

# Cyngor Tref Y Trallwng Welshpool Town Council

*'Gateway to Mid Wales'*

Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM Clerc y Dref/Town Clerk

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25<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM  
Chair  
Environment and Sustainability Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir

## **Energy Policy and Planning in Wales**

Good morning, we hope this letter finds you well.

Welshpool Town Council is appreciative of the opportunity to respond to your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 on the above subject. The Council has for over 4 years has been concerned about the effect the implementation of TAN8 upon Mid Wales. However, the Council wishes to be helpful in finding a resolution that meets the concerns of the population.

As your letter refers to the contents of two policy documents it would have been useful to have been provided these for review at the same time.

The Council responds below in the same order in which the subjects are raised in your letter:

### **Implications for Wales**

*What are the implications for Wales if responsibility for consenting major onshore and offshore energy infrastructure projects remains a matter that is reserved for the Westminster Government?*

There should be a single body on such matters to ensure co-ordination and confidence to the electorate that all matters are considered together. Welshpool has been asking for this for over 3 years.

In this way a better scheme for the provision of the Welsh Assembly targets can be formulated.

Cont..

**Affect on Welsh Assembly Aspirations**

*How does this affect achievement of the Welsh Government's aspirations for various forms of renewable and low carbon energy as set out in the Energy Policy Statement?*

The objections and protests against the power lines with regard to the affects on the landscape of Mid Wales could in turn affect the achievement of targets and development as proposed in the Energy Policy Statement. The TAN8 proposals need to be reviewed, and quickly, so that targets set by the Welsh Assembly are not held up unnecessarily.

**Welsh Assembly Targets for reduction in Greenhouse Gases**

*How does this affect the delivery of the Welsh Government's target for a 3% reduction in Green House emissions per annum from 2011?*

The Council supports the targets for reduction in greenhouse gases. However the target of 2011 is unrealistic as this time has almost passed. The targets will only be met with public support and at this time the Council suggests such support is not evident, particularly in Mid Wales.

**Welsh Assembly planning policy**

*What will be the impact if consenting decisions on major infrastructure projects and associated development are not taken in accordance with Welsh Planning Policy?*

Welsh Assembly planning policy with regard to TAN8 should only be implemented after it has been comprehensively reviewed to avoid conflicting decisions being made by the different principle authorities. One method of doing this is a conference with Town and Community councils present to take part in seeking a solution. If a conference is not acceptable, then a public inquiry should be held. The Council feels that a conference is best but a public inquiry is next. To review TAN8 without extensive Community Council involvement, the Council strongly feels, is not an option. This is in view of the level of opposition and the lack of confidence in the more senior tiers of government.

Delays in implementation will most certainly have a negative impact in the delivery with regard to the reduction in Green House Gasses if the Town and Communities in Mid Wales are ignored.

**Impact on local communities (petitions)**

*Alongside these questions, the Committee will also consider the two petitions about Welsh Assembly Planning Guidance as it relates to onshore wind energy and impact on local communities and infrastructure.*

Cont..

The Council is concerned about the effects of TAN8 upon Mid Wales and although in support of renewable energy there is a price at which this is unacceptable. The Council feels that the current proposals go no where near to producing an acceptable form of renewable energy programme for Mid Wales.

Please see the details notes below under 'Review of TAN8'.

A copy of the Council's petitions are attached. (see appendix A)

The Council has delivered petitions relating to the effects of TAN8 and the associated transport effects (on Welshpool in particular) over the past 3 years. This includes petitions to Parliament.

In addition it is noted that the Committee will want to consider the following as part of its terms of reference.

The Council comments on each of the further questions as follows:

**Role of consenting agencies**

*The role of different consenting agencies, how they inter-relate and how the current system could be improved, both with and without further devolution (Infrastructure Planning Commission, Planning Inspectorate, Local Planning Authorities, National Parks, Welsh Government, Marine Management Organisations, Environment Agency).*

The role of the Welsh Assembly Government is paramount in the decision making process and should be the body which pulls together all the authorities to reach an acceptable solution.

**Relationship between Central Government and Welsh National Policy and if a review of TAN 8 is required**

*The relationship between the UK Government's Energy National Policy Statements and Welsh National and Local Planning Policies (including Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 8 and Local Development Plans) and whether or not these policies can achieve the Welsh Government's aspirations including whether or not a formal review of TAN8 is now required.*

Although Welsh Assembly Government needs to work within the UK Government's National energy policy, TAN8 is not considered to be a viable component of that programme.

