

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN

Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a remote meeting of the Highways and Planning Committee to be held **on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 1.00pm.**

Members of the Council have been provided with instructions on how to join the meeting.

If any member of the public wishes to attend (remotely) the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail by 12 noon on 11th May 2021 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely

pr N. Hurn

Town Clerk

A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend.

AGENDA

Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

2. Correspondence:

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Pennant Walters (Walters Group) (for information):

E-mail informing of plans and consultation in respect of plans for a wind farm on land at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Blaenau Gwent – (copy attached).

b) Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership (for information):

Copy of presentation – Local Nature Partnership & Local Places for Nature – (*copy attached*).

3. Planning Applications:

Members are invited to consider any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) *None received to date.*

4. Licence Applications:

Members are invited to consider the application(s):

a) *None received to date.*

Hem no. 2ca

Pennant Walters proposals for Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn wind farm

From: Jo Hatton Jones <jo@grasshopper-comms.co.uk>

Sent: Wed, 21 Apr, 2021 at 16:30

To: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

image001.png (128.4 KB)

Dear Clerk

I am writing on behalf of South Wales renewables company Pennant Walters, part of the Walters Group, which is bringing forward plans for a wind farm on land at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Blaenau Gwent.

The site is located on an upland ridge between the Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley. It is approximately 270 hectares, predominantly grassland used for grazing, and is split by the forestry haul road, woodland and the operational 286 hectare Hafod-y-Dafal Solar Farm. Please see site location plan on the project webpage: <https://pennantwalters.co.uk/new-project/mynydd-carn-y-cefn/>

The proposals include up to eight wind turbines with a maximum blade height of 180m.

It is estimated that the wind farm will generate up to 48 MW of electricity, which is equivalent to providing enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 24,000 homes.

As the proposed wind farm will generate more than 10MW of electricity it is defined as a Development of National Significance (DNS). This means that the planning application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for Wales and considered by an Inspector with the final decision made by Welsh Ministers.

Pennant Walters recently submitted a scoping request to PINS to ensure the appropriate environmental studies are carried out as the proposals are developed. This is due to be available to view on the PINS website imminently: <https://dns.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/>

We believe that these proposals can help to meet the identified need for renewable energy in Future Wales: The National Development Framework and the Council's forthcoming Deposit Local Plan and could play an integral part in the delivery of the Council's emerging decarbonisation strategy.

The communities in which Pennant Walters develops and operates wind farms are a key priority and each wind farm operates a community fund that invests money into the surrounding local communities. To date, Pennant Walters has distributed some £3.5million pounds to qualifying projects. More detail can be found on each site by pressing the "community fund" button: <https://pennantwalters.co.uk/site/>

Pennant Walters is committed to undertaking extensive engagement and consultation with local councillors, stakeholders and residents on its emerging plans. We are in the process of defining our engagement/consultation approach for the project and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to introduce our proposals and seek your input into our draft Engagement/Consultation Plan to help ensure that everyone who is interested in the proposals has the opportunity to participate.

I'll give you a call next week to see if we can arrange a time to meet – probably online at present given the current Coronavirus restrictions. If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All the best

Jo

Jo Hatton Jones
Director

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NANTYGLO & BLAINA

22 APR 2021

TOWN COUNCIL

NANTYGLO & BLAINA
27 APR 2021
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Local Nature Partnership and Local Places for Nature



Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership

Torfaen Biodiversity Partnership – established for 20 years. Merged with Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership and name changed to Local Nature Partnership. Coordinator funded from March 2020.

Email distribution list with around 100 contacts, including local authorities, NRW, community councils, social housing organisations, wildlife groups, interested individuals.

Quarterly (online) meetings and regular email updates

Will be preparing a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan, in line with the Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan, including promoting the benefits of nature for mental health and wellbeing.

Wales Nature Week organised by Wales Biodiversity Partnership – starting 29th May

Access to funding for nature recovery projects (allocated to local authorities) – LNP Cymru project and Local Places for Nature



Local Places for Nature

Welsh Government funding with three strands:

- Local authority allocation
- Keep Wales Tidy packages
- Heritage Lottery Fund grants

2020 – 21 projects

Changing grassland management – verges & meadows.

Changing from frequent cutting to annual cut and collect to reduce fertility and allow wildflowers to grow. Maintain edges along roads and footpaths. Sowed yellow rattle to help reduce some grasses.

Wildflower seeding

Tree and hedgerow planting

Pond restoration

Drystone walling – shelter for wildlife, particularly toads, insects, birds

Bulb planting – wild daffodils, woodland bulbs

Owl boxes

Sandmartin nest boxes



Enhancing biodiversity / nature recovery

More – places managed for nature

Bigger – make places managed for nature bigger creating a buffer around it

Better – managed for nature

Joined up – connected to other nature rich sites by hedgerows, grasslands, wetlands

Stop – cutting brambles, nettles, dandelions, ivy, grass; using pesticides and other artificial chemicals

Grow – growing trees and native plants, creating community gardens, creating nature rich greenspaces, install bird and bat boxes, create scrubby areas (brambles, nettles, longer grass), log and stone habitat piles

Change – perceptions about what nature is, e.g. what is a weed and what is a wildflower?

Veronika Brannovic, veronika.brannovic@torfaen.gov.uk

Local Nature Partnership | Torfaen County Borough Council

Nature Networks | Torfaen County Borough Council