

WELSHPOOL YOUTH COUNCIL

OPENING STATEMENT – WIND FARM INQUIRY

Good afternoon. I am Ellie and am the Vice Chair of the Welshpool Youth Council which is hosted by Welshpool Town Council at the High School to ensure that the voice of the younger generation are heard in local affairs.

This important subject has been discussed in detail among the members of the Youth Council of which there are approximately 30 members aged 11 to 18.

Due to its importance the school was invited to take part in our survey and it is based upon the results of that survey that I present our views to you today. The Youth Council is very supportive of renewable energy and is aware of the need to provide some of this in Mid Wales.

The Youth Council does not support TAN8 and the sheer scale of development proposed in Mid Wales.

The Youth Council is deeply concerned that the scale of the development proposed will adversely affect the local economy of tourism and that this in turn will affect the jobs available to young people.

The Youth Council does not support, nor see the need, for a large power line even if some of it is underground.

It will also be noted from our written presentation that there is concern about the effects of the level of transport generated by the proposals.

This is another aspect which the young people find unacceptable as in turn this may affect adversely our tourism and in turn our job prospects.

The views of the Youth Council have been based upon factual information and we were left to make up our own minds in a secret ballot type survey without any pressure from adults.

To summarise the Youth Council is of the view that the scale of the developments proposed do not outweigh any benefit gained and would urge you to refrain from granting a consent on what is an unacceptable policy with regard to the Wind Farm developments.

The Youth Council is saying that these applications for wind farms are too early and that until the full infrastructure implications are known and the scale of TAN8 reviewed no such developments should go ahead.

The detail of our views is set out in the written paper issued for this public inquiry.

Thank you for giving us the time to present our views for you to consider.

5th June 2013