The Council takes the view that it would be better if one single body took the decisions regarding all aspects of the TAN8 policy, in our view this should be the Welsh Assembly without any influence from Westminster. In this way a co-ordinated approach can be taken and those who are concerned can be more satisfied that all aspects are considered together.

Cont..

The TAN8 policy as it relates to Mid Wales is a major issue upon which the Council has consulted its electorate by a door to door survey. These results are attached together with the leaflet used to gain responses.  
(see appendix B)

In addition to the above it should be noted that:

2,000 persons attended a rally in Cardiff to express their concern.

2,000 persons attended the County Council meeting on TAN8 at the Livestock Market in Welshpool.

The County Council has voted to seek a review of TAN8.

The Council is aware that the Welsh Assembly carried out a partial review of TAN8 last July and August and Welshpool Town Council responded to that. We are also aware that the Welsh Assembly has voted recently not to review TAN8. However the First Minister has on several occasions shown recognition of the problems created by TAN8 in Mid Wales.

A review of TAN8 in itself is not enough; the power lines in Mid Wales are near capacity now. Any further development of wind farms in Mid and West Wales will require a massive expansion of the Electricity Grid Infrastructure in these areas.

The provision of power lines (400kv) is not an acceptable way of taking power through picturesque countryside which is the main basis of the tourist economy upon which many Mid Wales towns are based.

The Council suggests that a review is necessary with the aim of reducing the impact by restricting the power lines needed to 132kv which are much smaller and easier to put underground in sensitive places. Particularly when the main basis of the economy which many Mid Wales rely is Tourism.

A copy of our letter with the petition seeking a full review of all aspects of TAN8 is attached at appendix C.

### **Contribution of different renewable energy sources**

*The potential contributions and likelihood that different types of renewable and low carbon energy (offshore wind, tidal, onshore wind, hydro power, nuclear, bio-energy/waste, micro generation, community energy projects) will be capable of delivering the Welsh Assembly aspirations for energy generation as set out in 'A Low Carbon Revolution – Energy Policy Statement and the UK Renewable Energy Roadmap.*

An integrated energy policy should embrace various types of renewable and low carbon energy generation forming part of any installed generation capacity. The Town Council warns of putting too much reliance upon a single form of technology.



Cont...

**Potential contribution to reduction in greenhouse gases**

*The potential contribution of these different types of renewable energy to meeting the Welsh Government's annual target for Green House Gas emission reduction.*

See answer to previous question.

**Other forms of energy production**

*The potential role of other forms of energy production in Wales e.g. existing fossil fuel energy generation, proposed nuclear generation and newer technologies such as coal-bed methane and shale gas.*

A mix of technologies should be used to ensure a reliable energy supply to homes and business's while renewable energy infrastructure is being installed and further developed. Their role should diminish with time.

**Transport issues**

*The transport issues relating to wind turbines and other forms of renewable energy including their impact on roads, traffic and tourism.*

The transport issues are immense with the Mid Wales road network hardly able to take larger normal Lorries let alone the ones proposed; the network easily gets 'clogged' at peak times such as the summer months. (Easter to the beginning of September).

The necessary alterations to the existing road network and the traffic congestion associated with abnormal and other vehicular movements that will occur are enough to substantially negatively impact on the tourist industry upon which much of the Mid Wales economy is based.

Indeed our Planning and Development Chair (Cllr John Meredith) accompanied the Town Clerk to meet Mr Wayne David (Minister of Energy) of the last Parliament on this subject. He was astounded at the level of transport proposed.

Following that Cheryl Gillan Minister for Wales at Westminster met with local Community Councils and travelled the proposed transport routes and was again amazed at the poor roads which are planned to be used.

A copy of the transport figures as issued to the Welsh Assembly accompanying the petition relating to wind farm transport is attached at appendix D.

Transport estimated figures based upon 630 wind turbines are shown at appendix E (based upon current planning application numbers). These figures are based upon those recognised by the wind farm companies and which have been used by them.

I hope the above is helpful and constructive.

Cont..

Welshpool Town Council confirms that it is more than willing to attend any Committee or inquiry to give oral evidence and indeed would like to request to be able to do so.

