

## **HOW TO OBJECT TO POWYS LOCAL SEARCH AREAS FOR WIND AND SOLAR IN POWYS LDP 'FURTHER FOCUSED CHANGES'**



Go to [http://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales/?page\\_id=283](http://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales/?page_id=283) and download the response form.

- **Section 1:** Enter your personal information\*
- **Section 2:** Enter contact details\* *\*these details are not published*
- **Section 3:**
  - 3(a) tick top box  "Schedule of Further Focussed Changes: An Addendum to the Powys Local Development Plan Deposit Draft 2011-2026 (October 2016)"
  - 3(b) Enter FFC 79 for objections to Local Search Areas and leave second box blank
  - 3(c) Tick the little box  to show your response is an objection, then in the first text box – enter your objection & in the second text box – enter your suggestions or just write 'see above'
- **Section 4:** if you might want to speak at the public hearing - please do - tick box 4(a)(ii)  and enter your reasons or just put 'see above' in the text box
- **Submit by email** to [ldp@powys.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@powys.gov.uk) (or send in to Powys LDP Team, Planning Policy, Powys County Council, The Gwalia, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AA)
- **Pick and mix arguments from the guide below – PLEASE USE YOUR OWN WORDS IF POSSIBLE**

**Any problems, please email [ch306@icloud.com](mailto:ch306@icloud.com) or [ainaitken@lineone.net](mailto:ainaitken@lineone.net)**

### **WHAT IMPACT WILL THESE POLICIES HAVE ON POWYS AND RESIDENTS?**

**How much electricity do they say we must generate?** 600MW - a whole twelve times the figure we were given a few months ago. We already generate enough to more than cover our needs in 2026 and now Powys is expected to generate many times the amount it needs. This will mean a high density of electricity generating development throughout 40% of Powys land outside the National Park.

**How will these local search areas (LSAs) work?** We can expect they will work like the 'strategic search areas' we already have in north Powys. So it will be almost a given that any solar or wind developments proposed in the LSAs will get approval. Particularly when you remember that proposals over 10MW will be decided by Welsh Government who have no local knowledge, and residents won't have any meaningful say in decisions.

**Landscape:** The development which will happen if LSAs are introduced will devastate our landscapes; not just the turbines and solar panels on the hills, but the access roads driven across upland moors, the quiet lanes widened and turned into busy highways for huge lorries. There will be no part of Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire where you will not be able to see huge wind turbines and/or huge areas of solar panels. Oh, and Powys Council has forgotten all the essential grid infrastructure with strings of pylons, overhead cables, substations and excavation of cable trenches etc.

**Tourism:** I think we know that people don't come on holiday in Powys just for the weather! Almost all our tourism (currently growing and up 9% in income terms from 2014 to 2015) is landscape and outdoor activity based. Powys competes with the national parks and other unspoilt areas for visitors. Will our visitors keep coming back? Tourists brought £720 million into the county's economy<sup>1</sup> in 2015. This is an important industry in Powys and income we can't afford to lose, in whole or part.

**Noise:** Imagine the roads widened, straightened, hedges ripped out, to make way for long years of convoys of Abnormal Indivisible Load lorries, concrete mixers, cranes and diggers, works vans... Imagine the sound of birds replaced by the constant rumble of traffic, the thump of diggers and the thunk of turbines. Powys residents are already complaining about turbine noise coming from smaller turbines placed further from houses than the new plans envisage. Turbine noise is more than unpleasant, it is a major cause of stress and potential health risk<sup>2</sup>.

**Wildlife:** Turbines kill birds and bats<sup>3</sup>. Bats are European protected species – fully protected by law. As are many of our birds. Turbines also depopulate habitats through disturbance. Solar generation is less harmful to biodiversity. But

1 [http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Statistics/Themes/Tourism/STEAM\\_Report\\_POW\\_2015.pdf](http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Statistics/Themes/Tourism/STEAM_Report_POW_2015.pdf)

2 <http://noiseabatementociety.com/campaigns/wind-turbines/> (There are many other reports)

3 There's a huge amount of research on this – most recently: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/07/wind-turbine-collisions-killing-hundreds-of-uk-bats-each-month-study-finds>

our uplands are ecologically sensitive with many increasingly threatened wild life populations. Experience shows that the harmful impacts of initial construction works are most unlikely to be reversed by any mitigations likely to be carried out.

**Archaeology and historic landscapes:** Our hilltops are full of known and unexplored historical and archaeological sites. How much will be left when the diggers have gone?

**Safety:** We'll have years of heavy construction traffic clogging up our roads and creating long queues. What will happen to emergency vehicles? What will be the impacts on road safety? And our convenience? Will we be safe walking, riding or cycling on our roads?

**Environment:** Access roads across peatlands and hundreds of tons of concrete dropped into turbine foundations interfere with upland hydrology and can cause drying or even catastrophic destruction of peat formations. At the moment the water holding capacity of the hills is the source of 80% of our drinking water and absorbs potential flood waters. Turbine foundations allow pollutants to enter the water table, and may put drinking water supplies at risk<sup>4</sup>. This is happening round wind farms in Powys now. Finally, undisturbed peat uplands sequester carbon which is released as greenhouse gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) when stored carbon is disturbed.

### **CAN THEY DO THIS TO US?**

**Who's meant to write a Local Development Plan?** Local Development Plans should be written by local councils, in full consultation with local people, who are going to live with the consequences. Are the sudden changes in this draft due to direct Welsh Government Intervention? The answer is YES: this is confirmed in a Brecon & Radnor Express report 6/10/2016.

**Have we been consulted about LSAs?** NO. A major plan like this should have been in the earliest drafts of the Local Development Plan. There should have been roadshows, public announcements and meetings, studies of impacts etc. Consultation is a legal requirement. Slipping a plan like this into the final stages of the Local Development Plan - without telling anyone - does not count as local consultation.

**Should Powys have looked at all the major impacts?** YES: that is another legal requirement not fulfilled.

**What's a Local Development Plan for?** It should there to provide for local needs, on the basis of sound evidence<sup>5</sup>. That's what Welsh Government advice says. This proposal has nothing to do with local need, and there is **no** evidence regarding impacts.

**A broken promise:** The Welsh Government's controversial TAN8 introduced the concept of Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) for wind development precisely to concentrate development and protect areas outside the SSAs from significant landscape change. What happened to that promise?

### **IS THERE ANY BENEFIT, FOR ANYONE?**

**Will this policy save CO<sub>2</sub>?** No one has yet proven that renewables save any CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, all calculations are wholly theoretical. We do know that undamaged peat uplands, like healthy soils, sequester carbon. How do you justify a plan which involves a known loss and no known gain?

**Can wind farms even increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?** If you still need convincing this is a bad idea then read this article<sup>6</sup>.

### **WHAT ELSE?**

Please email your local politicians with your concerns, they need to understand the scale of local opposition: Montgomeryshire: MP [glyn.davies.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:glyn.davies.mp@parliament.uk) AM [russell.george@assembly.wales](mailto:russell.george@assembly.wales)  
Brecon & Radnorshire MP [chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk) AM [Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales](mailto:Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales)  
Find your local councillor here: <http://powys.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>  
Write to the paper, tell your neighbours – we still need to get the word out

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<sup>4</sup> <https://scotlandagainstspin.org/2014/08/windfarms-water-smoking-gun/>

<sup>5</sup> Planning Policy Wales 8\* Para 2.2.1 <http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/ppw/?lang=en>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.socme.org/june05downloads/cambriannews1.jpg>