish and Town Councils;
- Local Authorities (if they are applying on behalf of a community organisation and they are delivering a project that has come directly from the community). Note – evidence that projects are community driven may be required;
- Charities (delivering local services);



- Schools and educational establishments (delivering projects outside the LEA requirements); and
- Social enterprises (including credit unions, co-operatives, social firms, community owned enterprises, community interest companies and development trusts) provided they operate on a not-for-profit basis.

Applicants need to have a written constitution, a set of rules, or a governing document and a bank or building society account held in the name of the organisation in place before applying for funds.

### *Exclusions*

Funds will not be available for:

- Commercial organisations;
- Private membership-based sports clubs and facilities unless membership is open to the general public without undue restriction (e.g. not membership by nomination organisations or with restrictive charges);
- Projects that only benefit one individual;
- Projects that are narrowly religious in focus or that support a party-political campaign;
- Retrospective funding, i.e. projects that have already been completed, whether or not already paid for; and
- Works considered a statutory responsibility, such as scheduled transport services, works to public highways and public car parks.

### *Judging criteria*

The following main criteria is suggested but further discussion will be required to finalise:

- The social, economic and environmental benefits which will result from the project;
- The level of community support for and involvement in the project;
- The ability of the applicant to deliver the project;
- How the work will be continued after the project has been completed i.e. its sustainability and legacy; and
- Value for money.

### **Local ownership**

Local ownership is defined as *“energy installations, located in Wales, which are owned by one or more individuals or organisations wholly owned and based in Wales, or organisations whose principal headquarters are located in Wales.”*

Pennant Walters forms part of the Walters Group – a Wales based company who currently employ over 500 staff from its headquarters in Hirwaun.

Pennant Wales is Wales’ largest home-grown energy developer who maintain control of all its wind farms taking them from project inception to operation. In terms of its current and proposed sites:

- The current operational energy sites/schemes are located in south Wales;
- All new sites currently being determined through the planning system are in mid and south Wales; and
- All new sites that are being promoted through the DNS process are located in south Wales.

Pennant Walters’ focus is on delivering new energy development in Wales.

On this basis, the Mynydd y Glyn project will be locally owned working towards the Welsh Government's targets for energy generation being:

- For one gigawatt of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2030; and
- For new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership from 2020.

### ***Ecological enhancement***

An outline Habitat Management Plan (oHMP) is being prepared, in consultation with RCTCBC, detailing the ecological mitigation and enhancement proposed for the site. This includes long-term habitat management and monitoring of key habitats. The oHMP will be included with the submission of the final ES.

### **3.1.2 Wider benefits**

#### ***Carbon balance***

In April 2019, the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency.

In May 2019, a report published by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) - 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' – reviewing the UK's long-term emissions targets and setting out new targets for Wales. This being: a 95% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2050, from a 1990 baseline (previous target being an 80% reduction, as set out in The Environment (Wales) Act 2016).

In June 2019, the Welsh Government accepted the CCC's recommendation for a new emissions target but set a more ambitious target of net zero emissions no later than 2050. In March 2021, new legislation came into force in Wales, amending the 2050 emissions target and the interim emissions targets. As well as amending the 2050 emissions target to net zero, the 2030 target was increased from 45% to 63% below the 1990 baseline, and the 2040 target was increased from 67% to 89% below the 1990 baseline.

In June 2019, the UK government also declared a climate emergency following the publication of the CCC report and set long term climate targets. The resultant legislation amended the Climate Change Act 2008 and introduced a legally binding target to achieve net zero by 2050.

Development of the Mynydd y Glyn wind farm together with other proposals in South Wales all help to meet the Welsh Governments (and UK) targets, whilst also avoiding the generation of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels during the operational phases.

Appendix 2A of the ES includes a carbon balance calculation determining the benefits of the proposed development in relation to carbon emissions compared to a reference energy mix. This is considered in the context of carbon budgets and targets for Wales and the UK, aligned to a trajectory compatible with limiting the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C. This includes consideration of GHG emissions in the production, transportation, erection, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

The chapter concludes the following:

- On the basis of potential annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 25,772 tonnes/year, the proposed development could result in a total carbon saving of approximately 0.8M tonnes over its 30-year operational life and generate electricity to annually supply the equivalent of 15,376 homes.
- It is predicted that the carbon loss in developing the proposed development would be paid back in ~1.4 years (4.7% of the 30-year operational life) based upon the expected outcome under the fossil fuel mix scenario. Even considering the

maximum scenario against the fossil fuel mix, it would have achieved the carbon balance within ~2.0 years (6.7% of the 30-year operational life).