Finally the Council wishes to point out that the content of this letter in no way alters the resolution passed on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 which reads as follows:

1. The Council recognises the need for renewable energy and indeed understands that Mid Wales must take its share of the provision, however the current TAN8 plans are not the correct way forward.
2. The Council objects to TAN8.
3. The Council does not support overhead pylon lines of the size and scale that they are, as known at this time, and will seek to gain the best solution in reducing the impact by various other methods (underground, route location etc).
4. The Council does not support the location of the large hub near communities and would also seek to reduce its size by seeking alternative ways of distribution of energy through Mid Wales.
5. The Council is still concerned about the transport proposals and still seeks an overall plan (showing all the transportation proposed) so that a clear picture emerges upon which to make a considered opinion. The continued objection to wind farm applications on this point will be continued, including the petition submitted to the WAG in 2008 now to be heard on 4th July 2011 in Cardiff.
6. The Council is strongly in favour of a public inquiry into TAN 8 and will use its best endeavours to achieve this.
7. The Council will support the inclusion of renewable energy as required by the planning rules for new homes.

T  
for your time.

Y  
rely

R  
T  
Robinson FRICS AILCM

## North Wales Association of larger Town and Community Councils

Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM  
Secretary



Telephone [REDACTED] Mobile [REDACTED]  
email [wtcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:wtcouncil@btinternet.com)

8<sup>th</sup> February 2010

The petitions Officer  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
Wales

Dear Sir

### **Wind Turbine Transport in Mid Wales**

Good morning, I hope this letter finds you well.

I enclose a copy of a petition regarding the above which has been sent to you following a resolution of the Association at their meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

As you can see the concern over the amount of wind farm transportation is becoming very evident and the Association is seeking to ensure that this whole matter is dealt with opening and with public involvement.

No doubt you will let me know how things proceed.

Yours sincerely

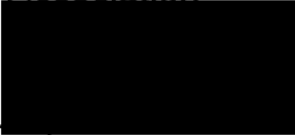
**Robert Robinson**  
Secretary

# NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION OF LARGER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

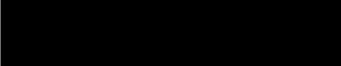
## THE PETITION

*We call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to issue guidance to Local Planning Authorities to ensure that communities are properly consulted on wind farm developments, that impact on the road infrastructure is properly assessed and that the broader effects of traffic disruption on sectors such as tourism are properly considered before any development is approved to take place. We believe that the only way this can be properly concluded is by way of a public inquiry.*

Signed.  .....  
Chair of the Association

Signed.....  .....  
Deputy Chair of the Association

Signed  .....  
President of the Association

Signed.  .....  
Secretary to the Association

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010



# Petition to the Houses of Parliament

*To the honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.*

*The humble petition of Cllr Ann Holloway Mayor of Welshpool, Cllr Estelle Bleivas Deputy Mayor of Welshpool, Cllr John Meredith Chair of Planning of the Town Council and Robert Robinson Town Clerk of Welshpool sheweth that the Communities of Mid Wales (and in particular Welshpool) are deeply concerned about the effect of Wind Farm transpiration in Mid Wales and in particular through Welshpool which is proposed over a sustained period.*

*Wherefore your petitioner prays that your honourable House will call for a public inquiry on this matter to ensure that all is publicly explored before any Wind Farm Development is approved or allowed to take place.*

*And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, that the House considers our petition favourably to ensure that full, proper and open consideration to implemented on this very important subject./*

*Signed.....  
Cllr Ann Holloway*

*Signed.....  
Cllr Estelle Bleivas*

*Signed.....  
Cllr John Meredith*

*Signed.....  
Robert A Robinson Town Clerk*

*Welshpool Town Council*



*Email wtcouncil@btinternet.com*

*14<sup>th</sup> July 2009*



**PETITION  
TO THE  
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

*To the honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.*

*The humble petition of Cllr Estelle Bleivas (Mayor of Welshpool Town Council), Cllr John Meredith (Deputy Mayor of Welshpool Town Council) and Robert A Robinson (Town Clerk of Welshpool Town Council) sheweth that the Communities of Mid Wales are deeply concerned about the effect of TAN8 (Wind Farms, Pylons, Electricity Hubs and Transport) and its affect on Mid Wales including Welshpool.*

*Wherefore your petitioner prays that your honourable House will call for a public inquiry and or review of TAN8 before any part of the planning or development control process is completed.*

