

RDCA General Meeting Thursday 28th September 2017 Royal Oak Inn 7pm

<p>Present: Chris O, Nerys, peter & Margaret Joyce, Jane & Matthew Hand, Liz & Mike Wakely, Clr Handel Davies, PCSO Helen Fender, Phil & Linda Tunnicliff, Nick Salem, Keith Davies, Roger Slade, Sam, Dylan, Sue Harley, Nesta, Janet & Roger, Eleri & Dafydd, Gorica (7:20pm) and Howard (8:05pm)</p>	<p>Apologies: Tony & Penny Lincoln.</p>
<p>Discussion Points.</p>	
<p>Chairman explained that the Ystradffin HydroElectric Scheme was the only item on the agenda, and that given our guest speaker, Mr Ewan Campbell-Lendrum from HED, we would not engage in other housekeeping matters (previous minutes etc).</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Approval of Minutes at next meeting</p>
<p>Presentation by Ewan Campbell-Lendrum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb/March should see start of tree cutting – ecological checks/approval • April weather permitting – civil works – porta-cabins etc., • The 5-6 months of building • Further year of less visible works (eg install turbine in powerhouse) • Total of two years from now to completion • No overhead cables – will tap into grid already underground • Water taken out near ‘fishponds’ 400mtrs downstream of original location • 55mtr gross height drop • 2mtr diameter pipe taking 4.2 cubic metre per second Maximum ‘Hands off flow’ that cannot be touched = 0.7cubic metres per second. • Syphon intake helps get over hillock at start of pipe. Big Straw!. • 2.3 kilometres pipe to outflow. • Will generate electricity for 2,500 homes (based on household averages) • Duration of program – 40 years • Self-cleaning intake • Pictures were shown of other similar projects (available electronically on request) • The operation will be automated / computerised. Won’t see many staff on site 	
<p>There followed a question and answer session. Questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How deep would the pipe be? Varies, but at least a metre. Made of solid steel • Reseeding? Yes, re-using turfs, using local farmers knowledge/local seeds and will re-plant hedgerows etc., • Will the water-flow from the dam be managed for this scheme? No they won’t be asking the dam controllers to assist in releasing extra water. • KD suggested the turbine building was very big, and what sound would be heard. This area is a particularly quiet location. ECL assured that insulation would be sufficient and in accordance with the Planning Restrictions and made reference to a similar building ‘Bunk-House’ in The Lake District. 	

- What construction traffic would there be? ECL stipulated about 20 people in normal size vehicles plus 2 or 3 large Lorries which would be managed. There will be Lorries of pipes arriving, and the intention is to use where possible the Ysgair Dafydd Road.
- What maintenance is required? Staff would visit once a fortnight'ish, and every 8000hours the turbine requires an oil change. Hopefully a local employee, plus computer staff but experience is the key.
- Would there be local jobs during construction? Yes, particularly for local specialist skills, fencing, planting etc
- Clr Handel Davies asked about the cost/investment and payback/profit; and that it is customary to give back to the community? ECL stipulated that profit is embarrassingly small. Some Wind Turbines have contributed to communities, but there is no obligation on this scheme. However HED are here for 40years and wish to be part of the community. Chairman stipulated that there is a letter on file to this effect. Clr Davies asked what is the £1k annual payment as a percentage of profit? ECL stated that in the early years that the £1k is much more than what profit would be.
- M Hand asked what is the cost of the construction. Answer: Millions, and it will be about 10 years before pay back. (has to be less than 15 for the banks to lend)
- P. Joyce asked about the location of the powerhouse, and a picture / map was shown on the screen. ECL confirmed that no soil will be taken away from the area. It would be re-used in the construction process.
- Dylan asked if pipe was 'on dust'. ECL stated that this was not his expertise, but suffice to say that the experts will lay what is necessary.
- Jane Hand asked will there be light pollution from the powerhouse? No, unless somebody is working there, but generally speaking staff would work normal office hours. However there is a possibility during construction that some lights will be necessary to 'get the job done'.
- Chris O: Will contracts/work be advertised locally? ECL: yes – the Council will support the tender process, particularly useful for local skills and accommodation
- Nerys urged ECL to 'stay local'. ECL said that they would where possible. The suggestion of work apprentices was less favourable due to relatively short length of work programme and H&S
- Phil asked 'how much water' and an earlier statement was re-iterated.
- Jane hand asked if there would be an ecological inspection, and this was confirmed and has to be to the satisfaction of both CCC and NRW.
- Peter asked about gauges up stream. This is controlled by NRW, and they will continue to do so
- Nick questioned the water levels, and it was stated that they will never be less than the minimum they are now.
- What will the pipe do to the water temperature? ECL explained that there are 40 years of recorded data on the temperatures of the water out of the dam and downstream; whilst in summer the water in the river will be very slightly (degree fraction) warmer than the water from the pipe at exit, it

<p>amounts to such a small fraction less than current, that NRW are happy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the electricity taken out. Under the road as previously stipulated, and that this addition to the cable will bring it almost to its maximum (other than a very small house project). • Clr Davies asked if after 15years when there is payback would they increase the community contribution. Project would be in a better position to contribute as time moves on and so willing to review. 	
<p>There were no further questions. Chairman thanked ECL for a very informative presentation. All the questions were answered to the satisfaction of the people in the room. No negative responses emanated from the audience.</p>	
<p>Meeting closed at approx. 8:30pm.</p>	