

Combined Public Inquiry

Statement of Case against 5 wind farms in Mid Wales by Meifod Community Council

Meifod Community Council has issued an opening statement where it outlines our opposition to the proposed 5 wind farms in Mid Wales. This statement of case continues that opposition. The main reasons for our objections are as follows.

The proposed wind farms will lead to increased road usage through our community that will result in additional risks to the residents in our community and increased stress on the highway system.

The proposed wind farms will result in the need for a new overhead electrical transmission line that will pass through the community of Meifod. This will have a number of adverse impacts on residents in the Meifod Community Council ward.

In terms of the increased road usage information taken from the Department of Transport states that the average annual daily flow of traffic through Meifod (between the A458 and the A490) in 2012 is 930. This figure has been relatively constant since 2006. In the years preceding the figure for average annual daily flow was some 200 vehicles less.

Meifod Community Council fear that if the proposed wind farm developments take place there will be increased road usage by traffic avoiding those highways development traffic will use. Whilst appreciating that vehicles associated with transporting the major components required for the development will not be travelling through the ward we fear that other traffic associated with the development might.

The Community Council fear road users who would travel on roads used by development traffic will come through the ward thereby increasing stress on the highway and on those who live here.

In terms of the new transmission line National Grid have still not provided details of where it will be located through the ward. Indeed at the recent round of meetings organised by

National Grid they stated that there remains much work to do before a final plan can be provided. They have suggested that the transmission line will be installed below ground through the majority of the ward but significantly stated that should they meet with any technical difficulties in installing the below ground line they could still opt for an overhead line. This would have an impact on the community with pylons carrying the line. Local feeling is that pylons will adversely impact on the landscape and local ecology, damage the tourist industry and adversely affect business, impact on health, reduce the capital value of properties within the community and possibly increase the risk of flooding. Concern has been expressed with regard to Glyndwrs Way and how having a new transmission line carried on large pylons will discourage visitors from walking along it.

Gary Owen

Chair, Meifod Community Council.

20 January 2014