*And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will every pray, that the House considers our petition favourably to ensure that full, proper and open consideration of this very important subject.*

*Signed.....  
Cllr Estelle Bleivas Mayor of Welshpool Town Council*

*Signed.....  
Cllr John Meredith Deputy Mayor of Welshpool Town Council*

*Signed.....  
Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM Town Clerk of Welshpool Town Council*

*Dated.....*



## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM  
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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Email [wtcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:wtcouncil@btinternet.com) Web site [www.Welshpooltowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.Welshpooltowncouncil.co.uk)

### Appendix to the Petition (TAN8) dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

#### Introduction

Welshpool Town Council has been aware of the overall effects of TAN8 for many years and has taken the opportunity to take part in all the consultations at each stage regarding any matters affecting TAN8. A petition has been presented in recent times to the Welsh Assembly on the transport effects of these proposals affecting TAN8.

Although the announcement by the First Minister was welcome (limiting the TAN8 proposals to being the maximum development limit) this is not enough to stop the unacceptable effects on Mid Wales of the developments concerned.

#### Current renewable energy proposals

The current renewable energy proposals are totally unacceptable (to any community) and the Council supports the objections to TAN8. The effect of the pylon line (50m high), electricity hub (the size of 20 football pitches) and the wind farms are beyond that which any community should be asked to take even in an urban area let along a rural area.

#### Details of the objections

The concerns that the Council has are set out on the attached paper.

#### Request

The Council is seeking for the Welsh Assembly to review TAN8 through a public inquiry. Until such an inquiry is held taking into consideration all aspects of TAN8. Welshpool Town Council wishes to request that no further progress is made with regard to this policy.

RAR/June2011





# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## Details of the objection to TAN8

### **INTRODUCTION**

The introduction of TAN8 and renewable energy provision in Mid Wales has been policy for some years. It is only in the past few years the full horror of the effects of this policy has been identified. There is no wish to object to renewable energy but the Council will not support TAN8 'at any cost'. This paper sets out the basic objections to the TAN8 proposals and would seek that the Welsh Assembly gives this paper serious consideration.

### **WIND FARMS & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

The scale of wind farm developments is too great and should be substantially reduced. The First Ministers confirmation that the TAN8 proposals should form an upper limit needs to be identified so that the communities affected know exactly what this means. At this time the level of development is unacceptable due to the infrastructure affects on Mid Wales, in particular the effects on the local economy and tourism.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE (PYLONS & HUB)**

The idea of creating an electricity hub the size of some 20 football pitches all put together and being over 15m high is totally unacceptable and is only needed to boost power from the wind farms proposed.

If this is not enough the idea of a pylon line (only seen in industrialised areas) through the countryside (the asset which attracts the tourism in the area) is even more unacceptable.

If money is not an issue (this must be the case as wind farms themselves are subsidised to a very great extent) any cables should be totally under ground.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The effect of altering the road infrastructure and the effect of the large number of traffic movements is going to impact upon the local economy and tourism. Please see the attached schedule based upon 400 wind turbine, the hub and pylon lines proposed.

### **EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITIES**

The effect on local communities is devastating. If you live in a city development is to be expected, however in rural communities the scale of development should reflect that. The proposals from TAN8 do not in our view go any way towards protecting the rural environment of Mid Wales.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Council is of the view that there are other alternatives and that these should be fully explored and when an acceptable scheme is found that this should be put to the public by way of referendum or official poll. Such proposals should address the pylons and electricity hub in particular.

## **PUBLIC FEELING**

The public feeling regarding the TAN8 proposals can be seen over the past four years. There have been continuing objections at each stage by Welshpool Town Council and the Local Council Forum. There have more recently been objections from more local communities who have showed their concern through some of the largest public demonstrations seen in Montgomeryshire.

There has been many petitions prepared which show the level of concern. Welshpool Town Council has conducted a door to door survey with just under 2,000 responses – the results of this important survey are shown on the attached and confirm the strength of feeling of just one of the many communities affected.

Indeed our our MP and AM for Montgomeryshire have expressed serious concern over the TAN8 proposals and have called for a full review.

## **PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The only way forward, in the view of Welshpool Town Council, is that a public inquiry should be held. A review is not enough unless it involves full and open public consultation.

