

Leadhills Community Council - Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting

10 July 2025

Present (LCC): Steve Johnstone (SJ), Margaret Harley (MH), Bryan Turpin (BT), Nigel Davies (ND), Stuart Marsh (SM), Suzie McGraw (SMcG), Charmaine Gittens (CG) and Gerard Godfrey (GG)

Seven Members of the Public were also present

Meeting commenced at 19h45

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 SJ welcomed the Leadhills Community Council members and members of public to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Joshua Howard (JH) and Gordon Ross (GR) of Leadhills Community Council.

2.0 Appointment of New Members to Leadhills Community Council

- 2.1 The elected members of LCC present at the meeting voted unanimously in favour of appointing Suzie McGraw ("SMcG") as an elected member of LCC.
- 2.2 The elected members of LCC present at the meeting voted unanimously in favour of appointing Charmaine Gittens ("CG") as an elected member of LCC.

3.0 Ballot to Gauge the Strength of Feeling in the Leadhills Community For or Against the Proposed Ravengill Energy Park

- 3.1 SJ read out a statement on the subject of the ballot on the proposed Ravengill Energy Park development
- 3.2 The statement is reproduced in its entirety at items 3.3 to 3.8 below.

3.3 Background

The proposed Ravengill Energy Park development was first brought to the attention of Leadhills Community Council ["LCC"] on 18 April 2024, during a meeting between LCC [represented by their Chairman - Steve Johnstone ("SJ")] and Donald Noble representing Leadhills 2019 LLP. LCC were advised that a company called Renewco was responsible for the development and it was agreed that Renewco would contact LCC in due course.

Renewco duly contacted LCC and arrangements were made for Renewco to give a short initial presentation on 13 June 2024 to outline the proposed development.

3.4 Initial Presentation by Renewco

Following the Regular LCC meeting on 13 June 2024, Renewco gave a short presentation of the proposed Ravengill Energy Park in Leadhills Village Hall.

At this time, the scope included wind turbines, photovoltaic panels and a BESS.

Most, if not all, residents present were shocked by the scale of the proposed development, the 220m height-to-tip-of-blade of the wind turbines and the requirement for aviation warning lights to be positioned on top of the towers.

The presentation was not good. The visual images were grainy and of poor quality making it impossible for the local people present to understand any detail whatsoever.

Renewco were informed that access to mobile phone and internet signals from inside the hall was not possible. It was recommended that Renewco obtain additional equipment to receive and amplify the signal prior to future presentations.

The initial presentation can be characterised by the statements of community councillors and members of the public present who made it abundantly clear to Renewco that their proposals were not welcome.

3.5 Need for Ballot

Refer to item 14.0 of the minutes for the Regular LCC Meeting held on 03 April 2025.

It was agreed that it was necessary for LCC to conduct a ballot of Leadhills' residents in order to accurately gauge the strength of feeling in the community for or against the proposed Ravengill Energy Park.

It was agreed that this would be achieved by delivering a simple questionnaire to every live residential address in the village. It was also agreed that this would be done after the drop-in open day (referred to by Renewco as a "consultation") to be arranged by Renewco.

3.6 Drop-In Open Day ["consultation"]

A drop-in open day ["consultation"] was held in Leadhills Village Hall on 20 May 2025.

This "consultation" was a great disappointment.

For many, if not all, of the residents who attended the "consultation", the most important element was to see a visualisation of the outlook from their home or from their street or from their favourite walk or from their favourite viewpoint. No visualisation of this sort whatsoever was possible because the visualiser equipment could not connect to the internet due to lack of signal inside the hall.

The pre-recorded visualisations that could be viewed during the "consultation" were of very little value and were effectively computer generated representations of dashcam-type recordings made while driving on the roads into and out of Leadhills.

3.7 Ballot

Despite the disappointing "consultation", it was decided to proceed with the ballot. The questionnaires / ballot papers were printed and delivered to every live household address in Leadhills on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th June 2025

The ballot papers were made deliberately difficult to duplicate. Submission of ballots online was not permitted.

Residents had until noon on 17th June 2025 to deposit their ballot paper in the ballot box provided in Leadhills General Store.

On Wednesday 18th June 2025, the ballot box was opened and the ballots counted by Steve Johnstone [SJ] – Chairman of Leadhills Community Council and Bryan Turpin [BT] – Secretary of Leadhills Community Council in the presence of Mike Davis who acted as an independent observer. All individual ballots were recorded on a spreadsheet.

The ballot papers and spreadsheet will be retained until 10 July 2026 to be available for verification and audit purposes.

3.8 Result of Ballot

- 197 Ballot Papers were delivered to live residential addresses in Leadhills
- 105 [53.30%] of Ballot Papers were returned
- 199 persons over 16 years old responded
- **183 [91.96%]** persons over 16 years old **opposed** the proposed to the Ravengill development
- **13 [6.53%]** persons over 16 years old **supported** the proposed Ravengill development
- **3 [1.51%]** persons over 16 years **had no opinion** and neither opposed nor supported the proposed Ravengill development

Note A: Results of the ballot were posted on the local Facebook pages and displayed on the three notice boards in Leadhills.

Note B: Not less than eight [8] residencies were unoccupied during the period of the ballot but this has not been reflected in the results above.

3.9 Approval of Statement and Results of Ballot

The LLC members present voted unanimously to approve the statement including results of the ballot.

3.10 Conclusion

The results of the ballot show conclusively that the residents of Leadhills clearly and overwhelmingly oppose the proposed Ravengill Energy Park development.

Leadhills Community Council must support of the overwhelming majority of residents who expressed their opposition to the proposed development.

4.0 Response to the to the REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR Ravengill Energy Park

4.1 Background

SJ explained that the requirement for LCC's response arose from an email request dated 10 June 2025 from the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit ("ECU").

The ECU asked for the response from LCC by 01 July 2025. However, following a request submitted by SJ, this was extended until 15 July 2025.

SJ referred to the draft response prepared by GG which was circulated by email to all members of LCC on 04 July 2025.

SJ invited GG to present a synopsis of the draft response.

4.1 Synopsis

GG presented a synopsis of the response which was followed by a questions and answers session. A few minor adjustments / corrections to the text were proposed and GG undertook to incorporate these.

Post Meeting Note:

SJ submitted the finalised version of the response to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit by email on 11 July 2025. The ECU acknowledged receipt of the response by email dated 14 July 2025.

5.0 The **next Regular Meeting** of LCC will be held in Leadhills Village Hall on **Thursday 07 August 2025 – Commencing at 19h45**

6.0 Close of Meeting

SJ thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 21h00.