



Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm Section 36C

Pre-application Consultation Report

June 2026



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Summary

In line with both the Scottish Government's 'Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 - February 2022' and Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED framework, in addition to all consultation activities conducted throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to engage with both statutory and non-statutory consultees, Boralex Limited ('Boralex') has undertaken three rounds of public consultation for its Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm Section 36C Application ('the Proposed Varied Development').

Consultation activity so far has included:

- a gate-check consultation process with the Energy Consents Unit (January 2025 and again in April 2026);
- offers to attend Carsphairn Community Council meetings;
- distribution of information/event postcards to all local properties;
- a dedicated project website with online consultation tool (www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk);
- a Freephone telephone number;
- community open days held in September 2024, March 2025 and March 2026.

The first round of community consultation was undertaken in September 2024, with further consultation events undertaken in March 2025 and again in March 2026. Boralex expects consultation activity to continue throughout the application process.

Local residents and other key stakeholders were invited to attend the open days. The first round was publicised via an information postcard sent out to all addresses (519) within the local area. In addition, advertisements were placed in the Galloway News, as well as being promoted by the Community Council via their minutes and posters sent to the Village Hall. The second and third rounds were again publicised via postcard mailing and media advertising.

At the Community Open Days members of the development team were on hand to explain the proposals and how further study had allowed Boralex to improve the existing consented wind farm development, along with energy policy more generally.

Those attending the events had the opportunity to discuss their views with the project team and complete feedback questionnaires. Local residents also had the opportunity to share their views via the project website, Community Council and Freephone telephone number.

A total of 55 people attended the open days (some to all rounds). Sixteen feedback forms were received in total, both on the days of the open days and via the online feedback form.

Consultation is on-going and will continue post submission.

1. Introduction

Boralex embraces community consultation; it is at the heart of its approach to development. This report provides detailed information regarding the Proposed Varied Development pre-application community consultation.

2. Framework for pre-application consultation, Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm Variation

Boralex's public consultation plans for the Proposed Varied Development were influenced by the Scottish Government's 'Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 - February 2022' alongside Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED framework (**Appendix 1**).

Both documents outline how applicants of major infrastructure projects should undertake pre-application consultation with the community. The aim of this procedure is to make sure that communities are made aware of, and have an opportunity to comment on, these types of development proposals before a formal application is made. This allows community views to be reflected in the process and gives the developer the opportunity to incorporate them where appropriate into the proposals before making a formal application.

The Guide outlines the consultation and involvement activities:

- Engagement at the earliest possible stage with any communities or groups who would be affected by the development proposal;
- Public notices on the project website and in local media; and
- Public Events (at least two public consultation events, with the final public event held at least 14 days after the first public event).

3. Boralex's approach to community involvement

Boralex's general approach to community involvement in projects includes the following:

- Early engagement and consultations with community councils and relevant interested community groups;
- Establishment of a dedicated project website;

- Production and circulation of printed information material for local residents;
- Information and dialogue via social media platforms (where available); and
- Hosting of community open days prior to submission of the planning application, when the development is at draft design stage.

4. Consultation

Consultation that has taken place so far at this pre-application stage has enabled Boralex to take forward its commitment to continuing the constructive relationship with all key stakeholders, including residents and local representatives within the local community. This has evolved over several years, since the start of the Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm development, and has facilitated changes to the project where possible in line with feedback received.

In order to consult on the proposal with the local community, Boralex has undertaken the following activities:

4.1 Key Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant wrote to Carsphairn Community Council in June 2024 to introduce the Proposed Varied Development and confirm submission of the Scoping Report. The Applicant met with members of the Carsphairn Community Council at the public exhibition in September 2024.

The Applicant then planned to attend the November meeting of Carsphairn Community Council to give feedback from the public exhibitions and a progress update on the project, however the Community Council indicated that it had a large agenda to fulfil and was content to have an email update, satisfied that the key issues of concern locally were fully understood by the Applicant.

4.2 Information Postcard

In August 2024, Boralex distributed 519 information postcards (**Appendix 2**) to the local community within Carsphairn and the wider Glenkens area. The postcards were posted via Royal Mail (1st class). The postcard provided an invitation to the first in-person open day as well as details of the online consultation page of the project website, overview/update of the project including site suitability and information promoting other contact methods. The postcard also stated that comments made to the applicant were not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submitted an

application there would be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers at that time.

Following the first round of consultation, Boralex sent a further postcard inviting residents to attend the second event in March 2025 and again in March 2026 where project updates were presented.

4.3 Freephone

The Freephone telephone number for direct enquiries relating to the proposal continues to be in use (0800 980 4299), enabling residents to speak to members of the project team and receive additional information.