**RAR/JUNE2011**

## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

### MID WALES – TRANSPORT SCHEDULE – TAN 8

#### INTRODUCTION

The transport can be estimated and the following figures have been prepared on the following basis:

- 9 abnormal loads for each wind turbine and for each pylon**
- 1 abnormal load for each transformer required for the hub**
- 990 other vehicle movements per turbine and pylon**
- There has been no allowance for extra traffic to service the hub**

ITEM				
WIND FARMS	400	400	400	400
PYLONS	100	100	100	100
TRANSFORMERS	7	7	7	7
TIME PERIOD	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	7 YEARS
ABNORMAL LOADS ESTIMATE	4507	4507	4507	4507
ABNORMAL LOAD CONVOYS	1507	1507	1507	1507
GENERAL TRAFFIC	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
ABNORMAL LOAD CONVOYS PER WEEK				
BYPASS	10	7	6	4
WELSHPOOL	3	2	2	1
NEWTOWN	7	5	4	3

The general traffic of vehicles would be felt all over Montgomeryshire.

From the trials done through Welshpool it would take just about 30 minutes to get one convoy through the Town from the Station to Raven Square. The one single lorry which was trialled took 12 minutes.



# Cyngor Tref Y Trallwng Welshpool Town Council

*'Gateway to Mid Wales'*

Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM Clerc y Dref/Town Clerk

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23rd June 2011

Glyn Davies MP  
Conservative Office  
High Street  
Welshpool  
SY21

Dear Glyn

## **Wind Farms, Pylons, Hub and Transport – TAN8**

Good morning, I hope this letter finds you well.

Following a meeting of my Full Council last evening I write to enclose a petition with supporting papers which I would be pleased if you could place before Parliament as soon as possible.

Thanks.

Yours Sincerely

**Robert Robinson**  
Town Clerk

**WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL  
TRANSPORT ESTIMATES FOR WIND FARM CONSTRUCTION  
APPENDIX D**

**Introduction**

The assessment below is based upon 500 new wind turbines and the effective transport generated from them. It should be noted that in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Journal on the subject of wind farm transport the following statement was made by experts: 'In every case to date wind farm transport has been underestimated'.

**Source of material**

Transport companies and wind farm companies from their own figures.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>If constructed over OVER 3 YEARS</b>	<b>If constructed over OVER 4 YEARS</b>	<b>If constructed over OVER 5 YEARS</b>
<b>WIND TURBINES</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>VEHICLE MOVEMENTS</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>630,000</b>
<b>ABNORMAL LOADS</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,300</b>
<b>CONVOYS OF</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CONVOY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>
<b>CONVOY PER YEAR</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>LARGE CONVOYS PER WEEK VIA WELSHPOOL (25%)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LARGE CONVOYS PER WEEK VIA NEWTOWN (70%)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>LARGE CONVOYS PER WEEK VIA OTHER AREAS (5%)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXTRA GENERAL TRAFFIC PER WEEK IN AREA</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>2,423</b>

The time taken for a convoy of 3 Lorries (as per trials carried out) would be in the region of 30 minutes through the town centre of Welshpool. **Robert A Robinson FRICS AILC Dated 11.9.2011**

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## WIND FARM, TRANSPORT, ELECTRICITY HUB AND PYLON SURVEY RESULTS

17TH JUNE 2011

Updated 24.06.2011

	ADULT RESIDENTS	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	HIGH SCHOOL	OVERALL	PERCENT
NUMBER OF SURVEY FORMS RECEIVED	5207	372	5579		
NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY	1390	372	1762		
PERCENTAGE RETURN ELECTORS TO RETURNS	2119	372	2491		
	41	100	45		

### NUMERICAL RESULTS

NO	ITEM	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1	SUPPORT WIND FARMS	319	1735	58
2	CONCERNED ABOUT HUB	1806	268	23
3	CONCERNED ABOUT PYLONS	1800	283	22
4	CONCERNED ABOUT TRANSPORT	1753	305	45
5	SUPPORT A PUBLIC INQUIRY	1537	353	204

### WELSHPOOL RESULTS

NO	ITEM	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	OVERALL RESULTS
		155	168	46	YES 474 NO 1903 DON'T KNOW 104
		159	145	33	YES 1965 NO 413 DON'T KNOW 56
		231	111	20	YES 2031 NO 394 DON'T KNOW 42
		210	130	21	YES 1963 NO 435 DON'T KNOW 66
		173	106	83	YES 1710 NO 459 DON'T KNOW 287

