MULLAGHCLOGHER WIND FARM

Pre-application Community Consultation (PACC) Report

power for good

Contents

1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Report outlines how RES has engaged and communicated with the local community to inform them about the proposed Mullaghclogher Wind Farm, hereinafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development', located in the townlands of Carrickayne, Legnahappoge, Glengarrow, Stroanback and Doorat, approximately 4km northeast of Plumbridge, Northern Ireland.

It explains how and when the community was consulted before the planning application was submitted to the Department of Infrastructure Planning (DFI) and how this consultation has helped to shape the Proposed Development.

On 7 July 2023, RES submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (Form PAN 1) to DFI outlining the form of consultation which RES proposed to undertake. This PACC Report summarises each of those activities and details how comments received from the community were considered and indicating if any changes or mitigating measures have been included in the proposal.

2. RES' Commitment to Consultation

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

Drawing on our decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality which contribute to a low carbon future by providing a secure supply of sustainable, low cost, clean green energy. RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. RES is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.
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RES has developed 29 onshore wind farms in Northern Ireland totalling in excess of 500MW and operates over 150MW of wind capacity across Northern Ireland including the Craiggore and Evishagaran Wind Farms in Co. Derry/Londonderry, constructed in 2022, and Murley Mountain Wind Farm, Co. Tyrone more recently completed in 2024.

3. Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance

On 1st July 2015 a statutory duty on developers to consult with the local community, in advance of submitting a planning application for major and regionally significant development proposals, was introduced.

The legislation requires developers to submit a Form PAN 1 a minimum of 12 weeks before submitting a formal planning application for 'Major' applications. The Form PAN 1 explains how a prospective applicant will engage with the local community and sets out a timetable for the engagement. Once a planning authority receives a Form PAN 1, they have 21 days to consider the proposal.

RES submitted a Form PAN 1 to DFI on 7 July 2023. On 24 July 2023 RES received a letter from DFI stating that they had reviewed the PAN and followed up with an email on 18 August 2023 confirming that it had been considered that it contained sufficient information with regards to community consultation measures and, therefore, it was compliant with Section 27 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

In the letter of 24 July 2023 DFI set out the requirement to hold additional consultation events consisting of a second public event in Plumbridge and the hosting of an online exhibition (to include the information available about the scheme); and additional notification to include the specified local interest groups on an attached list.

4. Consultation Methodology

The purpose of pre-application community consultation is to improve, where possible, the quality of the proposed planning application by considering public opinions and addressing, wherever possible, any issues raised by stakeholders and the local community. It is also intended that any interested stakeholders and members of the community have access to up-to-date and accurate information regarding the proposal and the opportunity to provide feedback that could be considered prior to the proposed planning application being finalised and submitted.

4.1 Pre-consultation preparation

Prior to undertaking formal public consultation RES undertook desk-based research to identify key stakeholders located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Those identified included:

- Elected political representatives for Derry City and Strabane District Council Sperrins District Electoral Area (DEA)
- West Tyrone MLAs and MP
- Community groups, churches and schools within a 7.5km radius of the proposed site
- Properties within a 5km radius of the proposed site

4.2 Consultation

The formal consultation began on 7 July 2023. A combination of the following methods was used to inform stakeholders and community (listed in the above section) about the Proposed Development, and subsequently to ascertain their views.

4.2.1 Submitted Proposal of Application Notice – 7 July 2023

RES submitted a Form PAN 1 to DFI on 7 July 2023. On 24 July 2023 RES received a letter from DFI stating that they had considered the PAN and followed up with an email on 18 August 2023 confirming that it had been considered that it contained sufficient information

with regards to community consultation measures and, therefore, it was compliant with Section 27 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The submitted information included details of the site location, the type of consultation methods that would be undertaken, with whom and within what distance from the site.

4.2.2 Letter to Elected Political Representatives – 7 July 2023

RES wrote to all councillors from the Sperrins DEA of Derry City and Strabane District Council and the West Tyrone MP and MLAs, to advise them that RES were investigating the potential for a wind farm development at the site location and would commence a number of consultation activities shortly including newsletter distribution, a dedicated project website and a public exhibition. The letter also invited these representatives to contact RES if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the Form PAN 1 was enclosed with each letter. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix A**.

