

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Community Liaison Group – Cable Route South
<b>Location</b>	Butterwick Village Hall
<b>Date/ time</b>	Friday 2 February 2024
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Andrew Acum – ODOW – AA  Jenny Marsden – ODOW - JW  David Wright – ODOW – DW</p> <p>John Baxter – Boston Borough Council - JB  Callum Butler – Boston Borough Council - CB  John Grant – Benington Parish Council - JG  Sarah Sharpe – Boston Borough Council - SS</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	None
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To involve key local stakeholders in the design and development of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project (landfall, onshore cable route and substation) through presentations, discussions and planned workshop activities.</li> <li>2. To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team.</li> <li>3. To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project.</li> </ol>

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Chair's welcome, terms of reference and introductions</b></p> <p>JM opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>The group was reminded of the terms of reference.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been approved and posted on the website.</p> <p>JB asked how many people had been invited to the meeting. JM confirmed that approximately 16 people were invited.</p> <p>JB said that the Outer Dowsing consultation had been very good and that all questions seemed to have been addressed. He felt people were more concerned about pylons than this project.</p> <p>JG said he couldn't understand why there wasn't greater representation from other parish councils. JM said that parish council invitations are sent via the parish clerks.</p> <p>CB said he had received some feedback that some notices in the fields had blown away in the recent storms and there was a concern about littering. DW said the notices are checked on a weekly basis, but they would pay greater attention during bad weather.</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Consultation Overview</b></p> <p>The project team has worked to engage local communities through extensive consultation.</p>

During the 15 months of 2023-2024, the project has delivered:

- 16 public engagement events
- 8 webinars
- 1491 attendees at engagement events
- 107 written responses
- 74 phone calls
- 246 Completed feedback forms

The project has received a large number of supportive responses and positive feedback on the consultations.

Themes of interest primarily related to onshore matters such as noise, visual impacts and traffic.

Targeted consultation closed on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>.

JB asked about the main issues raised. JM said the main concern was traffic, but the project had undertaken surveys to assess baseline levels. DW said that in some sections, the project was adding around 100 additional vehicle movements against a current figure of 2,000, which puts it into perspective. Most feedback had been positive and constructive.

JG said the only comments he had received were that the consultation had been very thorough and very genuine, with feedback being taken on board. He felt that concerns were being listened. A good example was moving the middle section of the original cable route further inland as a result of local feedback.

JB said that the consultation materials were very well-designed, visually attractive, and were easy to read and understand. He said the project isn't really mentioned much by local people anymore as all concerns seemed to have been addressed.

<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Category 3 Communications</b></p> <p>Category 3 letters were sent out before Christmas. This is a statutory process and the letters were sent to people who may have an interest in land which may be indirectly affected by the project, e.g. by noise, dust, etc.</p> <p>DW said that as these are statutory letters, the wording is prescribed and the letters had to go out to anyone in proximity of the project, although they may not be directly affected.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>CBF Boundary and Themes Review</b></p> <p>The aim of the fund is to bring long-lasting value to the communities closest to the project.</p> <p>The team has proposed four themes of focus - themes the project hopes to support in the local community.</p> <p><b>Proposed eligibility criteria</b> have been drafted to set out which applications get through the first sift. This ensures the funding is in line with ODOW standards and those of its partners.</p> <p>Draft award criteria outline how the applications will be scored to ensure that the projects with the highest impact and closest to the project are more likely to get funding.</p> <p>It is likely that the project will appoint a third party to administer the fund.</p> <p>The project wants to incorporate learnings from other developers and feedback gained from the community consultation events.</p>

The fund will be launched once consent has been granted and FID has been taken (estimated to be 2025). In the meantime, ODOW will look to fund a small number of more strategic projects, more likely with larger organisations (like the Boston Woods Trust example) as opposed to a larger number of grass-roots projects during the phase before the CBF is launched. ODOW is seeking suggestions therefore for organisations that are active within the themes presented to explore creation of projects in the run up to CBF launch.

### **CBF Themes**

The proposed themes for the CBF are:

1. Nature positive
2. STEM and skills
3. Sustainable enterprise
4. Community health and well-being

It is envisaged that CBF support will also include volunteering and staff engagement.

JB said he has contacts who may be useful for setting up STEM projects in schools.

JB said he had seen the story about ODOW supporting the Boston Woods Trust.

JB asked what budget would be. JM said that it wasn't known yet.

JG asked if there was a limit on each application. JM said it hadn't been decided yet, but there probably would be so that the scheme could benefit as many projects as possible.

JB said it was a good range of themes but was interested in whether the scheme would be employing local people. JM said she liaises with the supply chain manager and it is a project aim to maximise local content from local suppliers wherever possible.

JB said that Viking Link had school visits and took on apprentices as a result of these.