### PERCENTAGE RESULTS

NO	ITEM	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1	SUPPORT WIND FARMS	15.05	81.88	2.74
2	CONCERNED ABOUT HUB	85.23	12.65	1.09
3	CONCERNED ABOUT PYLONS	84.95	13.36	1.04
4	CONCERNED ABOUT TRANSPORT	82.73	14.39	2.12
5	SUPPORT A PUBLIC INQUIRY	72.53	16.66	9.63

### WELSHPOOL RESULTS

NO	ITEM	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	OVERALL RESULTS
		41.67	45.16	12.37	YES 19.03 NO 76.40 DON'T KNOW 4.18
		42.74	38.98	8.87	YES 78.88 NO 16.58 DON'T KNOW 2.25
		62.10	29.84	5.38	YES 81.53 NO 15.82 DON'T KNOW 1.69
		56.45	34.95	5.65	YES 78.80 NO 17.46 DON'T KNOW 2.65
		46.51	28.49	22.31	YES 68.65 NO 18.43 DON'T KNOW 11.52

### HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

### OVERALL RESULTS

ADULTS WARD BY WARD - 2010	TOTAL	CHILDREN	ADULTS
POWYS WEB SITE	2597	449	2148
GUNGROG	1563	311	1252
CASTLE	2109	302	1807
LLANERCHYDDOL	6269	1062	5207
TOTALS			

This survey has been verified by Ewan Macleod (retired diplomat).....



**WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL**

**WIND FARMS, SUB STATIONS,  
TRANSPORT AND PYLONS**

**IMPORTANT**

**THIS SURVEY AFFECTS YOU**



**PLEASE READ THIS AND THEN VOTE  
BY LEAVING YOUR**

**QUESTION SHEET OUT UNDER A STONE  
ON THE DOORSTEP**

**FOR COLLECTION TOMORROW MORNING**

**INTRODUCTION**

What was being said 3 years ago has become a reality. The wind farms bring transport, sub stations and pylons. The issue for the Local Councils is how to assess what it is supposed to do to represent its electorate. From public meetings and town polls held on the subject over the past few years there has been approx 2000 people involved. This is a small percentage of the total population and electorate. The High School youngsters also hold differing views from many. This information is to give a background of what is proposed to enable you to respond to our survey.

**WIND FARMS, SUB STATIONS,  
TRANSPORT AND PYLONS**

**SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

So that your Community Council has a full view of what the residents of their area would like them to do with regard to the wind farms, transport, sub stations and power lines could you please complete the following. If there is more than one adult in the household you may put the number of votes cast in each box so that each person has a vote.

ADDRESS..... NO OF ADULTS .....

TOPIC	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<b>WIND FARMS</b> Do you support the proposal to construct a large number of wind turbines in the uplands of Montgomeryshire?			
<b>SUB STATION</b> Are you concerned about the construction of a large sub station to service wind farms?			
<b>PYLON LINES</b> Are you concerned by the construction of pylon lines?			
<b>TRANSPORT</b> Are you worried about the large lorry convoys (related to construction of the above) coming through Montgomeryshire?			
<b>PUBLIC INQUIRY</b> Would you support the holding of a public inquiry into the whole subject even though it will cost a lot of public money?			



## **INFORMATION** **TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR SURVEY FORM**

### **WIND FARMS**

There are something upward of 450 wind turbines proposed for Mid Wales, they are bigger than the current ones. They will need to be transported to site by road and will need a sub station and power lines to take the electricity generated to the National Grid.

We all want electricity; the debate is how we provide it as fossil fuels are running out.

We all know that they are not economic but the issue is not a financial one but a renewable energy one.

### **SUB STATION**

The lines will be on wooden poles or small metal pylons to take the power from the turbines to the sub station. The sub station is large and even if screened with trees etc will be seen. The sub station is the size of approx 20 football pitches all put together, it is big. The transformers (5-7 of them) will come by road and weigh some 150 tons. The current proposed locations being considered for a sub station are Abermule and Cefn Coch – close to communities.

### **PYLON LINES**

From the sub station there needs to be a giant pylon line (400kva) and these are much bigger than the current ones seen along the Severn Valley via Welshpool.

The current pylon lines being considered are from the sub station locations (Abermule or Cefn Coch) via either Forden/Welshpool direction or via the Meifod Valley. The lines need to get to either north of Oswestry or Baschurch near Shrewsbury.

