

Neven Point Wind Farm

Welcome

Welcome to the latest consultation and update on the proposed Neven Point Wind Farm, located at the south end of Eday.

We look forward to working with the Eday community to develop the wind farm responsibly, and to deliver tangible benefits to local people and businesses in the short and longer terms. This is at the core of the way we work.

Eday sits in the midst of an incredible renewable energy resource – in the wind and in the sea. As the world embraces renewable energy to create a sustainable future, we believe that the Neven Point Wind Farm is an opportunity for the island and its people to benefit and prosper.

A public exhibition was previously carried out in February 2019. Since then, the proposal has developed and we hope this exhibition will:

- Provide an update on our proposal for the site
- Identify and understand local issues and concerns
- Provide an opportunity to comment on the current layout
- Detail opportunities that the wind farm can provide

Consultation is an important part of the development process and we welcome your feedback and ideas. Please complete a feedback form available at the public exhibition or online.



About GreenPower

GreenPower is a leading, Scottish-owned, independent developer, owner and operator of renewable energy projects including onshore wind, hydro, hydrogen and solar.

It was founded in 2000, and has a specialist team leading development, construction, acquisitions and operation of renewable energy projects.

GreenPower's objective is to play our part in tackling the climate emergency by developing and operating projects that directly reduce carbon emissions and deliver economic and social benefits to local communities and the wider Scottish economy.

For more information see www.greenpowerinternational.com or contact the team to discuss further at: enquiries@greenpowerinternational.com

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Proposed Development

The proposed Neven Point Wind Farm is located on the Greentoft farmland and Ward Hill area on the most southern point of the Orkney Island of Eday.

Initial feasibility and design work indicated that the Site had the potential to accommodate in the region of 10 turbines, however this was later reduced to 8 turbines during the scoping process.

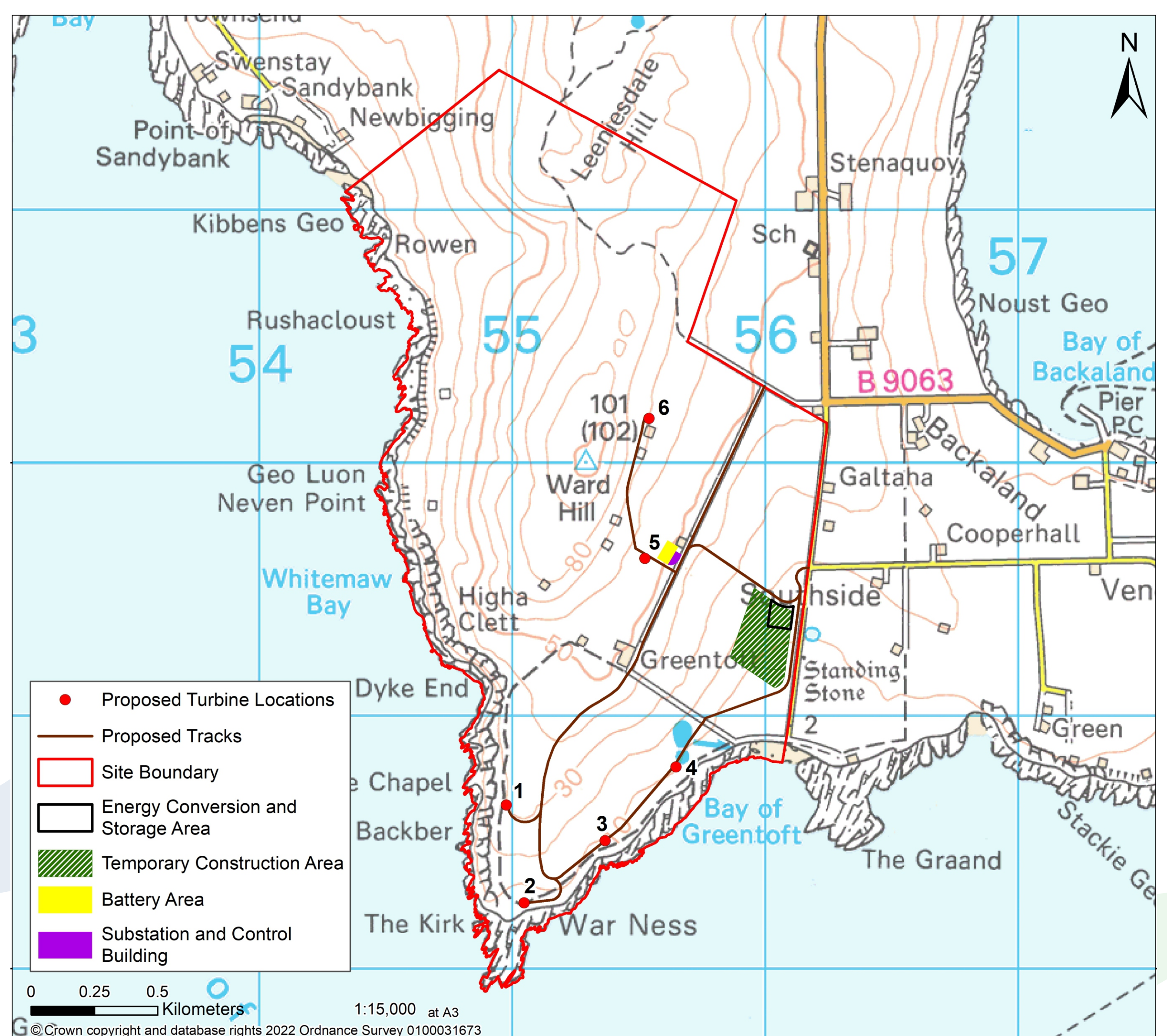
Following the submission of Scoping in December 2019, a wide range of survey work has been carried out to date to determine turbine locations, including:

