

Doraville Wind Farm



A summary of
Community Consultation on Doraville Wind Farm
Powering local communities and the local economy





Consulting with the Community

On 10 September 2014 SSE Renewables began a 12-week Community Consultation on proposals for the development of Doraville Wind Farm. Doraville is located in County Tyrone, within the townlands of Derrynoyd, Brackagh North, Tievenameena and Cloghemy Glebe. The site lies west of Draperstown, Co. Derry-Londonderry, northwest of Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, and 2km to the north of Broughderg.

This consultation was carried out to help local community members and stakeholders understand the detail of the proposal, to gauge public perception of wind farm developments and to seek their views on the issues specific to the Doraville project.

Community Participation

The Community Consultation was delivered through a number of public information events, online submissions, mail outs and door-to-door calls. Members of the public were also encouraged to complete a questionnaire and provide feedback on the proposals.

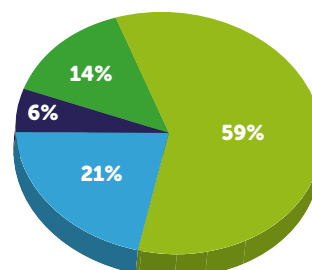
Almost 500 houses closest to the Doraville site were directly contacted and informed about the consultation process, while the wider community was informed through advertisements in local newspapers.

At each of the public events, information was provided on all aspects of the proposal. SSE staff members and members of the wider project team were in attendance to help answer questions and follow up on any particular issues or concerns raised.



12 week consultation
3 public information events
500 letters sent to local homes
284 people interacted with SSE

In total 284 members of the public interacted with SSE either in person or by providing feedback. Alongside this SSE provided briefings to elected representatives in Omagh, Strabane, Cookstown and Magherafelt, as well as MLAs in Mid Ulster and West Tyrone.



Location of respondents

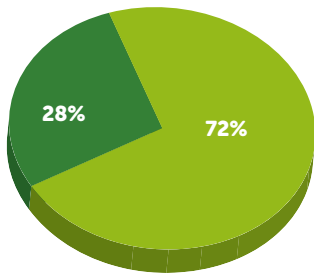
1-5 miles	59%
5-10 miles	21%
10-15 miles	6%
Over 15 miles	14%

Key Findings

The Community Consultation questionnaire sought the views of the community on renewable energy in general as well as on the specifics of the Doraville Wind Farm Proposal.

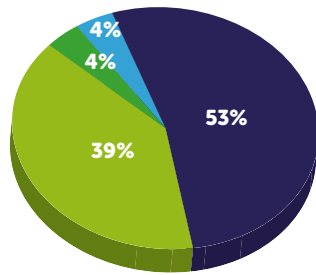
The questionnaire resulted in a number of key findings. These include the fact that the majority of respondents (72.3%) are in favour of renewable energy being used as an alternative to fossil fuel. In relation to the Doraville Wind Farm project 53% believe that the proposal is 'positive' with 4% neutral and 4% undecided.

Do you agree with the use of Renewable Energy as a source of alternative power to traditional, fossil fuelled power stations?



Yes - 72% No - 28%

Do you think that the wind farm development at Doraville is a positive or negative proposal?



Positive - 53% Neutral - 4%
Negative - 39% Undecided - 4%



The questionnaire also sought to identify potential concerns members of the public may have in relation to the proposal. The most commonly raised areas of concern were that of landscape and visual impact and tourism.


The full details of the responses to the questionnaire are available in the Community Consultation Report, which is available via Ireland.sse.com/doraville or by contacting brendan.scott@sse.com or bronagh.gormley@sse.com

Post Consultation


In our review of the feedback received during the consultation process we looked carefully at how the comments provided by members of the community could improve the final planning application for Doraville Wind Farm.

As a result a number of amendments were made to the proposal. These include:


- A reduction in the number of turbines from 43 (interim layout) to a final proposed layout of 36 turbines;
- Revising turbine layout to reduce visibility from sensitive views to and from the AONB, Broughderg, and within the Beaghmore Area of Significant Archaeological Interest;
- Revising turbine layout to increase the distance of the nearest turbine to residential properties, with a minimum separation distance of 0.93 miles (1.5km) attained with the final layout;
- Revise the site access to avoid the Broughderg area, addressing concerns expressed regarding the movement of construction traffic through that area; and
- Incorporating proposals in the planning application to address concerns regarding tourism and the cultural heritage of the area.



New number of turbines - **36**



Increased separation distance to **0.93 miles (1.5km)**



Reduced visibility from key areas

Visual Impact

Through careful design and by listening to the views of the local community, we have created a project that can utilise the excellent wind resource that blows across our land while minimising the visual impact from important key locations.

The feedback in relation to the visual impact allowed us to look at the layout to see how we could minimise the impact from certain areas.



Tourism, Recreation & Community

During the consultation some local residents and groups raised the issue of potential effects on tourism and recreation in the area, as well as how the local community may benefit from the Doraville Wind Farm proposal.

The importance of tourism and recreation in the Sperrins to the local councils and to the community is clear. SSE wants to support this work by helping to improve the facilities that will encourage more visitors to visit and stay in the area bringing knock-on benefits to local businesses. We have set out a number of possibilities to this effect in the Environmental Statement for the project.

We are committed to creating a new investment fund, the Doraville Area Grant Aid Scheme, which would be available to local communities. This is designed to support area access, tourism promotion, the development and enhancement of recreational facilities and the local economy.

We are currently developing the priorities for this £1m Grant Aid Scheme, and we have set out a number of possibilities where we can potentially provide additional benefit.

Potential areas for support

- **The provision of information boards and a picnic area at Beaghmore Stone Circles;**
- **The development of a folklore and heritage trail for Doraville and the wider area;**
- **Banks stabilisation on the Coneyglan Burn;**
- **Support for further development of visitor facilities which could include mountain biking and walking trails, changing facilities and a cultural centre.**

In addition to identifying opportunities to support tourism and recreation, we are committed to continuing to support the local area through our Community Fund during the operational lifetime of the wind farm. In addition to the Community Fund we are also committed to delivering an annual Scholarship Fund, this will be available to students from the region going on to further education.

The annual Community and Scholarship Fund contribution into the region will be approximately £576,000, totalling almost £15million over the 25-year lifetime of the wind farm.

In response to concerns about a desire for lower energy costs locally, SSE is also proposing to deliver a significant energy efficiency programme through the community fund which will be available to residents living within 3 miles of the wind farm. The programme will be designed to deliver a range of household improvements that can help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes and help reduce their energy and heating costs. Potential improvements that may be considered include loft and cavity wall insulation, installation of double glazing and replacement of inefficient boilers and radiators. During the development of the programme we will undertake Energy Audits in participating households to identify the optimum improvements which can be made from the range of measures available.

Next Steps

SSE has undertaken this Community Consultation to gain a better understanding of the local views of wind energy and attitudes towards the Doraville Wind Farm project, while providing the most open and up-to-date information on the proposals.

The community responses received have resulted in a number of important amendments that have been made to the final design, reflected in the planning application that has been submitted to the DoE. The application will go through the formal planning procedures for a project of Regional Significance including consideration by the statutory consultees and decision by the Department of the Environment.

SSE is committed to keeping the local community and elected representatives informed as the project progresses through planning.