

ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

GREETINGS FROM SSE RENEWABLES

This is the first in a planned series of newsletters, developed to share project updates about Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

Our liaison team would be delighted to hear from you with any suggestions you may have for future newsletters or queries you may have in relation to the project.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Last year we were delighted to engage with so many of you during our Public Consultation on the Onshore Grid Infrastructure and Offshore Infrastructure elements of the project.

This phase ran across October and November 2020, and we gathered really valuable feedback on the project from communities and stakeholders across Wicklow and North Wexford, and indeed beyond. Feedback received centered around a variety of topics, however three key themes raised related to:

- 1) Access to employment and education and training in the offshore wind space.
- 2) Concern about the visual impact of the project, and proximity of turbines to the shoreline
- 3) Interest from businesses and industry looking to provide support services to the project.

All of the feedback we have received has been useful, and is currently being compiled in a Consultation Report, which will be made available on within an Environmental Assessment Impact Report (EIAR) for submission to An Bord Pleanála and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). These reports will be available to the public once statutory consultation opens.

WORKING WITH ECHELON DATA CENTRES IRELAND

In late November 2020, we were delighted to announce that we have entered into agreement with Echelon Data Centres Ireland, to develop a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park, Arklow. You can find out more information on this at -

www.sserenewables.com/news-and-views



SPONSORSHIP FUND

You may already be aware that the Arklow Bank Wind Park project has a sponsorship fund that is available on application, via Deborah Coleman, Community Engagement Manager, on a quarterly basis. Some of the organisations we have supported this year include:

- [Arklow Cancer Support](#)
- [Arklow Rugby Club](#)
- [Wicklow Swimming Club](#)
- [Courtown Community Council](#)
- [Arklow Sea Scouts](#)
- [Courtown Meals on Wheels](#)
- [Arklow Maritime Museum](#)
- [Wicklow Rowing Club](#)
- [Arklow Golf Club](#)

For more information about the Arklow Bank Sponsorship Fund, please contact Deborah Coleman on Deborah.coleman2@sse.com



FISHERIES FUND

We are also working to launch a dedicated fisheries fund. We intend to make an annual contribution to this fund, and we are keen to establish governance arrangements early in 2021.

The balance of this fund is currently €50,000, and it is our intention to invest the same sum each year throughout the development phase.

We are currently working to establish governance arrangements and to identify programmes or projects which would benefit from these funds.

Suggestions raised to date include upgrading of existing slipways, resurfacing of quayside areas and potential quayside refrigeration.

For further information or to suggest suitable projects or initiatives, please contact Brendan Dillon, Brendan.dillon@sse.com.



VIRTUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

In February 2021, we launched a new Virtual Education Programme centred around marine conservation in partnership with Seal Rescue Ireland, the seal-welfare charity based in Courtown. This free interactive programme was developed for children and young people aged six and over and will be available to schools in the vicinity of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2. The programme was a year in development and was specifically adapted to be accessible remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic.

More information is available at www.sealrescueireland.org/education-series



PROGRESS UPDATE

1) Project Application Submissions

We expect consultation to commence shortly on submissions to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to update our consent for the offshore infrastructure and to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the onshore grid infrastructure. Statutory consultations will be advertised locally once they commence.

2) Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF)

Last year, we appointed RPS to commence the OMF planning and design package and we expect to submit our application to Wicklow County Council and DHLGH toward the middle of 2021. In advance of submission we will launch another Public Consultation Phase for the OMF, seeking your views on the proposed development, planned for Arklow Harbour. As part of this consultation we will publish additional information on potential draft plans and designs, and we will seek to engage with you via public exhibition, leaflet drop, local media and an online webinar. Details of the consultation phase will be advertised locally in advance.

3) Geotechnical Survey Works

To support our current knowledge of the ground conditions on site and for use in the detailed engineering and design process, there are plans to complete further geotechnical investigation surveys later this year.

Once plans are finalised for these surveys further information will be provided through:

- Ongoing engagement with the fishing community through our dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer Brendan Dillon and regular quayside briefings, where possible in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions.
- A Notice to Mariners which will be published by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS)

We are keen to keep you updated during this important phase for the project and this newsletter is one of a number of ways through which we will endeavour to do this. Information is also available on our project website www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

Feedback on Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 is welcome at all stages. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your own network. If you do not wish to receive further updates please notify Community Engagement Manager Deborah Coleman at the email address or telephone number below.

OUR LIAISON TEAM



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