

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL



PRESENTATION

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Thursday 26th January 2012 at 9am
Environment & Sustainability Committee

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1.00 Introduction

- 1.01 The Town Council wishes to thank the Welsh Assembly for the opportunity to present its case with regard to the transport issues related to the TAN 8 proposals (wind farms, pylons, hubs and transport).
- 1.02 This report gives the background to the Town Council's position with regard to the transport issues and also gives reasons with evidence as to why the issue is paramount to Montgomeryshire.
- 1.03 The Council is aware that much evidence has been taken by the Committee with regard to the Wind Farms, Pylons and Hubs already and the Council wishes to add its own objections to the principle of TAN8.
- 1.04 The Council was aware of the effects of TAN8 by early 2008 and indeed at a public meeting hosted by the Town Council their Town Clerk presented the effects of TAN8 to that meeting. This included pictures of the pylons, hub and transport, however very few took any notice including the principle authorities.
- 1.04 The Council is astounded that Ministers and Senior Officials were not aware of the effects of TAN8 when it was approved and that the officers did not present a full picture. (*How did the Welsh Assembly Ministers think the Power was going to get out of Mid Wales – Carrier Pigeon?*)
- 1.05 The theme of this presentation assumes that the Committee accepts the Councils objection to TAN8 in principle and seeks to demonstrate in particular the Transport issues.

2.00 TAN 8

- 2.01 The Town Council welcomes the opportunity to present its case on the Transport issues related to TAN8.
- 2.02 The Town Council wishes to point out that it is totally opposed to the introduction of TAN8, wind farms, pylons, electricity hubs and the transport effects with regard to Montgomeryshire and in particular Welshpool. The public have given a clear mandate for this position as set out on page 12.

3.00 Pictures

- 3.01 The roads in Montgomeryshire are not of the same standard as many parts of the Country or UK and indeed are in many cases little more than country lanes.

- 3.02 The pictures shown on page 6 to 8 are those taken on an approved route for the lorry transport to one of the wind farms which has received consent in 2010 for a wind farm at Tirgwint near Carno.
- 3.03 The planning officers at Powys County Council did say in a meeting open to the public that this route would not set a precedent, however other wind farm sites identified are only a short distance beyond this one which could well mean these roads are used for many more lorry traffic movements.
- 3.04 Pictures of the route from Ellesmere Port via Llanymynech and Pant are included as we understand that all large lorry transport will come this route though to Welshpool before dispersing.

4.00 Schedule of transport

- 4.01 It is recognised by the industry and experts that there is approx 1,000 vehicle movements per turbine constructed.
- 4.02 The figures attached on page 9 are based upon the following:
- a) 630 turbines (the current planning applications)
 - b) 1,000 vehicle movements per turbine
 - c) 9 extra large Lorries for each turbine
- 4.03 The traffic (if taken over 3 to 5 years) would give a larger number of convoys per week along the Welshpool bypass from the north causing unacceptable delays to traffic which in turn will attract national news and put people off coming on holiday. Tourism is a major part of the Mid Wales economy.
- 4.04 In the journal of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors it was noted in June 2009 in an article about Wind Farm development that in every case in the UK to date 'transport has been underestimated'.

5.00 Welshpool Town Survey

- 5.01 The Town Council has held public meetings on the proposals within TAN 8 and they were well attended. However the Council felt that a more extensive survey was needed to ensure such results of a survey were robust.
- 5.02 The leaflet used for the survey is shown on page 10/11.
- 5.03 The survey was conducted over a week leading up to a formal count of votes overseen by Ewan Macleod (ex diplomat) on 16th June 2011.
- 5.04 The survey forms were delivered to every home in Welshpool and collected the following day.

5.05 The results of the survey show the level of concern by residents and are set out in full on page 12.

6.0 Reasons for objections

6.01 The Council wishes to put forward the reasons for its concerns with regard to the transport issues related to TAN8 as follows:

EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT (Road layout changes)

The environmental impact on wildlife, hedgerows and other countryside aspects affected where road junctions, widening and lay-bys are constructed or altered. This includes the large lay-bys which are planned to give resting places for these large convoys.

DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC

The traffic disruption caused for a number of years on the Mid Wales roads will be unacceptable and will deter visitors to the area. This transport is connected not only with wind farms but the associated infrastructure as well. A copy of current estimated traffic figures is set out in this report. The roads are not built for this size of traffic movements (see pictures). It is not only the larger lorry movements but the associated traffic as well. This is set out clearly in the chart with this presentation.

EFFECT ON TOURISM

The affect of traffic movements on the local economy, in particular tourism, is unacceptable as lack of traffic is a major attraction to holiday makers.

RETAIL AND SMALL BUSINESS SECTORS

The effect of the transportation through town and village centres will have an adverse affect on trade and small business users. This is unacceptable with loss of trade a real issue in a rural community.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Potential damage to the infrastructure caused by excessive weight of the lorries. For example drainage, sewers, underground electric cables, gas pipes and water pipes. Alongside this is the unknown affects on properties (structure) along the routes of such large convoys. This in our view is a matter which needs serious consideration before any plan can be considered.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION CREATION

The traffic congestion is created by a number of factors which are:

The fact that whole stretches of busy roads have to be closed while the lorry convoys pass through.