4.2.3 Email update to Elected Political Representatives – 18 August 2023

RES wrote to all councillors from the Sperrins DEA of Derry City and Strabane District Council and the West Tyrone MP and MLAs, to advise them that RES now intended to hold public exhibitions over 2 days and would also be offering an online public exhibition. An updated Form PAN 1 was attached to the email.

4.2.4 Project Website – 24 August 2023

A project website was launched at www.mullaghclogher-windfarm.co.uk containing information on the project, information regarding the forthcoming public exhibitions and online exhibition as well as contact details for the RES project team.

The project website is updated regularly and will also be updated when the planning submission is validated, to include links to all planning application documentation.

4.2.5 Pre-Exhibition Advertising – 24 & 3^{t} August 2023

RES placed an advertisement in two local newspapers to inform the wider community of upcoming consultation events. The advertisement appeared in the Strabane Weekly and Tyrone Constitution on 24 and 31 August 2023. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix B**.

4.2.6 Elected Political Representative Pre-Exhibition Mailing – 25 August 2023

A newsletter was emailed to all councilors from the Sperrins DEA of Derry City and Strabane District Council and the West Tyrone MP and MLAs.

The newsletter, which can be found at **Appendix C**, included information about the project, how to make comments on the proposal and when these should be submitted by, a location map, details of the consultation events and RES' contact details.

4.2.7 Community Pre-Exhibition Mailing – 25 August 2023

A newsletter was posted to:

- Residential addresses within 5km of the proposed site (735 addresses)
- Community groups, schools and churches within 7.5km of the site including local interest groups as advised by DFI (26 addresses). This list can be found at **Appendix D**.

The newsletter, which can be found at **Appendix C**, included information about the project, how to make comments on the proposal and when these should be submitted by, a location map, details of the consultation events and RES' contact details.

4.2.8 Public Exhibitions – 5 & 6 September 2023

The public exhibitions took place between 4pm and 8pm on 5 September 2023 at Aughabrack Community Hall, Donemana and between 4pm and 8pm on 6 September at the Diamond Public House, Plumbridge. Approximately 36 people attended the exhibition at Aughabrack Community Hall and approximately 16 people attended the exhibition in Plumbridge.

Information presented on the exhibition boards at the public exhibition included:

- About the Project
- Design Layout and Infrastructure
- Environmental Studies
- Viewpoints
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- Traffic and Access
- Noise
- Supply Chain Opportunities

Copies of the exhibition boards can be found at **Appendix E**.

Figure 1 – Public Exhibition at Aughabrack Community Hall

For people without internet access, hard copies of the exhibition material were available upon request. No requests for hard copies were received.

A comments form was provided as part of the public exhibition to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy in general and the project design specifically. A copy of the comments form can be found at **Appendix F**.

At all stages of the consultation process, RES set out clearly the purpose of the consultation. Throughout the process RES also emphasised that comments made were not representations to the DFI and that there would be the opportunity for representations to the DFI once the planning application was submitted.

4.2.9 Online Exhibition – 7 September 2023

The online public exhibition was launched on 7 September 2023. All information provided at the in-person public exhibitions was replicated on the project website including a copy of the comment form. Screenshots of the online public exhibition can be found at **Appendix G**.

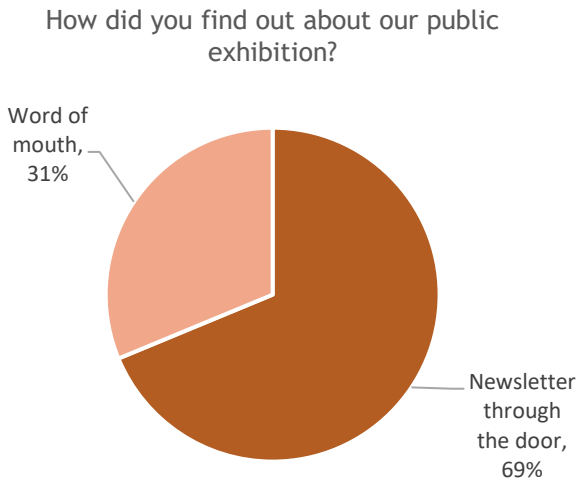
Individual telephone and video call appointments were offered between 10am and 2pm and 4pm and 8pm for anyone wishing to discuss the proposal further or ask specific questions. These timings enabled a wide cross section of the local community and stakeholders the

