

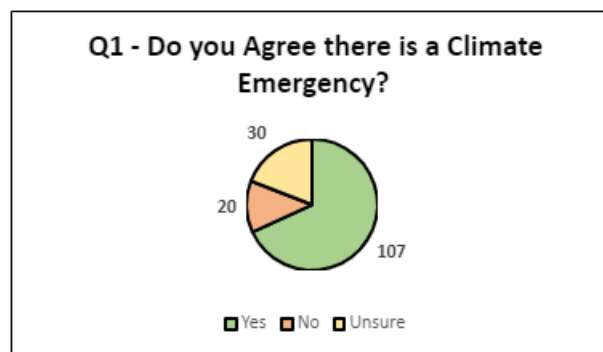
Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub: Informal Consultation Feedback Summary

INTRODUCTION

In total, we received 160 feedback forms which were filled out in person at the exhibition, online via our website, or returned via freepost. We also received 18 feedback comments via email or through our website “register for updates” form. We have also accounted for the helpful feedback from the Llanddewi Brefi Community Council (“LBCC”) consultation, of which we were sent 8 individual responses. Of these 8, 3 had also responded directly to the Belltown consultation and we can’t be certain if the remaining 5 (2 named and 3 anonymous) are already accounted for within the 48 anonymous responses we had to our own consultation. In order to accurately process and understand the feedback we receive on the project, we will be replicating our consultation approach at the second public consultation in 2024.

Q1 - Do you consider there to be a climate emergency?

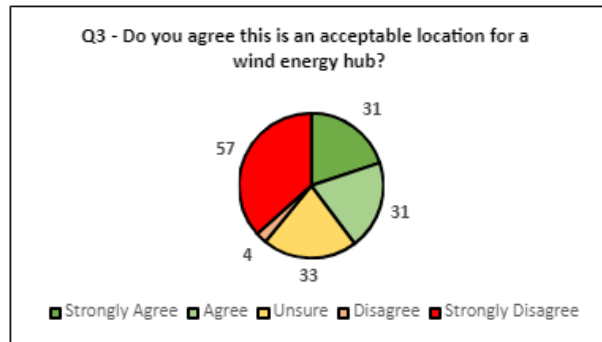
Of the 160* feedback forms, 107 (66.9%) agreed that there is a climate emergency.



**Not all respondents answered every question, so the totals will not always add up to exactly 160.*

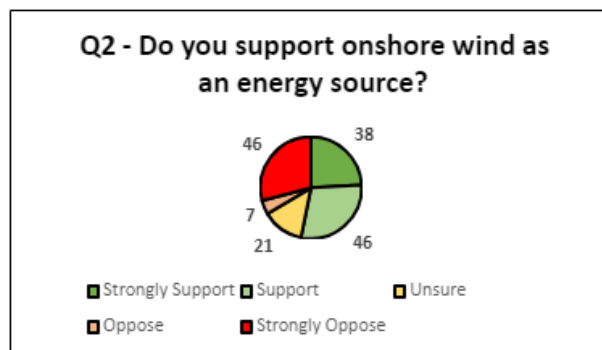
Q2 - Do you support the development of onshore wind farms?

84 respondents (52.5%) supported or strongly supported onshore wind, whereas 53 respondents (33%) opposed or strongly opposed. The remaining 23 respondents (14.5%) were unsure or chose not to answer.



Q3 - Do you agree this is an acceptable location for a Wind Energy Hub?

62 respondents (39%) agreed or strongly agreed that this is an acceptable location, whereas 61 respondents (38%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. 33 respondents (23%) were unsure or chose not to answer.



Many feedback forms contained feedback or questions qualifying their responses, so the overall picture is of course more nuanced than the statistics will show.

COMMON QUESTIONS

We have addressed questions about the project in the new FAQ section on our website and in personalised response emails/letters to each respondent. Some of the main topics raised were around wildlife and the environment (mentioned in 22.5% of forms), visual impact of the turbines (19.4%) and access and construction (11.25%). Other common comments were questions about the grid route, noise or shadow flicker, alternative types of renewable energy, suggestions about the use of the Community Benefit Fund ("CBF") and questions about Belltown as a company.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

We also asked for suggestions of how the community could best benefit from the CBF. The most common preference was for a local energy discount scheme. There was also significant support for enhancing community buildings and groups, particularly for young people, and some suggestions for supporting public services in the area, such as supporting a local doctor or dentist, or providing a defibrillator in the village.

RESPONSES FROM THE LBCC AREA

125 respondents (80%) provided their postcode or valid location information. Of these, the largest proportion were from LBCC area (34%), followed by Cynwyl Gaeo (15%) and Llanfair Clydogau (10%). Llanddewi Brefi residents were more supportive of the project location. In response to question 3 (do you agree this is a suitable location for a windfarm), 19 respondents (45%) either agreed or strongly agreed, while 14 respondents (33%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. A further 9 respondents (21%) were unsure. Support for onshore wind in general is even stronger, with 23 respondents in support or strong support of onshore wind, while 8 opposed or strongly opposed it.

The most common topics raised by Llanddewi Brefi residents related to wildlife and environment (13), followed by the visual impact of the scheme (6). Access and transport plans for construction, noise and use of the CBF were also commonly mentioned (4 respondents each).

Of the suggestions made for use of CBF in Llanddewi Brefi, half wanted help with energy bills. A further 27% made suggestions relating to community buildings and groups and 10% specifically mentioned young people. Specific suggestions included:

- improving facilities and helping to run the community hall;
- financial support for the church and chapel;
- support for village clubs like the YFC, WI and Sunday School;
- investing in the local school, nursery or playground;
- invest in nature enhancement and public access for walking and cycling in the area; and,
- training, apprenticeships and education work.

CONCLUSION

Overall, support for the project was balanced in the wider region, but greater within the LBCC area. When it came to use of the CBF, help with energy bills was the most requested. We look forward to discussing CBF and local ownership with LBCC further.