- It is concluded that the GHG impact of the proposed development will have a significant beneficial effect. The development causes an indirect reduction in atmospheric GHG emissions which has a positive impact on achievement of carbon budgets and targets for Wales and the UK, and a 1.5°C compatible trajectory.

### ***Generating energy***

The proposed development has potential to produce a generating output capacity of up to 30MW with the ability to generate electricity to annually supply the equivalent of 15,376 homes.

The Welsh Government recognises that renewable energy development is an important and key contributor to achieving Wales' net zero target – the figures set out above illustrates how and why.

### ***Economic opportunities***

Further information on the likely socio effects of the proposed development is set out in chapter 16 of the ES.

In summary, in relation to direct and indirect economic impacts the ES predicts a benefit to the local economy, in addition to wider benefits to Wales during the development, construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

The total average construction phase cost for onshore wind farms in Wales has been estimated as £1.133m per MW of installed capacity (Regeneris Consulting Ltd and Welsh Economy Research Unit, 2013). The construction and development of the Mynydd y Glyn wind farm could involve an investment of approximately £27.4m (based on a maximum output of up to 30MW) based on the 2013 estimations. The study estimated that 35% of the development cost would remain in Wales equating to an estimated £9.6m expenditure in Wales during construction.

The construction phase would create the opportunity for direct economic benefits to Wales, and in particular the local authority area of RCTCBC and wider South-East region through the opportunities available to local firms to bid for mechanical, electrical and civil engineering contracts. Criteria for selecting the wind turbine manufacturer and civil and electrical contractors would be based on price specifications and guarantees to ensure that performance and technical specifications are met in full.

Most of the jobs associated with the proposed development would occur in the construction phase and our intention to employ local firms to undertake as much of the work as possible. It is expected that development of the wind farm will create of up to 41 jobs during construction. In addition, it is likely that some of the quarry materials needed for the development (e.g. for road aggregate and hardcore) would be procured from local quarries.

The wind farm will also directly employ four staff FTE for maintenance during the operational phase. Their duties will include compliance with statutory environmental requirements. It has been estimated that the operation and maintenance of onshore wind farm involves an average expenditure of £38,600 per MW per annum, with 76% of that expected to be retained in Wales (Regeneris Consulting Ltd and Welsh Economy Research Unit, 2013). For a scheme of up to 30MW that would result in approximately £934,120 of expenditure annually, with approximately £709,931 being retained in Wales

Other indirect benefits to the local economy would come through an increased spend in local services and facilities during the construction phase.

Overall, the construction of the wind farm is likely to have a positive effect on the area, as there is potential for economic benefit to local construction firms, quarries, accommodation establishments and other local services.

## 4 CONSULTATION

The proposals for the site have been through a non-statutory early engagement and consultation exercise, setting out initial proposals with communities and key stakeholders. More information on this is set out in the 'Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm Interim Consultation Report' prepared by Grasshopper. It details what consultation has taken place, with whom and when.

Pennant Walters understands the value that engagement and consultation can have on wind farm projects – it helps to keep all informed on progress, helps to identify any concerns from an early stage in the process and maximises the potential benefits of the schemes.

Various meetings, workshops and exhibitions were set up with stakeholders and the communities to discuss the application proposals and the community benefits fund that would be available – the intention was to capture as much feedback as possible from those in attendance. At each opportunity in consulting with the local communities we have been sure to ask the question – how the fund could be used to benefit and support the local area.

A summary of when these meetings, workshops and exhibitions took place and key matters raised is set out below:

### ***Meetings:***

#### *Early engagement*

Early engagement took place from 20 October to 30 November 2021 and a variety of consultation tools and communication channels were used to encourage participation from stakeholders and the local community.

At the start of the project, a presentation was given to local elected representatives at RCTCBC to introduce the project and discuss the draft Engagement/Consultation Plan with Pennant Walters and members of the project team.

Meetings/presentations were also offered to local stakeholders including Buffy Williams MS, Chris Bryant MS, Alex Davies-Jones MP, Tonyrefail Community Council and Pontypridd Town Council.