- Ornithology and ecology surveys
- Noise assessments
- Visual impact assessments
- Archaeology surveys
- Hydrology, geology and hydrogeology surveys
- Telecommunication assessments

We are now in the process of finalising some technical assessments to determine the number and precise locations of turbines. Consultation is an important part of this final design process, and we would appreciate your feedback on our current design iteration shown here.

The main proposed components of the development are:

- Up to 6 turbines with a tip height up to 180m
- Turbine foundations, crane hardstandings and temporary construction area
- New and upgraded access tracks across the site
- Energy conversion and storage facilities
- Anemometry mast for wind monitoring
- Transformers and an onsite substation
- Temporary borrow pits



Indicative Layout Plan

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Development Process & Timeline

We are currently in the process of finalising baseline and technical surveys which will inform the final layout design, ensuring that it minimises effects on the local and wider environment. The project will then be evaluated and presented with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning consent application.

The proposed development has been in progress since 2018, which is described through the timeline below:

2018 - Site Selection and Project Initiation

The project site was originally identified by the previous directors of Neven Point Wind, who identified initial suitability and potential for a wind farm development.

The project was then formally initiated in 2018, where Aquatera were appointed as lead consultants to commence baseline surveys and to progress the project into scoping.

2019 - Scoping Submission

A scoping report was submitted to Orkney Islands Council in December 2019. This outlined the project, proposed survey methodologies and invited the views and feedback from consultees and stakeholders.

2019 to present - Technical Assessments

Following feedback from the scoping report and agreement of survey methodologies, technical assessments were commenced. These include hydrology assessments, landscape and visual, noise and many more. The baseline data from these assessments evaluates the effects in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and informs the layout design.

Current Stage - Preparation of the EIAR

Once all technical assessments have been carried out and all baseline data has been gathered, the EIA Report will be drafted to evaluate and present the effects of the proposed development. Multiple chapters including noise, landscape and visual, ornithology, ecology, transport, all form part of the EIAR which will accompany the application for consent. Details of the EIAR are available on the Environmental Impact Assessment exhibition board.

2022 - Submission of Planning Application

A planning application is currently proposed to be submitted to the Orkney Islands Council in December 2022 under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act.

Further community consultation and liaison will be carried out post planning submission.

2023 - Planning Decision

The planning application, EIAR and associated documents will be reviewed by the Orkney Islands Council along with other consultees before a decision is made.

2025 to 2027 - Construction

Following a positive planning decision, a construction programme will be drafted, outlining the scheduling of works, traffic and transport schedules, associated upgrade works to piers and roads and turbine delivery dates.

2028 onwards - Operation

We are applying for permission to operate the wind farm for a 40 year period. The community fund will be provided throughout this period.