The pylons will also need to be brought to site by road.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The transport to bring a wind turbine to Mid Wales will comprise some 9 enormous lorries and around 990 other lorry/van/car movements.

This will mean convoys of 3 abnormal loads of 1 or 2 convoys a week for a few years. Most are planned to go via the bypass to Welshpool and then onto Newtown and beyond but some go via Welshpool's main streets and out to the west.

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS AND DISPLAYS**

There are many displays and public meetings taking place around Montgomeryshire run by all sorts of organisations including Community and Town Councils. If you have attended one you will be up to date with what has been said.

### **PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The TAN 8 area review took place late in July through to early September last year. Some planning applications which will be decided by Powys County Council, if they refuse them, the Welsh Assembly could 'call the application in' and decide it themselves. The Minister at the Welsh Assembly could call a public inquiry over the whole issue of TAN 8. However, it is government policy to support TAN 8 and a public inquiry is expensive.

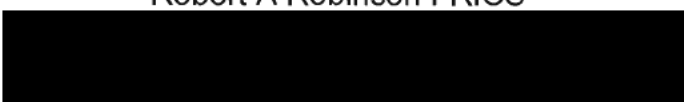
### **TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN**

A number of the North East Montgomeryshire Local Councils are together seeking your views so that the community councils can be aware of what you wish them to do in your interests on this very important subject.



# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

Robert A Robinson FRICS



Email [wtcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:wtcouncil@btinternet.com) Web site [www.Welshpooltowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.Welshpooltowncouncil.co.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

Petitions Section  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
Wales

Dear Sir

### **Mid Wales Wind Farms and Transport Proposals**

I enclose a petition for consideration by the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to the TAN8 proposals for Montgomeryshire in Mid Wales.

My Council would like to address the panel in due course on this important matter affecting our communities.

My Council is pleased to see the comments by the First Minister that TAN8 is the upper limit on development and also welcomes the statement that he will object to a pylon line (no mention of the hub).

I would be pleased if you could confirm your receipt of this petition.

Thank you again for your time.

Yours sincerely

**Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM**  
**Town Clerk**

# WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

## THE PETITION

*We call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into the whole of the TAN8 proposals for wind farms, electricity sub stations, pylons, transport all the other relevant aspects affecting the communities in Montgomeryshire Mid Wales.*

*Signed.....  
Cllr Estelle Bleivas Mayor of Welshpool*

*Signed.....  
Cllr John Meredith Chair of Planning Committee*

*Signed.....  
Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM Town Clerk*

*Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009*



## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM  
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Email [wtcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:wtcouncil@btinternet.com) Web site [www.Welshpooltowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.Welshpooltowncouncil.co.uk)

### Appendix to the Petition (TAN8) dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

#### Introduction

Welshpool Town Council has been aware of the overall effects of TAN8 for many years and has taken the opportunity to take part in all the consultations at each stage regarding any matters affecting TAN8. A petition has been presented in recent times to the Welsh Assembly on the transport effects of these proposals affecting TAN8.

Although the announcement by the First Minister was welcome (limiting the TAN8 proposals to being the maximum development limit) this is not enough to stop the unacceptable effects on Mid Wales of the developments concerned.

#### Current renewable energy proposals

The current renewable energy proposals are totally unacceptable (to any community) and the Council supports the objections to TAN8. The effect of the pylon line (50m high), electricity hub (the size of 20 football pitches) and the wind farms are beyond that which any community should be asked to take even in an urban area let alone a rural area.

#### Details of the objections

The concerns that the Council has are set out on the attached paper.

#### Request

The Council is seeking for the Welsh Assembly to review TAN8 through a public inquiry. Until such an inquiry is held taking into consideration all aspects of TAN8. Welshpool Town Council wishes to request that no further progress is made with regard to this policy.

RAR/June2011



## WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

### Details of the objection to TAN8

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The introduction of TAN8 and renewable energy provision in Mid Wales has been policy for some years. It is only in the past few years the full horror of the effects of this policy has been identified. There is no wish to object to renewable energy but the Council will not support TAN8 'at any cost'. This paper sets out the basic objections to the TAN8 proposals and would seek that the Welsh Assembly gives this paper serious consideration.