In all meetings a presentation was delivered which gave an overview of Pennant Walters and its operational site, a summary of the project proposals and the opportunity to discuss the community benefit fund that would be available with the project (as has been the case for all current operational sites in the company's portfolio).

A bilingual website was also set up at the start of the project to provide information about the proposals and feedback mechanisms so local communities and stakeholders could find out more about and comment on the emerging proposals, including any ideas and comments on the proposed community benefit fund.

Public exhibitions were held at Capel Community Resource Centre and Waun Wem Community Recreation Centre. A stakeholder preview was also held in advance of the first public exhibition.

At the exhibition there were a number of boards to give attendees the opportunity to read more about the project. Members of the project team, including representatives from Pennant Walters were available to answer any queries and questions. The boards included information on community benefits and a request for feedback on projects and possible approach to delivery.

For those who could not or did not want to attend one of the public exhibitions, a bilingual virtual exhibition was hosted on the project website from 11 November 2021 with all the information that was available to those who attended in person.

To ensure accessibility to the information, people could choose to listen to the information on the boards as part of the experience. A pdf of the boards was also available to download on the consultation page of the website for anyone wanting to zoom in and make text or images larger.

Further information on how the events were advertised is included in the 'Interim Consultation Report' prepared by Grasshopper.

Key considerations respondents thought should be taken into account as the proposals were developed for Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm included:

- Local impacts: landscape and views; concerns over maintaining access to public footpaths; potential impacts from shadow flicker and noise as well as a concern over proximity of the turbines to housing. Health concerns were also raised – relating to concerns about the effect on mental and physical health as a result of the proposals.
- Environmental: effect on wildlife – particularly birds and the cumulative effects with other wind farms in the area. Concerns were also raised on ground conditions, the natural springs in the area and drainage.
- Construction: access to the area through SSSI causing disruption to the local community and wildlife, increased traffic and noise and disruption to wildlife from construction works.
- Community Benefits Fund: potential for the Fund to help the area with diverse needs for investment, support if Fund is locally managed, available to all and with a local ownership element.

*Stakeholder meetings*

A number of briefing meetings were held with local council and elected representatives. A summary of comments received during discussions can be found in the table below.

<b>Organisation/ MS / MP</b>	<b>Summary of comments</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC members (first meeting with members)	<p>Issues raised which have already been captured in this report consist of land stability, water runoff, drainage, community benefits and highway access.</p> <p>Additional issues raised were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 180m – why so big? 7 very high turbines on a very high landscape is a real concern</li> <li>• Where has the figure of seven turbines come from?</li> <li>• Entry off the bypass – turning right on a hill doesn't seem right</li> <li>• Concerns over how to get massive turbine blades/parts to/up the mountain</li> <li>• MYG is of huge historical and environmental significance – SSSI and Penrhys Pilgrimage walk</li> <li>• Why is 1.5km of cabling not underground like the rest?</li> <li>• Important that comments of councillors and local communities be taken into consideration</li> <li>• Please keep us informed</li> <li>• Many coal tips in RCT</li> <li>• Stability of the foundations for the turbines?</li> <li>• Covid has seen more and more people walk the mountain and</li> </ul>