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Assessing the Effects

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken to identify and assess the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed development. This is used to shape the design and final layout along with any potential mitigation measures. This includes, amongst others:

Landscape and Visual:

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is carried out to consider effects on visual amenity and the wider landscape, noting any changes in the characteristics and qualities of the landscape as a result of the proposed development.

A preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram indicates the number of turbines theoretically visible within the study area. This does not include potential screening from buildings or vegetation, which can often reduce the number of turbines visible.



Ornithology:

This assessment considers any potential effect on local and migratory birds. Extensive surveys have been carried out since 2019 up to August 2022. All surveys have been carried out in accordance with best practice guidance and consultation with NatureScot.

Extensive surveys on raptors and skuas in particular have been completed to identify adequate buffers and distancing of turbine locations. Mitigation measures will also be applied during both the construction and operational period.

Ecology:

Ecology surveys have been ongoing since 2020, with additional updated surveys carried out this year. The potential effect of the proposal on habitats and protected species will be assessed in the EIAR.

Assessments to date have concluded that there will be no significant impacts and mitigation will be embedded to reduce any potential future impacts on ecological features. Guidelines and good practice measures will be followed through the construction, operation, and decommissioning period.



Cultural Heritage:

This assessment considers potential effects of the proposal on cultural heritage assets in the vicinity and wider area. The layout and proposed infrastructure have been designed to avoid direct impacts on cultural heritage assets within the site. Indirect impacts taking into consideration the setting of cultural heritage interests will also be assessed.



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Assessing the Effects

Noise and Shadowflicker:

This assessment considers the effects of both construction and operational noise, including cumulative impacts with other neighbouring wind farms.

Ongoing noise assessments will ensure turbines are adequately distanced from nearby sensitive locations and where required mitigation will be put in place to ensure that noise limits are not breached.

A shadowflicker assessment is carried out. Mitigation will be embedded throughout the operational period to reduce any significant effects at nearby sensitive locations.

Noise limits are commonly restricted to around 35 dB at residential properties.

Source/Activity	Indicative Noise Level dB(A)
Threshold of hearing	0
Leaves rustling	10
Whisper	20
Refrigerator humming	40
Normal conversation	60
Vacuum cleaner	80
Lawn mower	90
Chain saw	110
Threshold of pain	140

Hydrology, geology and hydrogeology:

This assessment considers the hydrological, geological, and hydrogeological characteristics of the proposed development site and includes sensitive areas and buffers within the layout design.

The site is used for agricultural purposes with large section used for grazing or to grow arable crops, with soils and peat modified for existing use. Known areas of peat have been avoided within the current layout and any future iterations will avoid areas of deep peat as far as possible.



Aviation and Telecommunication:

This assessment considers potential effects on aviation interests, both civil and military. These include consultation with the MoD, HIAL and the CAA.

Turbines in excess of 150m require night-time aviation lighting. An assessment of the visual impacts of the lighting will be included in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which will include night-time visualisations and photomontages. Mitigation to minimise lighting is currently being considered.

Telecommunications operations within the vicinity of the site will be assessed and avoided where possible to ensure there are no direct impacts on existing operations.

Socioeconomics:

This considers potential social and economic effects that the proposed development will have at a local, regional and national level. These include economic and supply chain benefits during the construction and operational period of the proposed development. This is set out in more detail on other panels.



Traffic and Transport:

This considers the impact on the traffic and ferry network during the construction, operational and decommissioning period. Mitigation will be embedded throughout with good practice guidelines followed. Where required a Transport Management Plan will be set out in significant detail which Orkney Islands Council would need to approve as a condition of planning consent.

Upgrade works to the existing access routes on Eday will be explored with local residents to ensure any enhancement works are beneficial to the islands needs.

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What's in it for Eday and for Orkney?

We recognise that there is the potential for any development project to have positive as well as negative impacts on places and the people that live there. We are committed to working closely with the Eday community to ensure that you are involved in the process and make sure the project has real, meaningful and tangible benefits for you, and for Eday's future prosperity.



Orkney has been at the forefront of renewable energy industry for decades, and has benefited from jobs and global reputation that has come with this. This project follows in this tradition, and we want to ensure that Eday benefits from the role that new wind power can bring not only to address climate change but to improve and support local people and facilities.