4.4 Online Consultation Website

In September 2024 Boralex updated the project website www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk to provide information for residents and their representatives about the proposal to vary the consented Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm scheme and allowed them to give feedback by completing an online questionnaire or asking specific questions via info@shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk - the dedicated email facility.

The dedicated project consultation page (**Appendix 3**) provided:

- introduction to the consultation;
- information panels (**Appendix 4**);
- link to feedback form; and
- details of dedicated email address and freephone number.

Each subsequent event saw this consultation page updated with revised information panels (with the previous rounds being moved to a 'downloads' page for reference).

4.5 In-person Community Open Days

Three rounds of in-person open days presenting the proposals were held. The first round on 10th September 2024 from 1pm – 7pm at the Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn with the second community open day held on 12th March 2025 and the third on 17th March 2026 (also at the Lagwyne Hall from 1.00pm – 7.00pm). Copies of the exhibition information panels can be found in **Appendix 4** and an illustrative photograph taken at one of the open days in **Appendix 5**.

As well as being able to discuss the Proposed Varied Development, members of the development team were also able to discuss the wider issues of battery storage, climate change targets, energy security etc.

Publicity

Invitations to the open days were sent by postcard to all households (519) within the Carsphairn and wider Glenkens area, see **Appendix 2**.

In order to publicise the events to the wider community, press advertisements (**Appendix 6**) were placed in the Galloway News in the weeks commencing 26th August and 2nd September 2024 and the week of 6th March 2025. The advertisements also stated that comments made to the applicant were not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submitted an application there would be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers which the applicant would make known.

Posters (as per the newspaper advert) were also distributed to the Carsphairn Community Council and to the Lagwyne Village Hall.

Media

No press coverage of any of the open days was generated in the Galloway News at the time of the events or subsequently.

Attendance

Based on the open day register, 18 people attended the first round of open days, where they had the opportunity to inspect the draft proposal, discuss issues with the project team, provide feedback directly and complete a questionnaire (**Appendix 7**) and/or enquiry request form for return on the day or via FREEPOST.

13 people (some of whom had attended the first round) attended the second open day where further information on the proposal was presented and 24 people attended the third round where the finalised proposals were presented. Again, many were repeat visitors to the event.

5. Consultation Feedback

Throughout the community consultation programme Boralex received qualitative and quantitative feedback and listed below is a summary of the main concerns around the project and the updated information delivered as part of rounds two and three of consultation.

5.1 Postcard

In addition to inviting recipients to the open days, the postcard directed them to the dedicated consultation page on the project website and also provided a range of contact methods including Freepost, Freephone and email address.

5.2 Online Consultation Website

The Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm online consultation page went live in September 2024, a well-established site in place for over a decade, providing an overview of the project, and hosting an online consultation facility. To date, two consultation feedback forms have been submitted online.

5.3 Community Open Days

Discussion with visitors to the initial open day identified key concerns around several issues.

Having taken on board the comments and feedback received, a review of the project information was undertaken and further information on those topics was presented to the community at the second open day.

Open day opinion forms were completed by twelve individual attendees, seven of whom live within 5 km of the development.

In total, fourteen opinion forms were completed across the events and two were submitted online. Not all respondents completed the initial questions around whether or not they supported renewable energy in general, wind energy in particular and the project specifically. These questionnaires are taken into account in the overall results of the public consultation exercise. Copies of all returned open day questionnaires can be found in **Appendix 8**.

From those who did complete the initial questions, the forms provided the following results on whether or not respondents support the Proposed Varied Development:

First open day		Second open day		Third open day	
Very supportive	1 (20%)	Very supportive	2 (40%)	Very supportive	2 (66.6%)
Supportive	2 (40%)	Supportive	3 (60%)	Supportive	0 (0%)
Undecided	1 (20%)	Undecided	0 (100%)	Undecided	0 (0%)
Opposed	1 (20%)	Opposed	0 (0%)	Opposed	0 (0%)
Very opposed	0 (0%)	Very opposed	0 (0%)	Very opposed	1 (33.3%)
Total	5 (100%)		5 (100%)		3 (100%)

5.4 Issues

Feedback questionnaires asked respondents if they had any specific issues or concerns about the proposal and a list of possible issues was provided. In addition, the overriding feeling was that the local area had a growing number of onshore wind proposals being put forward and that there was still a high level of concern around the construction impacts of projects.

Construction traffic issues were extremely important to members of the local community given experience they had had with earlier developments, and at each of the open days, the transport consultant was on hand to answer questions and take on board feedback.

Additionally, concern was raised by the closest residents around the increased impacts they felt would be evident with the varied proposal.

Not material to the application, but extremely important to the local communities is the issue of community benefit, which Boralex confirmed would continue to be in line with the Scottish Government Guidance and involve both Carsphairn and the wider Glenkens area.