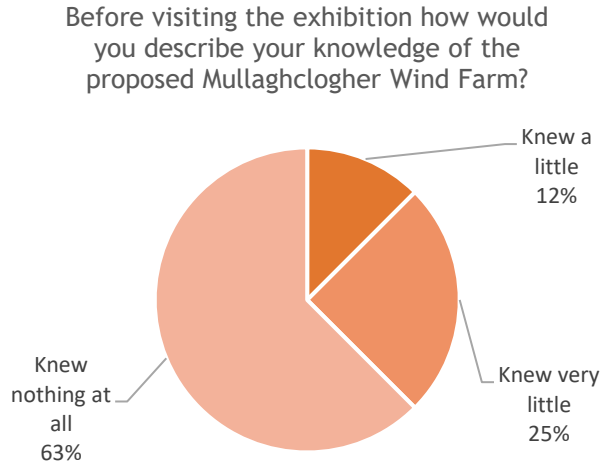
opportunity to attend a telephone or video call appointment, if required. People were asked to book appointments in advance and no requests for video or telephone appointments were received.

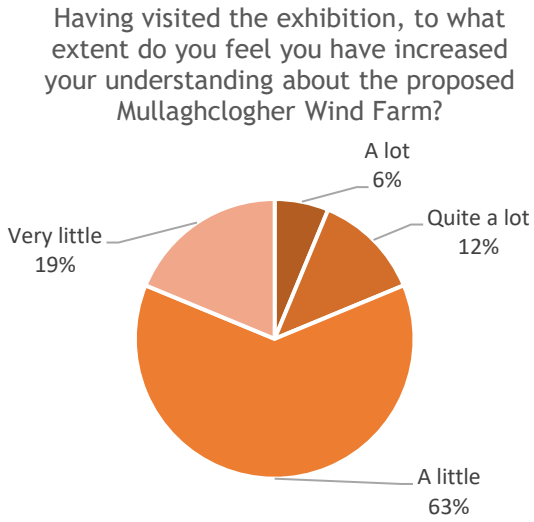
At all stages of the consultation process, RES set out clearly the purpose of the consultation. Throughout the process RES also emphasised that comments made were not representations to the DFI and that there would be the opportunity for representations to the DFI once the planning application was submitted.

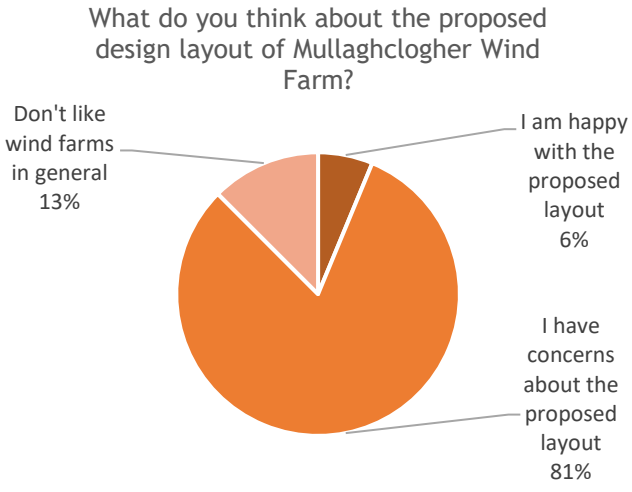
4.2.10 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment forms – 16 respondents

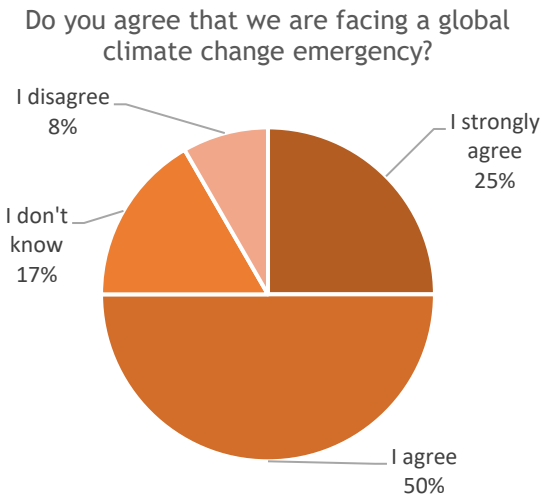
The consultation period for feedback on the proposal ran from 5 September 2023 to 22 September 2023. A total of 16 completed comment forms were received by RES across the consultation events. A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided below.

