

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk Mrs T. Price, Garn Farm, Chapel Lawn, Bucknell, Shropshire, SY7 0BT
01547 528575 newradnorcc@outlook.com

Mr. G. Davies
Planning Services, Powys County Council
The Gwalia
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6AA

15th January 2016

Dear Mr. Davies

Planning Application P/2014/0672 Land off A44 SW of Llandegley Additional Information

I write to confirm that having considered the new information New Radnor Community Council still wishes to object to the above application and would like to make the following comments.

When considering its objection the Community Council had regard to the Powys UDP section SP3 which refers to Natural, Historic and Built Heritage and to E3 12.9.1 which refers to Wind farm Development. It also noted that in the appeal decision for Pentre Tump 28/1/14 Inspector Alwyn Nixon set a precedent for decisions on small wind farm applications, using the Powys UDP in the decision process and re-enforcing the policies contained therein. Interpretation of the TAN 8 documentation produces a need for enhanced protection of areas outside of those strategic search areas identified for wind turbine developments.

Welsh Government Technical Advice Note 8 states that there is a balance to be struck between the desirability for renewable energy and landscape protection. Powys UDP SP3 requires development to take account of the need to protect, conserve and wherever possible enhance the natural and built heritage. E3 states that wind power development should not adversely affect the enjoyment and safe use of the public rights of way network, especially bridleways.

It is the view of the Community Council that this development would unacceptably and adversely affect the environmental and landscape quality of this part of Powys. It would unacceptably and adversely affect the enjoyment of the public rights of way network, bridleways in particular, thereby rendering the proposal unacceptable to the policy of E3 of the Powys UDP.

Access tracks can in themselves have adverse visual impact and this together with the proposed huge turbines would have a very negative visual impact on those enjoying the countryside on footpaths, bridleways and roads. The proposed site is in an area that is very valued for its attractive and historic landscape.

The Community Council feels that the County Council should be proactively steering wind power developments to areas where they would be most acceptable, and away from landscapes valued so highly for their beauty by both locals and tourists and public opinion is of very high relevance and should be taken into account.

In addition I would like to re-iterate the points made in my original letter submitted in September 2014 -

The proposed development far exceeds the 5mw maximum capacity for small wind farms outside the Strategic Search Areas defined in Welsh Government document, TAN 8 and should be refused for the following reasons -

the proximity to nearby bridleways and rights of way, the recommended distance from any bridleway is 3x turbine height, equating to 330m in this case. However the nearest right of way to the turbines is just 200m away, representing a clear danger to all users, not only horse riders but also walkers and cyclists;

the adverse visual impact on the A44 and on tourism, a principal leisure route into Wales (a route recognised as having high scenic value in the recent planning inspectorate decision on the turbine application at Pentre Tump) and the resultant effect on tourism;

sited outside Strategic Search Area, wind farms over 5mw (this site being 17.5mw) should, as indicated in TAN 8, be restricted to Strategic Search Areas or brown field sites. To grant permission for this development would industrialise an area of exceptional natural beauty;

detriment to the local landscape, the views enjoyed from the site area and from surrounding hills, roads and rights of way would be severely detrimentally affected. The Unitary Development Plan for Powys states that a wind farm should only be considered where there is no adverse effect on the landscape;

damage to local wildlife, in particular the local bird population (the email sent to PCC from the Radnorshire County Bird Recorder details many species which would be affected and analyses the present numbers of those species in the area).

I would be grateful if receipt of this letter could be acknowledged via email. In addition the Community Council wishes to send a speaker to the planning meeting to speak against the application. Our representative will be Cllr. Nigel Dodman. Please let me have the proposed date of the meeting as soon as possible.

Regards

Tracey Price

Tracey Price, Clerk to the Council