



BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) IN VICINITY OF ECCLES SUB-STATION COMMUNITY UPDATE 26TH August, 2023

Your Community Council, in light of the number of potential BESS developments in our area and taking account of the level of opposition we are hearing from our community, will oppose all future BESS development planning applications in the vicinity of Eccles Sub-Station.

What is BESS?

Battery Electric Storage Systems are essentially hundreds of lithium batteries contained in large metal containers (similar to those used in road haulage) which are sited across large fields near strategic electricity sub-stations. The purpose of the batteries is to collect electricity from wind turbines during off peak times and return the electricity to the grid when needed.

Our Position:

We recognise the part to be played by BESS as part of government strategy to achieve environmental targets and the need for these to be based close to key substations including Eccles. As a Community Council we are supportive of some development of BESS in our area, however, this support is tempered with real concerns in relation to the welfare and economic impact on people living in the vicinity of any such development; the impact on our rural environment; the impact on our diverse ecosystems and the unstructured approach apparently being taken by The Scottish Government in the planning processes for such developments. We did not object to applications by Amp Clean Energy or Zenobe who have now gained permission to develop sites in our area. A letter expressing our concerns has been submitted to Scottish Borders Council and the Scottish Government regarding a further application by Eccles Energy Centre Ltd which is pending.

Currently further developments are proposed as follows:

- **Will Ramsay**, Pittlesheugh Farm is in the early stages of seeking planning permission to develop a further 25 acre site on his farm.
- **Green Power Consultants:** holding pre application consultation meetings on 6th and 20th September 2023 between 11am - 2pm and 4pm – 7pm both dates regarding battery storage development at The Laundry Field, Stainrigg, Leitholm.

What can you do?

As a Community Council we will try to keep you informed of developments and suggest when you should write to object to specific applications, to your elected members or the media.

We urge you to attend any consultations being held, often at Coldstream Community Centre to voice your concerns.

Provide us with your email address by emailing us at leitholmecclesbirghamcc@gmail.com so that we can keep you informed. (NB we will only use your email to keep you informed of Community Council matters.)

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