

Analysis of the postal survey - Daviot Wind Farm (West Coast Energy)

A total of 202 surveys were received, out of a total of 475 being distributed with the May edition of the Strathnairn Community Council Newsletter; giving a response rate of 42.5%. The newsletter was distributed by both post and hand delivery, and the survey response card was provided to each household. Each survey card was pre-paid to increase the response rate.

An analysis of each survey question is now provided:

Q1. Are you aware of the plans by West Coast Energy to develop a wind farm at Daviot?

Respondents were asked to indicate: Yes or No. A significant majority of respondents (95%) indicated that they were aware of the plans by West Coast Energy to develop a wind farm at Daviot.

	No.	%
Yes	192	95
No	10	5

Q2. Do you agree that the Daviot Wind Farm is an acceptable location for a wind farm?

A list of responses were available for respondents to select: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree and No Opinion. A significant proportion (82%) of respondents indicated that the location was not suitable for a wind farm development.

	No.	%
Strongly Agree	18	9
Agree	16	8
Disagree	20	10
Strongly Disagree	145	72
No Opinion	3	1

Q3. Do you support the proposal for the Daviot Wind Farm?

Responses available were: Yes, No or Don't Know. A significant proportion (84%) of respondents indicated that they did not support the proposal.

	No.	%
Yes	28	14
No	169	84
Don't know	5	2

Q4. Which area do you live in?

Respondents were asked to indicate which area they lived closest to: Castletown, Daviot East, Daviot West, Inverarnie, Farr and Croachy. Analysis shows that responses were received from across the community, with a greater response from residents in the Daviot East area.

	No.	%
Castletown	11	6
Daviot West	36	18
Daviot East	64	32
Farr	36	18
Inverarnie	35	18
Croachy	18	9

Two of the surveys received did not show the location of the household.

Q5. Do you have any other comments?

Over half of respondents provided further comments, as detailed.

	No.	%
Yes	116	57
No	86	43

Responses received - negative:

- ▶ very concerned about property values, noise levels, vibration and safety on the A9. No amount of benefit can make up for these factors
- ▶ lack of animals on hill at Farr after thirty wind farm
- ▶ siting wind turbines so close to habitation should be stopped. this is not an acceptable location
- ▶ yes, its about time after all this time that people became aware about this license to print money - for some! these turbines are just plain outrageous and uneconomic to say the least
- ▶ worst location in the Highlands - especially when Farr is being payed not to produce
- ▶ ridiculous that Daviot is being targeted. should change the name to turbine central!!
- ▶ we are not happy with the location of the wind farm. it will not be attractive on the landscape. it should be in a less visual area!
- ▶ fewer and moved location would be more acceptable (pictures were not clear)
- ▶ give some thought to the number of people who are resident within 2 kilometers of the turbines
- ▶ wind farms are paid to be erected paid to be turned off during low peak times here is the sense
- ▶ too many windfarms/proposed wind farms in this area already
- ▶ windfarms are inefficient in their energy production and noisy and unsightly and should only be sited offshore it at all
- ▶ i don't normally object to windfarms but this one is so close to the community it will be a real blot on the landscape
- ▶ i do not believe that wind power is sustainable and it encroaches on our scenery and noise pollution
- ▶ planning laws have not been adhered to and too much planning is lax and not environmentally sound
- ▶ national grid infrastructure has to be upgraded to prevent turbines being 'switched off' - as recently demonstrated at Farr wind farm and Whitelee
- ▶ we are against the windfarm being visible from the village and the A9
- ▶ better built near to centres of high use
- ▶ dangerous proximity to A9 with potential for increased accidents. high visibility to a large number of residents. too close to residential properties. a scare on beautiful landscape already ***** (word not understandable) by a disproportionate number of turbines
- ▶ we are not against windfarms but feel that this one is in an unsuitable location
- ▶ windfarms are of doubtful value practically or economically. by building them we damage our geographical heritage and compromise our main basis for long term economic survival
- ▶ outrageous
- ▶ very concerned about impact on quiet life of community and economic impact on housing etc. unfortunate that those lucky enough to own land in this beautiful area are willing to sacrifice the rest of the community for their own financial gain
- ▶ they are planned for far too a prominent position and very close to several homes and i am totally against it
- ▶ the windmill project is not suitable to be so close to properties and would be a traffic hazard for motorists on A9. will spoil a beautiful vista

