

4th March, 2021

Mr Neal MacPherson
Principal Planning Officer
Development Management Planning
Moray Council
Council Office
High Street
Elgin
IV30 1BX

Dear Mr MacPherson,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you to express why I am in support of the Garbet Wind Farm application.

With the disastrous consequences of climate change facing us, of course it puts energy at the forefront of our minds. I think in the “post-covid” world, people have really started to consider very carefully of the human cost and the cost to the planet. The pandemic has forced many in the administrative world to rethink our flippant dependence on energy and electricity but also the fact that you can use it for so much good. As an example, digital connectivity has already demonstrated an immense impact for those situated both in urban and rural areas. In the context of the Garbet wind farm, the clean energy provided really will be the catalyst that will bring development to the area. It is therefore appropriate to intervene in a place like Glass which could be considered as one of the pockets in the UK where in fact we still need to address the issue of renewable energy supply.

Despite this, there are areas on the estate that are well connected. However, in accordance with the climate crisis and the consequences that lie ahead, this energy must be clean. The overall infrastructure has been considered appropriate for a wind farm to be situated; it is a safe, connected and remote location. I also understand that the Morayshire council has specified that the wind speed for the proposed location is very high which would in return generate a generous amount of energy.

The proposed application will go along with many other facilities such as the opportunity to improve people’s access to clean energy, the connectivity that comes with it and the environmental benefits. This has now become a necessity – energy justice should be granted in such a setting. And from a community perspective, working and being connected using clean energy will bring a sense of enjoyment that comes along with having access to these facilities and it will uplift the local communities in terms of their ability to achieve prosperity.

The practical implementation and the overall impact of the Garbet wind farm will have a lasting and dramatic impact on the surrounding area both environmentally and culturally. It will help to build supply chains and bring people together to learn how to use clean energy in new ways. It will provide clean energy for local services and schools but it will also avoid deforestation and damage to the surrounding environment – not to mention educating children in the right way to their access to energy.

We are currently missing a skill base of essentially small businesses that can manufacture, put in place and operationalise renewable technologies. What's more, collecting data for the advanced management of the turbines in order to improve their performance will continue to provide jobs. Creating small-scale apprenticeships and skill training systems to bring people from the local communities into the technical world where they genuinely are going to have a market that will grow will be just one of the major achievements of this operation.

Bringing energy into the conversation at the local level, it has become very clear that we need to have communities enabled to essentially determine their own energy destiny. Returning to a different way of living, or for many up in rural parts of the north east of Scotland who are already adaptable to energy issues will bring out a deep sense of the ability to adapt and a strong resilience. I think overall, we need to recognise that investing in clean energy, particularly in rural environments is going to be the way to solve many of our issues around development and especially to ensure that people are not left behind.

I can understand that there are concerns about people's views and birdlife. However, I feel that the benefits received from a green energy supply far outweigh what might be an eye sore to some. From what I understand, there are various technologies currently being worked on that have the potential to lessen the conflict between wind energy and wildlife conservation. I would also like to point out that in the local community there have been and are ongoing immense efforts to preserve and protect the surrounding environment and wildlife including; peatland restoration, the preservation of species-rich flower meadows and the restoration of areas of land to its wild habitat, just to name a few.

Although the significant rise in renewable energy resources being constructed around the globe relates to the post-modern society, traditional, local communities must also be considered at the core of these operations. It is now very noticeable that the capacity factors for wind power are constantly going up and I fully support that the Garbet wind farm will be an exceptional example. Localised services will really create a driver and will demonstrate what skills we desperately need for this century.

Yours sincerely,

Isabella Hay