The time it takes for lorry convoys to travel the routes when not on dual carriageways.

The time taken for a lorry convoy (from the trial run) to pass through Welshpool from the Main Line Station to the WLLR Station (approx 1 mile) is 24 minutes. On the test one lorry took 12 minutes to travel this distance.

There are long stretches of busy A (Trunk) roads which have no turnings or lay-by positions which will mean that traffic build up in the summer will be immense. For example from Welshpool to Castle Caereinion is 4 miles (if the road is closed and the lorry convoy takes 15 minutes to complete the section it will need to be closed for some 30 minutes) and in the summer this will be horrendous.

TRAFFIC GENERATION

The major concern of the Town Council is not only the affects of the Wind Farms, Pylons and Hub (to which the Council also objects) but the following:

- a) The volume and amount of traffic generated by TAN8
- b) The large number of lorry convoys over several years
- c) The sheer scale of the traffic levels compared with existing traffic levels in Montgomeryshire
- d) The effect of causing queues which will appear on 'National News' and therefore possibly affect the area as regards tourism.
- e) The effect on the main shopping street which is on a route already approved for such traffic.
- f) There is no overall traffic plan, that the Council has seen, reflecting the whole of the effects of TAN 8 and without this there can be no real assessment made.
- g) The rural roads in Montgomeryshire and the Shropshire borders are not of a standard which can sustain such traffic generation, including the larger lorry convoys.
- h) The consultation process with the Town and Community Councils has been disjointed and they have not been properly involved in the process.
- i) The North Wales Association of Town and Larger Community Councils supports the stance taken by Welshpool Town Council.
- j) The Local Forum of Town and Community Council also supports the stance taken by Welshpool Town Council.

**WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL
ESTIMATED TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS**

ITEM	If constructed over OVER 3 YEARS	If constructed over OVER 4 YEARS	If constructed over OVER 5 YEARS
WIND TURBINES	630	630	630
VEHCICLE MOVEMENTS	630,000	630,000	630,000
ABNORMAL LOADS	6,300	6,300	6,300
CONVOYS OF LARGE LORRIES	3	3	3
LARGE LORRY CONVOY TOTAL	2,100	1,575	1,260
LARGE LORRY CONVOY PER YEAR	700	394	251
CONVOYS ON BYPASS OSWESTRY TO WELSHPOOL STATION PER WEEK	14	8	5
LARGE CONVOYS PER WEEK VIA WELSHPOOL	4	2	1
LARGE CONVOYS PER WEEK VIA NEWTOWN	8	5	3
LARGE CONOVOYS PER WEEK VIA OTHER AREAS	2	1	1
EXTRA GENERAL TRAFFIC PER WEEK IN AREA	4,038	3,038	2,423

DATED: 10.01.2012

**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
WIND FARMS	Do you support the proposal to construct a large number of wind turbines in the uplands of Montgomeryshire?			
SUB STATION	Are you concerned about the construction of a large sub station to service wind farms?			
PYLON LINES	Are you concerned by the construction of pylon lines?			
TRANSPORT	Are you worried about the large lorry convoys (related to construction of the above) coming through Montgomeryshire?			
PUBLIC INQUIRY	Would you support the holding of a public inquiry into the whole subject even though it will cost a lot of public money?			

**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.

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

WIND FARM, TRANSPORT, ELECTRICITY HUB AND PYLON SURVEY RESULTS

17TH JUNE 2011

Updated 24.06.2011

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

NUMERICAL RESULTS

NO	ITEM	WELSHPOOL RESULTS			HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS			OVERALL RESULTS		
		YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1	SUPPORT WIND FARMS	319	1735	58	155	168	46	474	1903	104
2	CONCERNED ABOUT HUB	1806	268	23	159	145	33	1965	413	56
3	CONCERNED ABOUT PYLONS	1800	283	22	231	111	20	2031	394	42
4	CONCERNED ABOUT TRANSPORT	1753	305	45	210	130	21	1963	435	66
5	SUPPORT A PUBLIC INQUIRY	1537	353	204	173	106	83	1710	459	287

PERCENTAGE RESULTS

NO	ITEM	WELSHPOOL RESULTS			HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS			OVERALL RESULTS		
		YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1	SUPPORT WIND FARMS	15.05	81.88	2.74	41.67	45.16	12.37	19.03	76.40	4.18
2	CONCERNED ABOUT HUB	85.23	12.65	1.09	42.74	38.98	8.87	78.88	16.58	2.25
3	CONCERNED ABOUT PYLONS	84.95	13.36	1.04	62.10	29.84	5.38	81.53	15.82	1.69
4	CONCERNED ABOUT TRANSPORT	82.73	14.39	2.12	56.45	34.95	5.65	78.80	17.46	2.65
5	SUPPORT A PUBLIC INQUIRY	72.53	16.66	9.63	46.51	28.49	22.31	68.65	18.43	11.52

ADULTS WARD BY WARD - 2010

POWYS WEB SITE	TOTAL	CHILDREN	ADULTS
GUNGROG	2597	449	2148
CASTLE	1563	311	1252
LLANERCHYDDOL	2109	302	1807
TOTALS	<u>6269</u>	<u>1062</u>	<u>5207</u>

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