

Community feedback

The feedback was gathered from the Contin meeting flip charts and post-it notes.

Consultation process

- Consultation poor. Should be restarted or delayed. So far..there has been a massive lack of genuine consultation with the public for a project of this size
- So little evidence of an in depth analysis on the part of SSEN
- Ludicrous to be given the option of their three routes
- The whole project needs to be conducted with the utmost care and diligence.
- Learn how other areas have managed to alter pylon routes – process, strategies
- We need more time for further consultation
- Time is needed to engage with the local population and the wealth of knowledge that they offer and start afresh to establish the route – preferably underground – for this project
- Not enough time given to consult. Not clear information.
- Why did SSEN send out fliers for such an important project? If a small chalet is to be built near your home you are sent a letter from planning.Highland Council must say no
- A lot of interests not considered
- Are we looking for a critical number
- Why did SSEN send fliers for such an important project
- Local considerations not taken into account
- Maps are neither clear nor readable and info not enough
- Very difficult to read route maps
- Lack of consultation time
- Locals not considered in routing preferences
- Have SSEN visited our communities before planning these routes?There must be a consultation extension. Not nearly enough time.
- Inclusion: Many golfers from outside the area will be unaware of proposals. Consult the clubs.
- There should be consistency in deciding criteria across all routes. Campaign: Involve local primary schools making posters: “Bottacks to the Pylons”

- Posters for the whole campaign
- Save our Eastern Seaboard. People before Pylons!
- Must be less disruptive. The cheapest option for SSEN is not the best or preferred option
- What is this for? The Highlands? No, this is in the national interest only. So many issues to consider – this needs a public enquiry.
- Is this a fait accompli? Is SSEN doing a consultation to tick a check box? Will it make a difference?
- SSEN should have sent letters to households, not a flyer. We found out via neighbours
- Need to talk and campaign for those with no voice. Children and wildlife
- Need compensation to hire expertise to help us fight
- Petition
- There has been no proper unbiased research on all of this.
- Who is the final arbiter? If this is the Scottish Government, they will side with SSEN. If so our only hope is to effect change by pressure from public opinion/press/social media
- What is the timescale for work to start?
- Is this about conflicting NIMBY claims?
- Have you shared your maps with SSEN to see if they agree with what your maps actually show?
- Has anyone contacted the groups on Skye, Drax etc to get from them the actual detail of the arguments they used to get cables buried?
- How have SSEN considered the overall route? They have completely ignored villages and environmental considerations in our area
- Should the Ben Wyvis cycle club make an objection? They meet at Contin once a week for mountain bike/gravel rides in the woods, Rogie Falls, Bottacks
- We need to be singing from the same song sheet, joined up thinking is necessary. Each community may have different priorities but we must remember that what affects one affects all.
- Beaulieu strategy was to employ 60 Planning Consultants. The key to all this is to get Highland Council to object to trigger a public enquiry. They will then defend their position with a legal team and we can join with them and their legal team

Routes

- Connections should be undersea alongside other offshore developments. If underground cabling not possible, the route behind (N and NW) Ben Wyvis, but with the route passing further West of Contin/Garve, or past Garve
- Use existing cable routes. Why are they not following existing power lines? Existing routes have infrastructure access routes and landownership agreements
- It looks like the whole line is avoiding settlements except when going through Strathpeffer, Jamestown and Contin
- If there has to be pylons there is a least offensive route. This would be going North to the dam at Loch Achonochie, then an underground cable round Tor Achilty and past Craigdarroch road end, crossing the main road to Forestry Commission Contin forest and then follow option D3 to Bonar bridge. This would take line away from all villages. It avoids crossing the wide flat Strathconon where there would otherwise be appalling visual impacts, as well as disturbance to locals and tourists during construction
- Is it the intention to decommission existing lines?
- Initial thoughts are that if there is to be a land route it should be based on the option to the west of Ben Wyvis, then further West as it approaches Contin, skirting Loch Achilty and on to Beaulieu. The section facing Contin should be underground from before the route crosses the road to Garve until well south of Contin. (but need to consult more first (Councillor))
- Route D3 with parts near habitation underground would avoid huge impacts on people's lives. The preferred D2 route would decimate established recreational areas and negatively affect people's livelihoods and mental health
- If there has to be some overhead, then choose D3 but bury from just North of Silver bridge to Beaulieu
- Cable should be sunk, buried or kept away from community/tourism areas

Technology

- Best solution is undersea cables
- Further investigation of underground sections and/or upgrading existing cables
- Underground the cables via Dingwall along the Strath Road. And give us a new road surface in the process.
- Ideal the cable should be underground.
- What is the best we can hope for: underground of course, but this will be too expensive for too much.