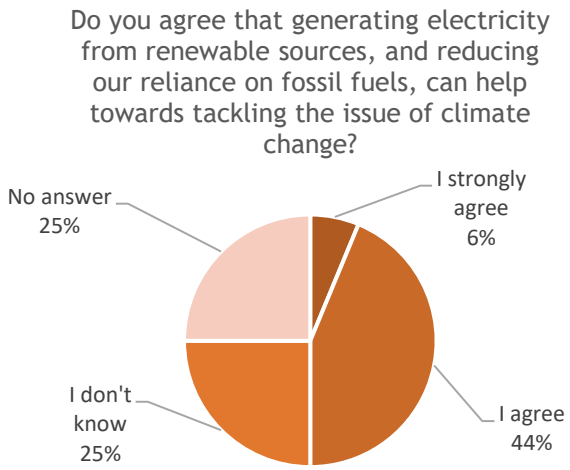


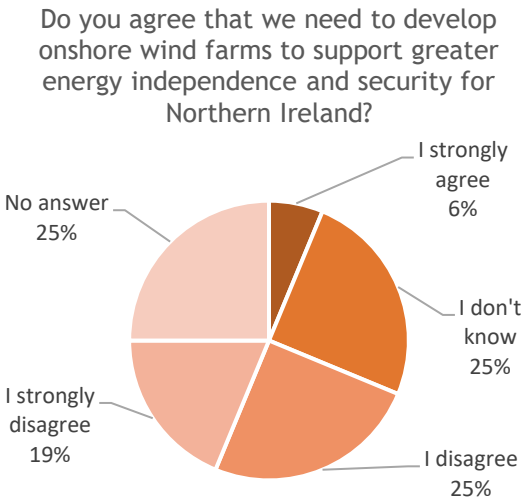


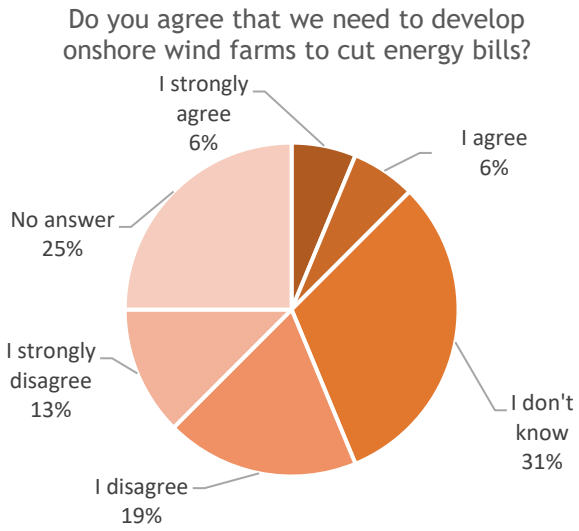












4.2.11 Other Correspondence – various

In addition to the activities outlined above, RES has been receiving and responding to enquiries and comments from the local community, via telephone and email.

In October 2023, RES developed a FAQ page in response to common questions and comments raised during the consultation. The FAQs were published on the project website and the link shared with local residents who had made enquiries by email.

In August 2024, RES met with a MLA for West Tyrone to provide an update on the Proposed Development and answer any questions.

RES will continue to respond to any queries received in relation to the Proposed Development from the local community, stakeholders and statutory consultees throughout the pre-application and determination periods.

