

Planning Statement

The Design and Access Statement highlights the value of the micro-hydro scheme to the cottage owners, their caretaker and guests. The scheme also meets a number of criteria set out in the Local Plan as well as contributing to national plans to reduce carbon emissions.

The following sections of the Local Plan indicate developments that deserve support:

1.22 "build higher-value sustainable tourism...improving the accommodation stock"

1.35 "The provision of appropriate householder and community renewable energy "

3.19 "scope might exist to contribute to reduce demand for electricity derived from fossil fuels through efficiency savings and through small-scale renewable energy developments to meet domestic or community needs. These included small-scale hydro..."

3.20 noting that "any small scale renewable energy project conforms with Development Policy 1: General Development Principles ", also "Microgeneration and small-scale community renewable energy plant will be supported..."

Page 86, Strategic policy H (iv): "Support tourism and recreation activity which maximise local economic benefits, minimise environmental impact and safeguard the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park".

6.17 "The Authority aims to encourage sustainable tourism "

6.19 "The Authority will support proposals to improve the quality of existing serviced accommodation "

These themes are closely linked to the micro-hydro scheme:

- It improves the accommodation stock, combining much greater convenience and improved comfort.
- It provides the most appropriate form of renewable energy.
- It reduces the use of fossil fuels
- It is a microgeneration plant
- It "supports tourism" and is completely sustainable.
- It improves the quality of serviced accommodation.

The Committee on Climate Change has set a national target of reducing carbon emissions by at least 3% per year until 2050. This will require vigorous adoption of renewable energy, coupled with efficiency measures. The proposed scheme is, perhaps, unusual for such a small micro-hydro plant in being highly instrumented and computer-controlled to maximise the efficient use of a limited water supply. I hope that my experiences with this scheme will inspire others to make the effort to use more renewable energy.

The Feed-In Tariff scheme encourages the installation of renewable energy by paying a tariff for any electricity generated and, if grid-connected, electricity exported to the grid. This proposal is timely in that there is still a brief window of opportunity to register for the FIT scheme before it closes to new applicants on 31st March 2019 (all necessary permissions have to be granted prior to registration). Over the 20 year payment period the generation tariffs should repay the installation cost; without this support we would be unable to afford it.