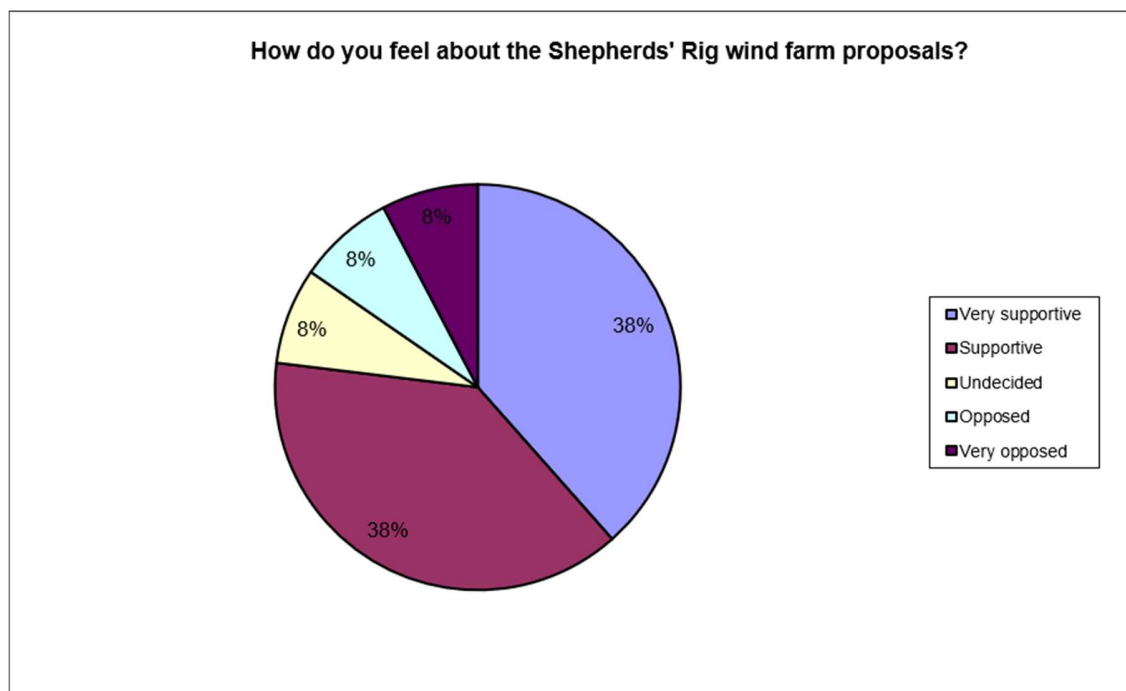
This feedback prompted a review of the project information which was updated, discussed with the relevant statutory consultees and presented to the community at the second open day. Further studies were carried out, and a final revised proposal was presented at the third open day.

5.5 Summary of Feedback

Overall feedback for the Proposed Varied Development, taking into account all consultation methods can be summarised as follows:

Proposed Development Overall Results

	Website	Exhibitions	Total	
Very Supportive	2	3	5	38%
Supportive	0	5	5	38%
Undecided	0	1	1	8%
Opposed	0	1	1	8%
Very Opposed	0	1	1	8%
Total	2	11	13	100%



6. Response methods to Consultation Feedback

Further to the consultation process outlined in this report, the following activities have or are being undertaken in order to respond to requests for further information or feedback received:

Web/email

Everyone who submits a question or query either via the open days, website questionnaire or by email direct have or will be responded to electronically and this will continue throughout the planning process.

7. Future Consultation and Community Liaison

Next Steps – Pre and Post Submission

Boralex has built a constructive relationship with local people throughout the many years of developing the Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm and is committed to the continued involvement of and consultation with the community and other stakeholders throughout the planning process for this next element of development.

Even though the pre-application consultation has been completed, this does not mean that the consultation will end. Boralex is committed to further consultation during the planning determination period, ensuring that local residents and stakeholders continue to be involved in the process and are kept informed of the proposal's progress.

Application information

On submission, Boralex will provide all of the relevant information to the local community in order for them to be able to make representations in respect of the application.

Stakeholder/Interest group briefings

Members of the Carsphairn Community Council, Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd and the Glenkens Development Trust all attended the open days and will continue to be updated as the application process progresses.

Media relations

Media relations activity will be ongoing. Once the application has been submitted, a news release detailing the submitted proposal and representation contact information will be issued. Boralex will respond to media enquiries and requests for information throughout the determination period.

Ongoing response to queries

Boralex will continue to respond to queries that are received via the various consultation channels i.e. freephone telephone number, freepost address, dedicated email address, and website.

Community Liaison

On submission of the application, Boralex will inform the appropriate community groups, along with those individuals who have already engaged with Boralex and offer to attend future meetings in order to keep the community apprised of the project during development.