4.3 Summary of Consultation

In summary, a range of engagement and communication activity was undertaken as part of the pre-application consultation - reaching both nearest neighbours to the site as well as audiences in the wider areas. This activity included:

- Letters to Local Political Representatives;
- Advertisements for the Public Exhibitions and Online Exhibition in the local press;
- A newsletter informing local residents and local community groups about the Public Exhibition and Online Public Exhibition;
- Two Public Exhibitions and an Online Public Exhibition; and
- Dedicated project website.

This form of pre-application community consultation is in accordance with what is recommended within the "Pre-Application Community Consultation Guidance - June 2014".

All feedback received during the pre-application community consultation, through all consultation activities, has been considered by RES throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the RES' response to each can be found in section 5.

5. Feedback and RES' Response

The majority of the feedback received during the pre-application consultation period was from comments forms received following the public exhibitions. Feedback has also been received in the form of separate correspondence by email. A summary of issues and feedback raised, together with RES' response to each issue, can be found in Table 1.

Table 1

Issue/Concern Raised	RES Response to Issue/Concern
Ecology *"A lot of wildlife are affected and rarely settle on completion"* *"The erection of a windfarm in this location will have a catastrophic effect on the loss of habitats, wildlife and fauna"* *"This intrusion to nature will result in birds, bats and other wildlife being killed which will negatively impact the environment"*	Protecting and minimising any potential direct or indirect impacts on local wildlife and their habitats is of utmost importance and RES take this responsibility seriously. RES has undertaken a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to determine the likelihood of any potential impacts on the environment, ecology and ornithology. The results of the EIA are described in the Environmental Statement (ES) (Vol 2- Chapter 6, 7, 8 & 9). An Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) has also been proposed and included in Vol 4 of the ES.
Landscape and Visual	RES undertake extensive research before selecting sites and many upland areas are located in areas of outstanding natural beauty and the onus is on RES

"This is an AONB, turbines are not aesthetically pleasing" *"This will spoil the natural view of the west side of the Sperrins"* *"Currently we are in an unspoilt area with no views of manmade structures"* *"T4, T6 and T& are visible from Glenelly Valley which currently has no wind farms on view"* *"This is a highly scenic area within the AONB"* *"The scale of the size of the windmills is not portrayed accurately on the pictures"* *"This proposal will visually affect the landscape, robbing the land of natural greenery and beauty"* *"Photographs that were on display were not taken from key locations e.g. Aughabrack Rd, Lisnarragh- where the windmills will impact most"* *"We are in an area of outstanding natural beauty"* *"Turbines on sky line should be removed"*	as the developer to demonstrate that this project will not have a significant impact on the integrity of the Sperrins AONB. Detailed analysis and assessment was undertaken during the initial site selection and throughout the design process as part of the EIA, to ensure that the wind farm was sensitively sited. A total of 19 Viewpoints have been selected as a result of the provisional viewpoint selection. They are intended to be representative of typically occurring views within the local area, views experienced by sensitive visual receptors, and also views from specific locations that merit inclusion in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) by virtue of their contribution to the landscape and visual qualities of the Study Area. The findings of the LVIA are presented in the ES, Chapter 4 – Landscape & Visual.
Energy Payback *"The carbon footprint in the construction of these eyesores is most likely much more than the savings made in the long term"*	Harnessing of wind for the generation of electricity may rely on a renewable source of energy, but it must also prove to be sustainable. Typical modern wind turbine's energy payback times range from three and a half months to just over ten months, equating to between 1% and 4% of the wind turbine's lifetime. A modern wind turbine would be expected to return at least 20 times the energy invested in it as renewable electricity.
Need, Energy Mix and Efficiency *"You can also look at offshore wind farms"* *"I agree with wind turbines but keep the middle Sperrins clear and look to expand existing sites"* *"According to Beetz's Law windmills are only 59% efficient"*	Whilst Northern Ireland has been successful at utilising its natural resources, to meet its electricity needs, around 50% of electricity consumption still comes from fossil fuels. Renewable electricity will become not only more important within the power sector but increasingly central to supplying Northern Ireland's other energy needs. A dramatic reduction in renewable electricity generation in 2024[1] shows vital action is needed to meet Climate Act targets. The figures from the

1 https://renewableni.com/renewableni-director-issues-warning-following-renewable-generation-stats/

