

Welshpool Town Council

# WELSHPOOL YOUTH COUNCIL

## PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS IN MONTGOMERYSHIRE POWYS



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**1.00 Qualifications**

- 1.01 I am Ellie Cordy ViceChair of the Welshpool Youth Forum which meets at Welshpool High School approximately once a month. I have been a member of the Forum for approx 2 years.
- 1.02 I am a year 11 student at the High School.
- 1.03 I am well briefed in the subject matter and present the views of the young people of the High School and not my own.
- 1.04 The Youth Council was set up in 2009 to meet regularly with Welshpool Town Council so that the Youth had a formal voice in local matters.
- 1.05 The Youth Council has an attendance of approx 30 young people at its meetings and also consults the whole school on important issues (such as this one).
- 1.06 Although the Town Clerk and a Council representative are present out our meetings they only offer information and do not take part in any debate or are part of any decision making of the Youth Council and the Youth Council forms its own views.



## 2.0 The schemes the subject of this Inquiry

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (SECTIONS 36, 37, 62(3) & SCHEDULE 8):  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (SECTION 90):  
APPLICATION BY VATTENFALL DATED 30 NOVEMBER 2007 FOR  
CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A 59.5MW WIND TURBINE  
GENERATING STATION IN POWYS, MID-WALES (“LLANBADARN  
FNYDD”)

APPLICATION BY FFERM WYNT LLAITHDDU CYF DATED 7 MAY 2008  
FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A 66.7MW WIND  
TURBINE GENERATING STATION IN POWYS, MID-WALES (“LLAITHDDU”)

APPLICATION BY CELTPOWER LIMITED DATED 9 MAY 2008 FOR  
CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A 126MW WIND TURBINE  
GENERATING STATION IN POWYS, MID-WALES (“LLANDINAM”)

APPLICATION BY RES UK & IRELAND LIMITED DATED 27 MARCH 2009  
FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A 100 MW WIND  
TURBINE GENERATING STATION IN POWYS, MID-WALES  
 (“LLANBRYNMAIR”)

APPLICATION BY RWE NPOWER RENEWABLES LIMITED DATED 11  
DECEMBER 2008 FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A  
130-250MW WIND TURBINE GENERATING STATION IN POWYS, MID-  
WALES (“CARNEDD WEN”)

APPLICATION BY SP MANWEB PLC DATED 2 DECEMBER 2009 FOR  
CONSENT TO INSTALL AND KEEP INSTALLED A 132kV OVERHEAD  
ELECTRIC LINE CONNECTION FROM THE PROPOSED LLANDINAM  
WIND FARM TO WELSHPOOL SUBSTATION

### **3.00 Policy of the Youth Council**

The Policy of the Youth Council was agreed on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 as follows:

1. The Youth Council supports in principle the need for renewable energy.
2. The Youth Council objects to TAN 8 as regards its scale for Mid Wales.
3. The Youth Council will not support any development of wind farms to such a level as to require an overhead 400kv transmission line.
4. The Youth Council will not support any development of wind farms to such a level that requires excessive large scale transport movements.

#### 4.00 Youth of Welshpool - opinions

4.1 The Youth Council has been aware of the level of public opinion against the development of large scale wind farms with the resultant infrastructure since early in 2007 and in June 2011 carried out its own survey within the school to find out what the young people felt.

4.2 The results of the survey show the great concern that the young people have for the effects of the developments proposed with regard to the infrastructure needed to service such development.

4.3 The results in summary were:

**Wind Farms**

54.84 % were in support of wind farm development.

**Electricity Hub**

57.16% were in support of the hub.

However:

**Pylon Line**

62.1% were concerned about the Pylon Line proposed

**Transport**

56.45% were concerned about the effects of the transport needed.

4.7 A copy of the survey results are set out at appendix A.



## **5. Objections to TAN 8 and the Renewable Energy Policy for Mid Wales**

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### **5.01 General position of the Youth Council**

The Youth Council is not against wind farms nor the need for some infrastructure to support them. The Youth Council is, however, not of the view that the scale proposed with the extensive infrastructure and transport needs of such developments is what was in the minds of the Welsh Assembly. The Youth Councils general position is that the proposals contained within TAN8 are out of scale and the damage caused by such proposals are not in balance with the need to provide renewable energy against the environment in which it is to be located.

### **5.02 Statements by Ministers**

It is clear from statements made by the Ministers at the Welsh Assembly that the Assembly did not understand what it was approving when TAN8 was introduced.

This is evidenced by the statement that the Welsh Assembly would only support development where the transmission line was on wooden poles or underground. This was never able to be achieved with a 400kv requirement. This was explained to us all by the former National Grid employee so that we could understand what was proposed in practical terms.

To this end, in the view of the Youth Council, the policy is flawed and should be reviewed before any further development is approved to go forward.

### **5.03 Unknown transmission line details**

The transmission line is causing a lot of concern. National Grid have confirmed that some of the line will be underground and some above ground. However the amount of each element is unknown and is not confirmed. Neither is the actual route of the line, only a corridor of a preferred route.

### **5.04 Premature development until details known**

The Youth Council is of the opinion that in policy terms these developments are premature. This is evidenced by the unknown elements of the infrastructure that must surely be known before any decision can be reached.

**5.05 Scale – upper limit in TAN8**

The Youth Council notes that within the TAN8 document it refers to the level of wind farm development being an ‘upper limit’.

The Youth Council feels that the current level of wind farm developments proposed is out of scale and is too dominant for such an area as Montgomeryshire.

To that end the Youth Council would urge the inspector to consider that the developments proposed should not be taken forward until:

- a) The full effects of the transmission line are known.
- b) The overall scale is re-measured and a lesser scheme detailed within a revised TAN8 document.

**6. Signatures to the evidence hereby presented**

There were present 16 members of the Youth Council who approved this presentation.

**Signed**.....

Ellie Cordy

Vice Chair of the Youth Council