Electricity Grid Upgrade

Neven Point Wind will be an important part of the pipeline of projects that will support the construction, expected to be completed in 2027, of the Orkney transmission link. In addition, the project will lead to the establishment of a new Grid Supply Point ("GSP") on Eday. The GSP will facilitate the export of the generated power, from both the Neven and Faray projects, via a new transmission connection to Eday and corresponding new infrastructure established at Finstown on the Orkney Mainland.



Opportunities for Other Generators

The existing Eday electricity network and its interface with the new GSP is the responsibility of the grid operator SSE Networks. The establishment of the GSP on Eday, however, may well offer an opportunity to consider how other generators might be freed from current constraints on how much they can export, including the Eday Community Turbine. GreenPower will work constructively with other island generators to explore this opportunity.

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Community Investment

GreenPower will provide an opportunity for local people and the community to invest as partners in the project. There are sources of finance available to communities - organisations like Local Energy Scotland can support local people to do this.



Kilchrenan, Inverinan and Dalavich Coastal Rowing Club (now Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club) was able to purchase a new skiff thanks to funding from the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Community Benefit

GreenPower will provide £5,000 per MW or equivalent of installed capacity to the community every year. If 30MW is built, that would be £150,000 per year, for whatever priorities local people want to see the funds applied to. For example, there may be opportunities to:

- Address fuel poverty through energy bill discounts
- Increase energy efficiency in homes
- Invest in jobs
- Improve housing stock
- Promote tourism or enhance local services

There are many opportunities, and the proposed development could make a significant contribution towards these.

There is also the potential for jobs in the administration of funds e.g. project development officer or fund manager working in or with existing community groups.



Drumduff Wind Farm (GreenPower & Thrive Renewables) provided funding towards the board walk at Blawhorn National Nature Reserve neighbouring the Drumduff Wind Farm creating more paths and links for the local community and visitors to enjoy.

We are keen to hear views on how we should manage and prioritise the financial benefits and how these should be dispersed in the community.



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Local Jobs and Services

Wherever possible we seek to employ local people and local services during construction and operation to maximise local economic opportunities.

During the construction period of around 12 – 24 months there will be local Eday and wider Orkney supply chain opportunities, examples of these include:

- Concrete and aggregate supply
- Plant providers and operators
- Groundworks
- Local accommodation, shops and catering
- Fencing
- Apprenticeships



Wherever we work we look to build genuine long-standing relationships with our neighbours and to invest in these communities. For example, GreenPower's Carraig Gheal wind farm in Argyll used towers manufactured locally, and local contractors provide survey work, IT support, fencing, signage, accommodation, civils maintenance of infrastructure, including tracks, culverts/bridges, hardstanding and drainage to name just some.



Ahead of construction we will work collaboratively with Orkney Islands Council, HIE and other renewable developers and operators in Orkney to maximise local contract opportunities. We will hold 'meet the buyer' days and operate a services and contractor register for local businesses so they can be identified and encouraged to get involved.



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What Else is Possible?

Beyond the short term construction activity, the project has the potential to also secure:



- Opportunities for training and jobs in the maintenance and management of the wind farm – potentially over 40 years or more
- Upgrades to the pier and waiting room facilities including potentially moorings, wave screening and dredging
- Hydrogen production for farming, transport and other applications
- Road improvements, including potentially the Westside Road depending on grid connection location
- Potential positive impact on viability of transport services e.g., Sustaining and increasing case for air service and improved ferry services through increased passenger demands

As part of the planning application process GreenPower is required to analyse the potential social and economic benefits which can be achieved, and commit to specific improvements/benefits. Feedback at this stage on what the community priorities would be should the development go ahead would be extremely useful.



Four grants have been awarded to Bridge of Orchy Village Hall for specific projects working towards the total renovation of the hall including the replacement of windows, a new heating system, new flooring and a new fire escape. A total of £200,000 has been raised for the hall, kickstarted by the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund initial grant.

These are just examples and opportunities, and we need to hear from you to understand what would be the most impactful benefits for you, your family, and your community.

A number of opportunities for positive transformation are possible, nothing is off the table, we want to get your ideas into the mix.

