

## COUNCIL: 17 FEBRUARY 2021

### RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Please find below a response to a supplementary question at the last Council meeting.

#### Question

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:

"Can the Chair of Planning please confirm how many people have formally asked in writing to speak at the Planning Committee when it considers the Rigghill Wind Farm Application and confirm the date they were received?"

In Councillor Marshall's absence and in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Billings thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

"I can confirm that Skelmorlie Community Council, Fairlie Community Council and Cllr Murdoch have all requested to address the Planning Committee on the Righill application. The dates of the requests are:

- Fairlie Community Council – 4 November 2020 is the date of their formal written request although they were in discussion with planning officers from May 2020
- Skelmorlie Community Council – 5 November 2020
- Cllr Murdoch – 8 June 2020."

As a supplementation question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether there was any reason why any of the parties mentioned would be refused the opportunity to speak, provided they had complied with the relevant guidance.

Councillor Billings responded by advising that the relevant guidance provided for ten minutes in total for objectors to address the meeting, meaning that objectors required to liaise with each other to agree who would speak. Councillor Billings indicated that he was otherwise unaware of any criteria by which someone might be refused the opportunity to speak and undertook to look into this for Councillor Murdoch.

#### **Supplementary Response:**

"I can confirm that if any objector, including a councillor wants to address the Planning Committee, they can do so in accordance with the Council's "Guidance for Individuals Wishing To Address a Meeting of the Planning Committee. That sets out the procedure to be followed. It provides for a single 10 minute presentation by a maximum of 3 objectors. There is no provision to address the Planning Committee outwith this.

Where there are a number of objectors who wish to speak, the practice of the Planning Committee has been that the objectors decide between themselves who will be their three spokespersons. On every previous occasion objectors have agreed who should speak, but failing this, the Chair after consultation with officers, would determine who speaks.”