

**NOTES OF JOINT MEETING OF FOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS
WITH BANKS RENEWABLES ON 12TH AUGUST 2013**

Item		
1	PRESENT & APOLOGIES	
	In Attendance	
	G SMITH, R CRAIG, R FREEL	Stonehouse community council
	W GILMOUR, M McDONALD	Strathaven Community council
	J GREIG	Sandford community council
	?	Lesmahagow community council
	C ANDERSON, G THOMSON,	Banks Renewables
	<p>G Smith welcomed everyone and following introductions asked if Banks could provide us with an update on the project. G Thomson advised that currently Banks were trying to resolve issues around aviation and forestry. Forestry was now signed off with agreements in place on complimentary planting and community woodland and hedgerow planting. However they were working towards agreeing a roadmap to mitigation on radar issues with BAA. They have had meetings with Scottish government who facilitated the meetings with BAA. Consent was expected in around two months.</p>	
	<p>A question was asked if the route had been agreed for the transporting of the turbine structures. No routes were agreed yet. Discussion took place on the issues with the delivery of another operators turbines. It was suggested that Banks use a single point of contact who can issued details of embargos etc. when they arose.</p>	DB
	<p>Timescales were discussed and the grid connection was likely to be the issue that would delay things. Possibility that it would be 2 to 2.5 years before they get onto site.</p>	
	<p>Clarifications on the value of the fund available to community councils was discussed. On the current calculations it was estimated at around £44K. The community councils would be required to discuss and agree how they would set themselves up to administer this as well as detail the running of a possible trust. This would be further discussed between the four community councils. Setting up a joint community trust was discussed with Banks indicating that they had some experience of this and that a model template had been passed to Strathaven. Agreed that this model template be examined. Stonehouse advised that they were in process of setting up a community trust for the senior citizens and were working on a set of articles of association. These could be used as a starting point.</p> <p>Community councils would also be part of an advisory panel which would have a say on how the ref money was spent.</p>	

STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: George Smith, 6 Naismith Court, Stonehouse. Tel 01698 793946

Secretary: Robert Freel, 75 Lockhart Street, Stonehouse 01698 793498

Training and the use of the REF fund was also discussed and how this could be used to stimulate employment and local economies. It was intimated by Banks that the first 5 years would see 50% of the fund being used to stimulate training initiatives.

It was suggested that the community councils meet with Chris Savage of Leader fund as well as other funding bodies.

Agreed that the next meeting would be held by Sandford and it would be held on 22nd October 2013.