#### **WIND FARMS & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

The scale of wind farm developments is too great and should be substantially reduced. The First Ministers confirmation that the TAN8 proposals should form an upper limit needs to be identified so that the communities affected know exactly what this means. At this time the level of development is unacceptable due to the infrastructure affects on Mid Wales, in particular the effects on the local economy and tourism.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE (PYLONS & HUB)**

The idea of creating an electricity hub the size of some 20 football pitches all put together and being over 15m high is totally unacceptable and is only needed to boost power from the wind farms proposed.

If this is not enough the idea of a pylon line (only seen in industrialised areas) through the countryside (the asset which attracts the tourism in the area) is even more unacceptable.

If money is not an issue (this must be the case as wind farms themselves are subsidised to a very great extent) any cables should be totally under ground.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

The effect of altering the road infrastructure and the effect of the large number of traffic movements is going to impact upon the local economy and tourism. Please see the attached schedule based upon 400 wind turbine, the hub and pylon lines proposed.

#### **EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITIES**

The effect on local communities is devastating. If you live in a city development is to be expected, however in rural communities the scale of development should reflect that. The proposals from TAN8 do not in our view go any way towards protecting the rural environment of Mid Wales.



**ALTERNATIVES**

The Council is of the view that there are other alternatives and that these should be fully explored and when an acceptable scheme is found that this should be put to the public by way of referendum or official poll. Such proposals should address the pylons and electricity hub in particular.

**PUBLIC FEELING**

The public feeling regarding the TAN8 proposals can be seen over the past four years. There have been continuing objections at each stage by Welshpool Town Council and the Local Council Forum. There have more recently been objections from more local communities who have showed their concern through some of the largest public demonstrations seen in Montgomeryshire.

There has been many petitions prepared which show the level of concern. Welshpool Town Council has conducted a door to door survey with just under 2,000 responses – the results of this important survey are shown on the attached and confirm the strength of feeling of just one of the many communities affected.

Indeed our our MP and AM for Montgomeryshire have expressed serious concern over the TAN8 proposals and have called for a full review.

**PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The only way forward, in the view of Welshpool Town Council, is that a public inquiry should be held. A review is not enough unless it involves full and open public consultation.

**RAR/JUNE2011**

**WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL**

**MID WALES – TRANSPORT SCHEDULE – TAN 8**

**INTRODUCTION**

The transport can be estimated and the following figures have been prepared on the following basis:

- 9 abnormal loads for each wind turbine and for each pylon**
- 1 abnormal load for each transformer required for the hub**
- 990 other vehicle movements per turbine and pylon**
- There has been no allowance for extra traffic to service the hub**

ITEM				
WIND FARMS	400	400	400	400
PYLONS	100	100	100	100
TRANSFORMERS	7	7	7	7
TIME PERIOD	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	7 YEARS
ABNORMAL LOADS ESTIMATE	4507	4507	4507	4507
ABNORMAL LOAD CONVOYS	1507	1507	1507	1507
GENERAL TRAFFIC	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
ABNORMAL LOAD CONVOYS PER WEEK				
BYPASS	10	7	6	4
WELSHPOOL	3	2	2	1
NEWTOWN	7	5	4	3

The general traffic of vehicles would be felt all over Montgomeryshire.

From the trials done through Welshpool it would take just about 30 minutes to get one convoy through the Town from the Station to Raven Square. The one single lorry which was trialled took 12 minutes.

**PETITION  
TO THE  
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

*To the honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.*

*The humble petition of Cllr Estelle Bleivas (Mayor of Welshpool Town Council), Cllr John Meredith (Deputy Mayor of Welshpool Town Council) and Robert A Robinson (Town Clerk of Welshpool Town Council) sheweth that the Communities of Mid Wales are deeply concerned about the effect of TAN8 (Wind Farms, Pylons, Electricity Hubs and Transport) and its affect on Mid Wales including Welshpool.*

*Wherefore your petitioner prays that your honourable House will call for a public inquiry and or review of TAN8 before any part of the planning or development control process is completed.*

*And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will every pray, that the House considers our petition favourably to ensure that full, proper and open consideration of this very important subject.*

*Signed.....*

*Cllr Estelle Bleivas Mayor of Welshpool Town Council*

*Signed.....*

*Cllr John Meredith Deputy Mayor of Welshpool Town Council*

*Signed.....*

*Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM Town Clerk of Welshpool Town Council*

*Dated.....*