"The countryside is now saturated with wind turbines yet the price of electricity continues to soar" *"Why isn't more research carried out with regards to marine technology?"* *"I'm not against renewable energy but there is a correct place for it"*	Department for the Economy's latest renewable electricity generation report, published in March 2025, show a reduction of 7.5% from peak in 2022. The figures, produced quarterly based on the previous 12 month period, show renewable generation accounted for 43.5% of NI's electricity use for full year 2024. This is down from the record 51% in the calendar year 2022, when 3,825GW was generated from renewable sources in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland's Climate Bill targets meeting at least 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030 and it is expected 65% of this will need to come from onshore wind. Onshore wind can address both the climate crisis and provide security of supply. Wind energy is a free and inexhaustible resource which has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It increases energy security by reducing our reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations or the uncertainty of global markets. The Proposed Development is projected to produce enough clean, low-cost electricity for the equivalent of 79,000[2] houses and offset 119,000[3] tonnes of carbon, compared to generation from fossil fuels, every year. Onshore wind, alongside other renewable technologies, are also the cheapest form of new electricity generation[4]. A recent report[3] has revealed that achieving the 80% renewable electricity by 2030 target will unlock an additional saving of £110 million per year. Between 2020 and 2023 renewable electricity saved each consumer £160 off their bills having a positive environmental, but also financial, benefit for the people in Northern Ireland. A future balanced energy mix is vital to improve the reliability and resiliency of the energy grid and helps to ensure affordability for customers. Experience and research show that it's important

2 *The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Mullaghclogher has a predicted capacity factor of 48.2%) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (Dec 2022).*

3 *RES uses DESNZ's "all non-renewable fuels" emissions statistic of 424 tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (July 2023) Table 5.14 ("Estimated carbon dioxide emissions from electricity supplied"). Carbon reduction is calculated by multiplying the total amount of electricity generated by the windfarm per year by the number of tonnes of carbon which fossil fuels would have produced to generate the same amount of electricity.*

4 *https://renewableni.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Renewable-Rewards-Baringa-Report-online.pdf*

	to avoid overdependence on any single fuel type. The future energy mix will be a diverse menu of low-carbon and renewable energy technologies, all pulling together to meet the net zero targets. Other renewable technologies will have their own merits in relation to cost, efficiency, environmental or social benefits. Wind turbines tend to generate electricity for around 80-85% of the time, but wind speeds vary and this has an impact on how much power is produced. As the grid system becomes increasingly powered by onshore wind and other renewables, it has become much more diverse and distributed. Our grid is becoming smarter to match supply and demand. NI's reliance on the use of natural gas to balance it will reduce as we see larger amounts of energy storage in the system. Systems like batteries and electric vehicles, as well as green hydrogen, are able to store surplus energy from renewables and release it when required. The proposed development includes battery energy storage and associated infrastructure on the site. Battery energy storage technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. Battery energy storage helps support the network operator by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation.Increasing battery energy storage installed capacity will be vital to support Scotland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future. Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.
<u>Consultation</u> *"Better publicity as local people not very aware of it"* *"This project has been ongoing for about three years and only now is the community being notified"* *"I was particularly dissatisfied at the quality and quantity of the information that was on display"* *"There should have been a public meeting held in our local community centre"* *"[Exhibition] was very informative"*	Extensive initial environmental and technical surveys are required to ensure a site is suitable for a wind farm development and to inform the wind farm layout and design. Once a preliminary layout and design had been developed, RES consulted with the local community and stakeholders to get feedback on the proposal. Public exhibition events were held over 2 days within the local area on 5 & 6 of September 2023, as well as an additional online exhibition on 7 September 2023. 735 residential properties within a 5km radius of the site were notified of this via a posted newsletter and additionally the details

