

From: Friends of The Clyde <friendsoftheclyde@gmail.com>

Date: 28 June 2019 at 17:48:37 BST

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Peel Ports Marine Licence Application.

Response to Peel Consultation on Hunterston

From: Friends of the Firth of Clyde

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Friends of the Firth of Clyde welcome safe and sustainable economic development which builds on the local economy we have. We were heartened when it was mooted that the site was going to be used for high tech renewable and green energy. This is a perfect solution to harness the benefits of the connectivity to the grid, the western link and the skills and knowledge already available at Hunterston PARC.

**HOWEVER - this Master Plan could not have been further from this vision.**

We welcome full and meaningful community engagement on progressing this further. As a community it is useful to note that the Master Plan as it stands presents a threat to the way of life and environment we all enjoy and for this reason can invoke very emotional responses. When we suggest meaningful engagement, we might suggest the following actions:

- Peel should be open and transparent, within commercial sensitivities, to the community. For instance, mapping out your proposals or ideas in more detail and signposting us to existing case studies and documentation. The community need to paint a picture of what it is you are proposing and what impact this could have on our environment. As a specific example the Master Plan contained 9 pages / 110 on the proposed developments. We know these were just ideas, but much more detail was available via the Atkins Case Study in the public domain on the LNG proposal. If communities have to go fishing and investing time unearthing information it does not build trust or open relationships.
- When planning community involvement consider using the Liaison Committee to advise about format and timing.
- Consider a thorough briefing to the community with a presentation and Q&A rather than a more intimidating walk in session.

- Invite community groups to respond openly at the briefing based on pre-meetings. This could reduce opposition.
- Highlight your true motivations – such as you are only interested in shipping?
- Highlight areas of flexibility.
- Build trust with factual communication – better to be upfront than give false expectations.
- Put yourself in the shoes of communities and consider the impact.
- Don't try to market to communities. The exec summary was a meaningless document for residents. The community fund is of no interest and inappropriately timed at this stage.
- Don't brag to local press and don't make misleading statements – for instance, be more conservative with job projections and use toned down language, suggestions of housing booms are unlikely and actually don't tend to benefit the community.
- Try to make sure your documents are accurate- the Master Plan is so flawed with many basic errors.
- Don't ask biased questions aimed at getting the answers you want in questionnaires. Again this is Peel trying to market to communities. You should be asking communities about their motivations and areas of flexibility.
- Accept that in the past and recently Peel have not behaved in a way which is collaborative or caring. Although you may wish to be given a fresh start, you should build trust and respect first. You can't whitewash your history as our neighbour. You need to be upfront and highlight your own previous flaws and how you will address them going forward.
- You are the custodians of the SSSI. Demonstrate that you actually know what value the SSSI makes to the environment and food chain.

We felt the Peel Consultation Document was deeply flawed and so attach a consultation we undertook ourselves. We hope this is helpful to you and do hope you use it. Please view the results of the survey so far with this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-QTJWBN9V/>

In response to the proposals suggested by Peel, here are our positions:

### **1. LNG Terminal and Gas Power Station**

Scotland has declared a Climate Emergency and rightly so. Liquid Natural Gas or methane is a fossil fuel, in abundance in the global market currently due to fracking. Although it burns cleaner than coal, the whole environmental cost is similar to coal.

On safety grounds we cannot support a proposal for such developments so close to local communities and nuclear power stations.

From a moral and ethical stance, we do not believe it would be appropriate to ban fracking in Scotland but at the same time endorse the import from developing and other countries to their environmental cost.

This plan threatens the 10% or 4,000 local jobs in tourism. It threatens life - as the proposals are totally incompatible with each other and unsafe - and it threatens the environment.

It would lead to significant environmental risk and an unacceptable increase in HGV transport on local roads which are unsuited to such traffic even at current levels.

**CONCLUSION: We will strongly oppose these developments.**

## **2. Marine Decommissioning**

The management of the recent planning process has built significant distrust and anxiety in the community. Peel have gone to huge lengths to avoid an EIA. Public documents and planning applications have been riddled with misinformation and mistakes as well as being in conflict with previously communicated documents.

This proposal will cause widespread environmental damage, pose risks to health, generate significant HGV traffic and have a detrimental impact on tourism.

**CONCLUSION: We will continue to strongly oppose this proposal.**

## **3. Concrete Batching**

Known toxic and environmental concerns.

**CONCLUSION: We will be unlikely to support this.**

## **4. Train Manufacturing, House Manufacturing, Renewables Manufacturing**

Limited information has been provided on these proposals, but they would be considered subject to the manufacturing being undercover, with agreed and rigorously enforced measures in place to limit transmitted noise, transportation of materials and manufactured products by sea, no impact on the SSSI and environment, and transparent engagement with local communities on the true opportunities presented by any such proposals.

**CONCLUSION: We will consider support subject to more information and an open dialogue.**

## **5. Plastics Recycling and Aquaculture**

Information provided is known to be flawed. There is a concern about HGV traffic and plastics fires.

**CONCLUSION: More information to be provided.**

**In Summary:**

Prior to future publications local communities wish to be assured that:

- Residents' health, safety and quality of life, and protection of the environment inc SSSI, are considered to be paramount and will be prioritised before profit
- Heavy goods transportation by road has been honestly appraised and avoided.
- High quality, safe, skilled and sustainable jobs are actually likely.
- All proposed developments will promote & enhance the outstandingly beautiful natural assets of the area and support rather than detract from the existing economy.
- All proposed developments are compatible with the Scottish Government target of achieving a Net Zero Carbon Future by 2045

**Yours faithfully**

**Friends of the Firth of Clyde.**