	<p>appreciate the green space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is 7 the maximum or will it be extended over time?</li> <li>• Query re land ownership</li> <li>• Is there a role for the councillors and planning department, how influential will RCT CBC be? Do the rules of planning apply? Who has the final say? Is there a right of appeal?</li> </ul>
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (second meeting with plaid Cymru members)	<p>Issues raised were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibration affecting land stability</li> <li>• Construction phase on mountains effecting flooding incidence</li> <li>• Does the site have enough wind so that coal fired plants won't be used as a back up?</li> <li>• Will energy be cheaper?</li> <li>• Partial overhead grid connection visual impact</li> <li>• Peat bog loss</li> <li>• Is it a greenfield or brownfield site?</li> <li>• The impact of recent wind reduction</li> <li>• How will you mitigate the effects of e.g., new nesting not included in your studies?</li> <li>• where will your entry points be, which communities are likely to be most affected by the turbines being transported along their roads?</li> <li>• Community consultation – to what extent would you characterise your plans to engage as above the statutory or the minimum that you must do to tick the boxes?</li> <li>• Community Benefits for the nearest settlements – will you draw a boundary around where people can apply for benefits?</li> </ul>
Tonyrefail Community Council	<p>Issues raised which have already been captured in this report focused on the ecology of the area.</p> <p>Additional issues raised were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In England wind turbines must be offshore – why not here?</li> <li>• 7 turbines – the largest ever – 180m = a 60 storey building, two times the tallest in Wales – why so big?</li> <li>• Size, speed, noise? Permanent whining?</li> <li>• Access? Brenton Villa – at the top of the bypass coming in to Trebanog – cutting across SSSI land, pathways, bridleways</li> <li>• Overhead lines to Upper Boat for part of it – how do you propose to do it?</li> <li>• Where we've got wind turbines in the area they've blocked off bridleways. I don't want access stopped to these sites.</li> <li>• Also access to the trig point and the Pilgrim's Path must be maintained</li> <li>• Maximum 180m is frightening. I would urge you to limit your height if possible</li> <li>• Query access to the site – would it be maintained for maintenance purposes?</li> </ul>
Pontypridd Town Council	<p>Issues raised which have already been captured in this report consist of visual impact, size, not in a Pre-Assessed Area, access, noise, the effect on birds and the possibility of them colliding with turbines.</p> <p>Additional issues raised were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access via our communities? (i.e. Pontypridd area) or all from Trebanog?</li> <li>• the amount of energy you must use to build the turbines, it is quite high and so it can take some time to get that back.</li> <li>• Concrete, turbines are not renewable (recyclable?), disposal of waste afterwards, transportation, the amount of concrete – manufacturing of it is one of the most carbon-used things ever</li> </ul>

	invented, plus keeping carbon down during operation. Also, turbines must be shut down, baseload from fossil fuels as a back up and therefore... the whole thing is based on a load of false premises
Buffy Williams, MS for Rhondda	Issues raised were regarding how much consultation had been undertaken so far and whether we had contacted ward members to give them the option of a briefing meeting.

Responses to the queries raised are included in the 'Interim Consultation Report' prepared by Grasshopper and submitted in support of the draft application.

#### *Workshop*

In order to address how to best pursue the community benefits offer and address the issue of local ownership, a facilitated workshop of invited local stakeholders/community representatives was held via Zoom (on 27 September 2022) to explore the potential opportunities approach and deliverables. A summary of discussions is included in the Interim Consultation Report prepared by Grasshopper to support the DNS application submission.

Those invited to the workshop included the Council leader and deputy leader, ward members and neighbouring ward members. Others invited included planning officer, MPs, constituency and regional MSs and community council's chairs and clerks. The invite was also extended to local community centres, local headteachers, local churches and sports clubs, local associations of voluntary organisations, local scouts clubs and other organisations including local libraries.

Further consultation will be undertaken as part of the formal statutory consultation, including further exhibitions, meetings and workshops. Details of which will be presented in the final Pre-Application Consultation report and as an update to this statement.



## 5 CONCLUSIONS

This statement summarises the project benefits that are available as a result of the proposed Mynydd y Glyn wind farm project together with how we have consulted on them. In summary, the benefits include:

- An annual Community Benefit Fund of approximately £150,000 a year (or £4 million over the lifetime of the project).
- It is proposed that the funds would be managed through a CIC with any surpluses from the project reinvested into the project company to spend within the communities.
- Habitat enhancement measures to deliver biodiversity net gain.
- Carbon saving of approximately 0.8M tonnes over its 30-year operational life and generate electricity to annually supply the equivalent of 15,376 homes.
- Carbon loss in developing the proposed development would be paid back in ~1.4 years (4.7% of the 30-year operational life). Even considering the maximum scenario against the fossil fuel mix, it would have achieved the carbon balance within ~2.0 years (6.7% of the 30-year operational life).
- The construction and development of the Mynydd y Glyn wind farm could involve an investment of approximately £37.4m (based on a maximum output of up to 30MW) based on the 2013 estimations. The study estimated that 35% of the development cost would remain in Wales equating to an estimated £9.6m expenditure in Wales during construction.
- It is expected that development of the wind farm will create up to 41 jobs during construction.
- The wind farm will also directly employ four staff FTE for maintenance during the operational phase. For a scheme, the expenditure relating to the maintenance and operation of the wind farm (of up to 30MW) would result in approximately £934,120 of expenditure annually, with approximately £709,931 being retained in Wales.
- Other indirect benefits to the local economy would come through an increased spend in local services and facilities during the construction phase.

