

September 20th 2011

Dear Sir,

With reference to the forthcoming Environment and Sustainability Meeting this Friday I would like to make the following points :

TAN 8 needs to be reviewed. When it was compiled several years ago it was assumed that wind would be a much more efficient and effective energy source than has proved to be the case. Planning constraints are effectively lifted with a presumption in favour of wind farm development. Cumulative effects of pylons and infrastructure have not been considered in any planning process.

The economy of rural Wales will be adversely affected by planning policy surrounding wind farms.

Tourism will suffer leading to major job losses.

Increased traffic and delays will hamper both the visitor and the ordinary commuter. It will also endanger the prompt response of emergency services.

Collateral damage will be immense.

Convoys of abnormally wide, heavy, long loads will cause untold damage to rural road networks of narrow twisty roads, old bridges, historical and vulnerable buildings.

Apart from disfiguring the landscape, the prolific use of high voltage pylons carry health concerns. The proposed sub-stations are a substantial development in their own right. Such industrialisation is inappropriate in this area.

The destruction of hedgerows, the felling of trees and the draining of peat bogs will affect river eco-systems resulting in more flash flooding. Domestic water supplies will be in danger of pollution from liquid concrete and oil spillage. The Environment Agency are not on site every day and cannot monitor every pollution incident.

Such large-scale development will both threaten and destroy wildlife habitats. Mid-Wales is fortunate to host many rare and endangered species of animals and birds.

There are huge pollution issues with the use of concrete. The thousands of tonnes of concrete poured into the turbine base foundations are a vital component. The manufacture of cement, the critical ingredient of concrete, is one of the most toxic of all manufacturing processes, releasing large amounts of CO2.

There is, of course, the loss of visual amenity – a somewhat emotional and subjective response according to developers. However, the loss of beautiful scenery and inspiring views is a valid and natural response. Wind farms on such a large-scale in open countryside are inappropriate. Once our wild and unspoilt areas are diminished they are gone forever.

The question of global warming and our increasing consumption of energy remains a problem for us all. I happen to believe wind farms are not the answer. They are a flawed technology and their environmental impact makes them unviable. This prolific rush for wind energy needs to be addressed – and halted. Other forms of renewable energy need to be explored as well and energy conservation strategies.

I trust the committee will consider all these points.

Yours sincerely,

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