- What will be the width/activity/destruction in the pylon corridor? Bulldozing, tree felling etc
- What damage is done by underground cabling and how do they compare?
- Denmark offers an example as to how to approach this.
- Cuillin (Skye) has been undergrounded
- Large profits and renewables funding can be used to underground cables

Impact general

- The decisions made will have an enormous impact on landscape, , people living in the area and far beyondI may move house to get away from the pylons if they are nearby. A bit sad at 75 years.
- Noise, destruction of habitat, spectacular countryside, which is not an infinite resource. Much of UK has been destroyed by industrial infrastructure. Need to preserve environment for future generations
- These pylons will outlive us, so trying take the cheapest route at the expense of local people is just another example of short-sightedness that we have come to expect from such industries. Sitting in opposition to nature rather than trying to harmonise
- Impact on house prices
- What environmental impact assessments have been done?
- Strathpeffer is a conservation village and two routes will impose visual impact
- Too much of the Highlands have been ravaged already by wind turbines which are not green! And pylons etc. Foreign companies are making huge amounts of money from all this. We must preserve Scotland's treasure which is its landscape.
- Wind turbines are eventually toxic waste! After about 20 years.
- We should have something better for our community and environment.
- This project is to support sustainable energy but what about a sustainable quality of life?
- Worried about environmental consequences, wildlife, and quality of life for people
- Environmental damage severe

Impact business, tourism and the local economy

- Inverness is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe, partly because of quality of life. Its likely these outskirt communities will grow for decades to

come. What short-sightedness would build pylons through such places?
These decisions last lifetimes after us!

- The strath beauty was the main reason we moved here. Our guests will decide not to stay here
- Tourism
- Historic filming
- 20 minute communities initiative
- Proposed route D2 will completely ruin view from our holiday cottages and house.

Impact on wildlife

- Red kites – both routes.
- This will damage our planet and all its wildlife – to eventual extinction. We are all the insects that used to hit your windscreen
- Pylons will damage birds especially
- Wildlife for future generations
- Effect on wildlife on the ground and in the air could be disastrous
- Wildlife on route. Designated sites +species

Impact on recreation and landscape

- The Puffery Way
- Pylons along the Strath will detract from our newly created Peffery Way Our recreational spaces: Kinellan, Auchterneed Woods, Loch na Cran etc. Compromised access and enjoyment of land.
- Woodland and forest areas are well used and have numerous paths for recreation
- Crosses the core path route
- Ben Wyvis cycle club meet at Contin once a week for mountain bike/gravel rides in the woods, Rogie Falls, Bottacks. Lots of young riders encouraging physical fitness, mental health, green leisure etc
- Countryside for youngsters to enjoy in the future
- Recreation needs to be considered
- Pylons by nature destroy landscape
- Ruining green spaces and landscapes
- Pylon construction makes a huge mess. Destruction

Health

- Electromagnetic radiation: possible causes of cancer, leukaemia
- Health issues for pylons were addressed by Beaulieu-Denny campaign groups. Should liaise with their findings
- Health: physical and psychological
- Powerlines + wifi and 4G all of these are not natural and harmful
- Cables create noise (hum)
- Peoples wellbeing considerations must be a major point of discussion
- Health impacts are severe
- Electromagnetic radiation + noise

Heritage

- Document recently sent to the village from Highland Council outlining proposals for preserving the nature of the village, especially the conservation area. Surely the proposed routes are at variance with this type of initiative.
- Rich heritage. A lot is unrecorded.
- Scheduled monuments (Blackmuir woods)

Listed building, noise

- I live at a proposed junction so will probably be a pylon 160m from our listed building. I hear the noise emitted can be unbearable
- The spoiled views will reduce house values

Compensation and benefits

- Compensation for home owners – fall in property values
- Compensation to help us fight
- All highland residents, or at least those in corridors, should get reduced electricity bills. Forget community benefits as with wind farms: lets get discounts on our energy bills
- Will there be financial incentives offered to residents in terms of reduced energy bills?
- Whats in it for us?
- Any community benefit, similar to funds from windfarms? At the SSEN meeting they said because they were a business they were under no obligation to do this. However they did say they might be able to help by improving the environment!

Equity and justice

- We are expected to put up with inconvenience and multiple impacts to supply the rest of the country, and paying the highest standing charges and price for electricity.