- ▶ Strathnairn is increasingly subject to scattered wind farm development - a line must be drawn somewhere! more consideration should be given to visual and noise impact
- ▶ these turbines would distract drivers on the A9 already a dangerous road at the Daviot junction. there are too many proposed turbines in the Strathnairn area
- ▶ totally unacceptable location. already too many large windfarms in Scotland build them in England. where does the energy come from when wind does not blow no more should be built. the Scottish and UK government need to listen to the experts!
- ▶ we understand and support the benefits of wind farms but never at this location. the proposal would not be approved as they will be a dangerous eyesore!!
- ▶ if this eyesore is approved it will be an absolute disgrace. surely the Highland Council planners will see sense this time along with the councillors
- ▶ this windfarm will greatly impair local views of the countryside. most windfarms are more obscured than this one
- ▶ Farr wind farm owners have been paid £260,000 to shut down its operation - why do we need a further windfarm in Strathnairn?
- ▶ i strongly believe that this development will cause irreparable damage to our community
- ▶ new native woodland with high biodiversity interest will be compromised, high landscape impact and in a area where one large and another proposed large windfarms (which are less intrusive)
- ▶ yes, these windfarms are of no benefit to the community. the compensation payments are also of no benefit to the majority of the community as only certain residents qualify to receive the money
- ▶ establishment costs of wind farms and their detrimental environmental and aesthetic impact far outweigh any so-called 'green energy' benefits
- ▶ the wind farm is located in the wrong place as it will dominate Daviot, and i thought the council were against the turbines being seen from the A9 corridor, this will be in everyones full view from the A9
- ▶ proposed development does not comply with Highland Council local plan nor current consultation document for locality. over 100 turbines potentially in Strathnairn/ Strathdearn is enough -no more
- ▶ just not so close and large a view of it
- ▶ driver distraction is a major risk especially at Daviot east and Ft. Augustus road junctions
- ▶ the beautiful and picturesque Daviot landscape will be totally ruined if this windfarm goes ahead. it must be stopped! we are horrified!!
- ▶ Yes, there should be no more wind farms - they are destroying the landscape. the wind farms are either being switched off because the grid is overloaded or their electricity production is being boosted by generators on site when there is no wind!
- ▶ more care needs to be taken with the sighting and siteing of windfarms
- ▶ such a development will have a detrimental impact to the area and will impact on property prices - the worst of commercial ***** (word not recognisable) at the cost to the local community
- ▶ this highly obtrusive development would ruin one of the iconic views in the area (Daviot church & Strathnairn), and would be readily visible to over half the population of the Highland region. also it would be likely to reduce property values, jeopardise road safety on the A9, have a detrimental effect on tourism in the area. affect wildlife (black grouse, wildcat?) and cause a noise nuisance to nearby residents

- ▶ the planners made a huge effort to hide Farr windfarm (successfully) so why now allow this outrageous development. we hope it will be thrown out. it is merely to make West Coast Energy, Gary MacDonald and Mr. Coutts very wealthy. It is not for any environmental benefits (-which windfarms do not provide!)
- ▶ the Daviot farm planning application for a new farm road is just a pre-emptive scheme to install a service road for the wind farm!!
- ▶ approve of wind farms but not location of this one as close as it is to A9 and neighboring houses
- ▶ do not agree with wind turbines at all. only being built because of subsidy and bribing local communities with community benefit fund
- ▶ terrible location for a windfarm!! community council should fight this one big style!!
- ▶ the cost of producing electricity from wind power is higher than by any other means of production and without tax payers subsidies would be completely un-economic
- ▶ Simon Green quote 'there are a lot of trees and commercial forestry which would screen turbines' there are no trees! why should these go ahead when locally there was money paid to stop production of turbines which was a ridiculous amount. also the impact on local wildlife such as golden eagles
- ▶ only a few individuals will benefit from these things -the rest of us subsidise them. even if every hill in Scotland was covered with them, we would still have had no electricity last winter! windmills represent the economics of the mad house
- ▶ it will make an ugly blot on the landscape
- ▶ windfarms are already outdated!
- ▶ no amount of community donation (bribe) from the company could every off-set the damage this would do. we all want to be energy conscious but windfarms are not the way. soon tourists will be specifically looking for places to go on holiday with no turbines - lets keep Daviot turbine free!
- ▶ we have enough wind farms around here
- ▶ no more windfarms!!!
- ▶ windfarms are not as efficient and energy saving as first thought. it is also a potentially dangerous location. it is not common for these farms to be so close to habitation and a major road. the person on whose land this is located would receive substantial amount of money. offering money to the community to sugar the pill is an insult
- ▶ no more windfarms
- ▶ although it would be a good use of poor land, the visual impact makes this an unsuitable site
- ▶ far to near the houses. they would be between east facing houses and rising sun causing flicker
- ▶ no
- ▶ no no no no no no no why spoil the beautiful view. plenty other remote land more suitable away from houses and main roads
- ▶ no
- ▶ to near the houses. waken up is wisdom be wise! let's say a big NO
- ▶ to many windfarms in the district
- ▶ plenty other sites am sure, away from view
- ▶ no
- ▶ feel that this windfarm is far to close to A9, not only do they distract motorists but this is the getaway to the highlands
- ▶ no windfarm, the council must fight this all the way