	were posted in the Strabane Weekly and also in the Tyrone Chronicle for 2 weeks in advance of these events with the first publication being published on 24 August 2023. For the public exhibitions RES prepared a number of photomontages, from representative viewpoints around the site, based on the preliminary design. These representative viewpoints are part of a set of 19 viewpoints as agreed with the local authorities, which are included in the LVIA. RES are committed to constructive consultation with the local community. RES' experience has shown that public meetings are not productive forms of consultation as they tend to be dominated by those with the strongest views. The drop-in style public exhibitions, RES believe, provide a more effective form of consultation.
Recreation and Tourism *"We have based tourist services on a quiet, tranquil, unspolit environment"* *"This is the main hiking area for the 4 Mullaghs, a popular tourist attraction"* *"This mountain is used by local residents for recreation"*	The effect that the changes in views would have on tourism, recreation and amenity value would partly depend on the personal opinion of the viewer. This is purely subjective; some people may have an aversion to wind turbines and others may view them as a compliment to the landscape. Additionally, independent research[5] into the effects of wind farms on tourism has revealed relatively high support and positivity towards renewable energy developments and found that the majority of tourists questioned would not be deterred from visiting a location because of the presence of a wind farm. No relationship has been found between tourism employment and wind farm development, at the level of the regional economy, across local authorities nor in the locality of wind farm sites. RenewableUK has launched a new Onshore Wind Prospectus setting out pathway for industry and government to work together to reach net zero emissions ensuring maximum benefits and lowest costs for bill payers. As part of the findings it states: 'In a poll conducted for the Prospectus, 72% of NI people want the UK Government to set a long-term target for wind energy ahead of COP26. The poll also showed 78% of people in Northern Ireland support the NI Energy Strategy to reach 70% renewable electricity by 2030.'
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	The Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, presented in the ES Chapter 5 Volume 2 identifies cultural heritage assets that may be subject to

5 Failte Ireland (2012) 'Visitor Attitudes on the Environment –Wind Farms', Northern Ireland Tourist Board (August 2011) 'Windfarms and Offshore Windfarms' and https://biggareconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BiGGAR-Economics-Wind-Farms-and-Tourism-2021.pdf

"T4 and T6 are very close to cairns and chambered graves"	significant impacts, from the proposed wind farm both on the site and within 10km of the proposed turbines. Potential impacts are assessed and a program of mitigation proposed where appropriate.
Noise *"Noise survey was not taken from the nearest dwelling"* *"Our property is on an open hill where noise will travel more"* *"Wind farm noise in this location will not be masked by background noise that is already there as it is an extremely quiet and peaceful location"* *"Going to build a house nearby, noise would concern me"* *"Concerned about the noise as our valley is very quiet at the moment"*	A detailed Acoustic Assessment has been carried out to consider the potential effects of noise associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. The findings of the Acoustic Assessment are presented in the ES, Chapter 11 Acoustic Assessment.
Health and Safety *"Residents living close to windfarms are at high risk of developing "Wind Turbine Syndrome"* *"Stress and psychological disorder from blade flicker has implications for people with epilepsy and autism"* *"Windmills are dangerous in adverse weather conditions e.g. lightning"*	The development of wind farms around the world has been accompanied by some concerns of their impact to human health. One of the most common concerns relates to low-frequency noise commonly known as infrasound and its role as a hidden contributing agent behind 'wind turbine syndrome'. Low frequency noise is generally not audible or perceptible to humans as it occurs at similar levels to pre-existing background levels. Adverse effects on humans are only evident at infrasound levels far exceeding that generated by operating wind turbines. Multiple organisations and studies from around the world, including the World Health Organisation, indicate that there is no evidence that any infrasound/low frequency noise from wind turbines directly causes health impacts or can otherwise impact on the amenity of those living or working near wind turbines. Wind turbines are fitted with lightning protection systems against damage through lightning. There are no known reports of lightning strikes at wind turbines causing damage or injury to surrounding infrastructure or members of the public.