### **Draft Eligibility Criteria**

It will be necessary for the projects to meet certain criteria. These are being explored, but early suggestions include:

- Have a constitution outlining objectives and rules for the organisation
- Have a bank account or credit union account set up in the organisation's name.
- Be within the eligibility zone
- Be aligned with CBF themes

### **Exclusions**

It was proposed that the following exclusions would likely apply to CBF funding:

- Religious organisations, trade unions and political parties
- Promotion of any kind of discrimination (ages, sexes, ethnicities, or minority groups)
- Requests for funding that benefit a single person

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requests for funding to pay for salaries or other ongoing running costs (e.g. rent)</li> <li>- Recipients that promote illegal or unsafe activities</li> <li>- Retrospective funding or existing loans or debts</li> <li>- Requests for funding that relate to public infrastructure</li> <li>- Members-only sports clubs or facilities unless they are open to the general public</li> </ul> <p><b>Draft Award Evaluation Criteria</b></p> <p>In order to help select the most impactful projects, criteria such as the following would most likely be applied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proximity to project</li> <li>2. Relevance to community</li> <li>3. Level of impact</li> <li>4. Ability to deliver results</li> </ol> <p><b>Proposed Boundary</b></p> <p>The initial “yellow line” boundary was drawn 3km either side of the cable route and 5 km around the substation.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that this is a very rural area and people living in the 3km zone may access services (such as a village hall or sports field) which are outside of the yellow line boundary.</p> <p>Therefore, if part of a parish lies within the boundary, then the whole parish will be eligible to apply for funding.</p>
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	<p>JB said that there was a lot of heritage in Lincolnshire but little funding for it, for example churches that couldn't repair their roofs. JM said that if it was linked to heritage and tourism, it might fit under Sustainable Enterprise but religious buildings wouldn't count.</p> <p>SS said the constitution aspect may exclude a lot of organisations. DW said that the wording may need refining based on feedback from the CLGs. JB said sometimes organisations can make themselves fit the criteria, for example, writing a constitution if they don't already have one.</p> <p>SS asked how long the cable route is. DW said it was approximately 61km to the substation plus a connection to the National Grid substation, the exact location of which is not currently known, but it will probably be close to 65km in total.</p> <p>JG asked if that is what the pylons were needed for. JM explained that ODOW is connecting to the existing pylons. DW said that ODOW does not need new pylons, it just needs a substation to connect to. The Grimsby to Walpole project is completely independent of the ODOW project.</p>
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<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Timeline</b></p> <p>The project is still on course to submit its Development Consent Order by the end of Q1 2024. Once submitted, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to validate it.</p> <p>Once validated, there will then be an examination period, probably in H2 2024. This is a participatory process where all residents and stakeholders can attend and/or submit questions. The Inspectors will then cross-examine the team on the plans.</p> <p>JM explained the examination process and how people can get involved.</p> <p>JG asked where the examination hearings would take place. DW said that it was still to be confirmed but would be in the region. JM said she was currently looking at venues..</p>
	<p>JB said the Gliderdrome in Boston might be a suitable venue, along with the Centenary Methodist Church.</p> <p>If approved, consent would be granted in 2025, with constructions starting earliest 2026 and commercial operations commencing in 2030.</p>

	6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>CB said there was a lot of anti-pylon sentiment in the area.</p> <p>JB asked how complicated the CBF application form would be as some of the grant funding forms he had seen in the past were complex. JM said they would endeavour to make the application process as easy as possible to complete.</p> <p>CB asked whether a new kitchen for a youth club would qualify for funding. JM said it possibly would, although the scheme wouldn't fund what it considered to be "bricks and mortar" projects.</p> <p>CB said that Wrangle Youth Centre is a self-funding organisation but it still has a 1960s kitchen in it which could do with replacing.</p> <p>JB said it would be good if the CBF could fund rural isolation projects and tech training to reduce exclusion. JM said this would come under the community health and wellbeing category.</p> <p>JB said it was good that the CBF boundary took into account parish council boundaries. DW said this was a result of stakeholder feedback and learning from other schemes.</p> <p>JM said that the project was looking to fund a small number of strategic projects this year ahead of the CBF becoming live.</p>
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	<p>JB asked if there had been any contact with the key people at Boston Borough Council to try and identify schemes. DW asked if JB could email JM the contact details for the relevant people and the council and she would get in touch.</p> <p>CB asked if the project could help a parish council looking to start a youth project. JB added that it would help combat anti-social behaviour. JM said that this would probably be more of a CBF project rather than one of the bigger, more strategic projects the project is looking to fund this year.</p> <p>SS said that the King Charles Coastal Path had a section that was overgrown. DW said that sounded like an ideal project to get an ODOW team of volunteers to look at clearing.</p> <p>JB said he had been approached by a football club that was doing well but didn't have enough pitches for all of the teams it was running. He asked if that would qualify for CBF funding. JM said possibly CBF funding, but not for the strategic projects this year.</p> <p>DW said that at this stage, they were largely looking for councillors to go back to their wards and parishes and make people aware that the funding would be coming on-stream so that projects could be identified. JM said that this year she was looking for a small number of big projects to fund.</p> <p>CB asked whether Boston in Bloom would qualify for funding. SS said they had just lost their main sponsor and would forward details to JM.</p> <p>JB asked about community events. JM said it possibly would, if they meet the criteria.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</b></p> <p>The next CLG is expected to be in the summer but Jenny Marsden will be in touch with details nearer the date. This email will come from <a href="mailto:contact@outerdowsing.com">contact@outerdowsing.com</a>, please ensure it is added to safe mailing lists.</p>

<b>Meeting Protocol</b>	
Distribute agenda before meeting	Fix responsibilities for each item
Start on time	Finish on time
Set out your ground rules	Publish minutes / actions
Stick to the agenda	Continuous improvement