- ▶ generally not opposed to windfarms but this one seems too close to the Daviot community
- ▶ in principle i'm not against renewable energy but this will be a blot on our beautiful landscape and an ugly intrusion over our homes, devaluing our property
- ▶ not only unsightly but very inefficient!
- ▶ all these wind farms are a waste of time
- ▶ gateway to the highlands, increasing arguments against environmental benefits reducing, scarring landscape, not fit for purpose
- ▶ i feel it is dreadful what they are doing to the landscape of the Highlands, it wont do tourism any good at all
- ▶ well it think they'll be eyesore and ruin landscape of countryside
- ▶ tourists do not come to Scotland to see the growing number of wind farms! also concerned about property devaluation and the effect on local business - i.e. b&b, guesthouses
- ▶ they are uneconomical and a blot on the landscape and ruining our tourism. Daviot will be littered with turbines
- ▶ in principle we agree with wind energy, but not to such a statement so close to Daviot
- ▶ i am concerned my health problems will be aggravated by the shadow flicker, which will affect my house directly
- ▶ development to close to housing etc. other more suitable areas available. noise of turbines intrusive in peoples lives
- ▶ turbines are inefficient and provide expensive energy
- ▶ too many windfarms proposed for this area
- ▶ stop spoiling the highlands to produce energy for southerners. more thought needs to go into long term plan for energy production
- ▶ not happy that we are going to be looking at 13 turbines for the next 20-25 yrs. what a lovely gateway to Inverness it is going to make not!!
- ▶ it appears the turbines will be seen very plainly from the A9 - very intrusive, we support renewable energy but this plan seems to be in wrong location
- ▶ we do not need another windfarm as there are already one within 2 miles of here and have enough noise from that one!!!
- ▶ Strathnairn's beautiful scenery has already been trashed by wind turbines, quarries, pylons and massive exotic conifer plantations - this idiotic development is a step too far - especially for such a discredited technology as proposed
- ▶ no windmills
- ▶ we live next to the A9 at Daviot west and witness serious road accidents occurring. its my belief that this windfarm will increase the risk of further accidents
- ▶ windfarms are not the answer to green energy, power harnessed from the sea is the way forward
- ▶ ***** (writing not legible)
- ▶ there are many serious and concerning issues related to onshore windfarms, but the daviot proposal is totally unsuitable; far too close to the village and peoples homes and would dominate homes and lives visually and noise wise (plus many other valid objections)
- ▶ with tourism being a major contributor to the Scots economy, this industry is totally inappropriate especially on the approach to the Highland capital
- ▶ it would ruin the area for no real reduction in CO2 production. the development is far too close to houses and the A9

- ▶ we have simply been misled over the value and efficiency of windfarms. they are simply to make money!!

Responses received - neutral:

- ▶ not enough information is available yet. until we have the facts, it is too difficult to understand the proposals. the 'anti' photomontages are disingenuous and deceitful and the proposal has yet to be submitted - wait! how can the council ask for views before the proposal has been submitted - this is crazy and not remotely democratic
- ▶ Clava the forgotten end of the strath
- ▶ i have not seen any location/site plans for this proposed wind farm
- ▶ very disappointed to see the very false info and unprofessional photos on the back of the newsletter
- ▶ disappointed on the advert on the back page of the newsletter
- ▶ 1. will the power generated directly benefit Scottish people? 2. why are other european countries dismantling wind generators?
- ▶ just too much too close to houses and A9. a smaller development may be ok

Responses received - positive:

- ▶ hopefully if the wind farm is successful it will provide some employment
- ▶ its better than a nuclear power station on the door step!
- ▶ i see no reason why residents of Farr, Croachy and Inverarnie should have any say in this
- ▶ these wind turbines will not detract from the scenery as on a grand scale 13 turbines are a tiny spot on the landscape and are great talking point on a long road
- ▶ more and more houses are built in the Strathnairn area - even though only few profit from that, we accept it. why should we oppose a project producing renewable energy from which we all profit?
- ▶ i support this kind of energy development
- ▶ i think wind turbines are rather elegant - i prefer them to sheep
- ▶ windfarms should evenly distributed along the strath if we are to have them
- ▶ new technologies must be tried in order to replace those that are becoming less viable. only by use, research and development can they become more efficient and accepted as normal. was there such opposition to the hydro board when they built dams and erected pylons to supply the electricity we so depend on now?
- ▶ i agree with comments with safety issue's associated with junctions on the A9. if this problem was addressed i.e. (overpass/underpass) i would have no objection to the wind farm
- ▶ wind farms are preferable to nuclear or fossil fuel plants - we all consume energy so must accept the need for these developments
- ▶ i am in great favor of protecting, within reason. the wild and beautiful parts of our land. Strathnairn has already suffered hugely from insensitive (and inconsistent) planning decisions relative mostly to housing. i would rather a development here if it protects an unspoilt area. as my neighbour said a few years ago, you don't own the view!! plus money and jobs to the area