

From: Lawrence Robertson

Subject: Solar array on Common Good land

Date: 16 November 2020 at 12:05:38 GMT

To: Councillor Edgar <Gordon.Edgar@scotborders.gov.uk>, Caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk, e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk

Cc: David and Anne

Dear Gordon, Caroline and Elaine,

Selkirk Regeneration continue to look for opportunities to create renewable energy that will also bring some income to the town.

One we have identified is a site in a field to the south and below the Rig in which it might be feasible to make an array of solar panels.

We have discussed this with Community Energy Scotland and they may consider giving us up to £5,000 to fund a basic feasibility study on condition that the landowner, in this case the Common Good Fund, allows us to do the study. I am writing to ask you to consider consenting to the study. Your consent does not imply that you support the principles, it just allows us to try to get a little bit of funding.

The study will mainly assess the probable cost, income and technical matters.

Since feed-in tariffs have now ended, generating income will be a lot harder but we are keen to see what might be possible.

We have met with senior planners who have given us a steer on what might be acceptable in principle in siting panels-mainly that they be away from normal public gaze. In our case this also means being well out of sight of the Common Riding gathering at the Rig.

Should the study show some prospect of a feasible project Selkirk Regeneration will still have to do a huge amount of work and consultation and will be willing to do this for the benefit of the town.

I attach a map showing the possible location, a note of a public consultation on energy held earlier this year, and our recent newsletter.

If you need more discussion or a visit to site please contact me or David Bethune.

I don't have an e mail address for Tom Coombe so ask you to pass this on to him.

Thanks,

Lawrence