Peat *"The destruction of peat bogs is a major environmental concern"* *"Active eroding of peatlands can cause catastrophic collapses and landslides"*	The impact on peatland is assessed in detail through the Ecological Impact Assessment and any loss of peatland as a result of the wind farm infrastructure will be compensated for through habitat management measures. The impacts of peat slide risk has also been addressed specifically in the Environmental Impact Assessment and RES have over 30 years developing and constructing wind farms in Ireland on peatland sites. A Peat Slide Risk assessment, as well as a Peat Management Plan has been included in Volume 2, appendix 10.3 & 10.4 respectively of the ES.
Hydrology *"Downstream fishery will also be affected by increased peat sediment and leakage of lubricant fluids from the windmills"* *"The source of the Dennett River which makes its way to the River Foyle rises in this mountain and is in danger of being disturbed and affected"*	Any potential impact on hydrology and fisheries is assessed in detail through separate Hydrological and Fisheries Impact Assessments. It has been determined that potential impacts are primarily related to the potential sediment run-off and release of other pollutants to the receiving watercourses with related effects on fish stocks and the wider stream ecosystem. A series of specific mitigation measures have been designed to avoid adverse effects on fisheries and aquatic ecology with regard to both construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. A Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology assessment has been included in Volume 1, Chapter 9 of the ES.
Proximity to Houses and Property Value *"The value of our family home will be reduced"* *"T1 is very close to neighbouring houses"*	The wind turbines will be located over 1km from the closest inhabited properties, which is twice the minimum recommended distance of 500m, as outlined in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS). Queries are often raised in relation to the potential of wind farms to impact upon the value of house prices as there can be a perception that there must be a negative effect on house prices. Property value is subjective and can be affected by a range of factors. There is no firm evidence on whether UK onshore wind farms do or do not affect house prices, this is further evidenced from various studies on the same topic having starkly different results. RES is aware of residents close to other renewable energy projects, who enjoy having renewable energy projects close by and believe that they add value to their community.
Decommissioning and Recycling	While about 90% of turbines are easily recyclable, their blades are not. The industry recognises this

"The end of life of turbines has not been considered adequately for this project"	and extensive work is underway to establish a circular economy. There is research underway into producing a 100% recyclable turbine blade - in March 2022, the first 100% recyclable blade prototype was successfully released. Blade material is incredibly strong and when in a suitable condition, it can be repurposed for new structures. This reduces landfill, retains embodied carbon in the material, reduces the need for virgin material and creates skilled jobs. Whilst there are a finite number of other structures which could be constructed from blade material, there is also potential to refurbish blades for use as a second-hand blades. A Construction and Decommissioning Method Statement (CDMS) will be prepared if planning consent is granted. The CDMS would be agreed with the DFI Planning and would describe the detailed methods of construction and working practices, work to reinstate the site following completion of construction activities and methods to reinstate the site post operation.

6. Website

During the exhibition the project website address was advertised on all public exhibition material as well as on leaflets sent to residential properties and community groups.

The website contains project information such as site location map proposed number of turbines, approximate capacity factor and number of houses the wind farm will serve. A 'Contact Us' page on the website provides various ways which the public can get in touch should they want to comment or if they require further information in relation to the Proposed Development.

The website was also used to host the online public exhibition on 7th September 2023.

At all stages of the development process RES set out clearly the purpose of the consultation. Throughout the process RES also emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority and that there would be the opportunity for representations to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

7. Summary and Conclusion

RES believes that consultation and effective communication is extremely important when developing a wind energy project.

Following the Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance, RES has undertaken a consultation within the minimum 12-week consultation period. This PACC Report details the consultation activities undertaken and summaries, in section 5, the feedback received and our response.

RES has engaged proactively on the proposal in order to facilitate an early and constructive consultation process and used a variety of methods to communicate and engage with the local community, stakeholders and other interested parties in order to facilitate a strong public understanding of the potential impacts and benefits of the Proposed Development.

The valuable feedback received from the public exhibitions has helped us gain a better understanding of the potential issues and concerns regarding Mullaghclogher Wind Farm. As an experienced wind farm developer, RES has listened to the feedback from the local community and considered this in relation to the design of the Proposed Development. A FAQ page was also added to the project website in response to the common concerns and questions raised from members of the local community.

RES is committed to being a good neighbour and will build on the pre-planning consultation. The company has an 'open door' policy which means that anyone can contact the company about the Proposed Development at any stage and RES will respond in a timely manner. The Development Project Manager's and Community Relations Team's contact details have been made available for this purpose via exchange of information at briefings, the project newsletter and the project website.

The project website will be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the Development as it progresses.

Once the planning application and environmental statement have been validated by DFI, RES will write out to political representatives, community organisations and members of the public who have requested to be kept informed, to provide them with the planning reference number and address of DFI's Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.