

Registration of interest to make a representation at the Conjoined Public Inquiry by Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council

Outline Case

Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council wish to register their interest in the forthcoming Public Inquiry and give notice that they would wish to make representation in the following two areas.

The Community Council represents views expressed by large numbers of community members at open meetings, in written communications with Councillors and in person at CC meetings.

1. Cumulative impact

Mid Wales already has 250 turbines. The visual impact of these is significant in parts of the county and further increases would cause disproportionate industrialisation and long term disruption to a rural area. The Grid in Mid Wales is at capacity and any further windfarms necessitate a massive infrastructure programme although the energy production will be relatively small, unreliable and intermittent. Construction and visual impact of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure would have a serious and long term socio-economic impact on Montgomeryshire and a major detrimental impact to the high value scenic, historic landscapes and the environmentally important ecological balance of our uplands. Whilst supportive of unobtrusive small community initiatives sustainable energy production and conservation measures the imposition of massive industrialisation on our Uplands is wholly unacceptable to the community.

We are mindful that the proposals are in direct contravention of policy points of the fully consulted and legally binding Powys UDP and fail to recognise the requirement of local acceptability.

Community benefits from existing Welsh windfarms have provided no noticeable overall advantages to the host communities and such 'incentives' are unacceptable in planning terms and cannot recompense for long term adverse effects across a wide area.

2. Llandinam Re-powering transmission line.

The Community Council would oppose the proposed line on the grounds of:

- traversing, and majorly affecting, three areas of high / outstanding Landmap aspect designation (namely Kerry Hills / Ridgeway; Upper Mule; Cefn y Coed Hills) and the Montgomery Historic Landscape Character Area;
- there being no requirement for a separate line if the Llandinam Repowering windfarm were ultimately approved. The line should be part of the whole proposed SPEN connection of SSA B and C to the intermediate transformer stations and /or proposed Hub which would necessitate a considerably reduced overall length of transmission line and thus have a lower impact overall.