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December 1 2007

Petitions Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Your ref: PET-03-088.

**Call for the Welsh assembly to reconsider its energy policy, particularly the
promotion of large wind turbines.**

Dear Helen Brown/ Petitions Committee,

Thank you for considering this petition. I attach an outline of our actions to date to try & address the situation. This is as short as possible and doesn't include any detail of what we have discovered, or done.

Several of us are willing to attend a committee meeting and answer Member's questions, if invited.

The three things we would like the Assembly to do are

- 1) To make a ruling on the permissible distances between turbines & homes, schools and hospitals in Wales.
- 2) To review fully the Assembly's TAN 8 guidelines on the siting of wind turbines.
- 3) To order full cost-benefit analytical comparison of potential energy developments, including all environmental and other costs: for example, a comparison between using forestry land for turbines or for biofuel over a 30-year period.

I hope this is sufficient and appropriate information for the next stage of consideration, and that you will let us know, through this address, if there is anything else we should do or say.

Yours sincerely


Janet Dubé

Action taken by Gwyddgrug petitioners to try to address the impact of mistaken Assembly energy policy.

We are centred on Gwyddgrug, north Carmarthenshire. We came together in early April this year following Carmarthenshire County Council's granting of planning approval for 10 wind turbines, each 110m high, on farmland above the village, very near some homes.

We have met every week since April. We have used the internet to investigate the installation, workings and efficiency of wind turbines. We read and circulated reports on the health effects associated with turbines near homes. We consulted an independent planning expert, in whose opinion the council had not followed normal planning rules. We consulted solicitors. We applied for a judicial review of Carmarthenshire's decision. We set up a legal fund to challenge the decision, and are using sponsorship, car-boot sales etc to raise money. We invited members of other groups to meet with us, and support them at council meetings. We made banners and attended a rally in mid Wales.

We wrote again to the council on several matters. Some of those most affected invited councillors and officers to a site visit, which they refused. We visited our AM Rhodri Glyn Thomas. He visited one of the families most affected and came to one of our meetings. We wrote to Assembly Ministers and entered into correspondence with civil servants on the matter of turbine distance from homes. We asked our MP to raise this matter in the UK Parliament.

We discovered that in some European regions there are rulings on turbine distance. We asked our MEPs why there is no European standard on this important public health matter. One MEP replied that under subsidiarity rules this is a matter for the Assembly and local authorities: hence our first request.

We haven't yet had permission to challenge Carmarthenshire's decision in court, although we can show that normal planning rules have in effect been bypassed. We have discovered there is confusion about the roles of the Assembly and local planning officers in the matter of wind turbines. Developers have been able to take advantage of this, and say they hope to fill the all TAN 8 areas with turbines, infrastructure and associated pylons: hence our second request.

In the years since developers first called meetings in our area, it has emerged that wind turbines are not as efficient as they claimed. We believe the Assembly's previous decisions put too much emphasis on wind-power in comparison with energy conservation, tidal power, solar power, clean coal, biofuel and other ways of addressing the problems we share. We want to co-operate with our Council and Assembly in developing sustainable lifestyles for everyone in Wales. We believe this co-operation is necessary and urgent.

We ask the Assembly

- 1) To **make** a ruling on the permissible distances between turbines & homes, schools and hospitals in Wales.
- 2) To review fully the Assembly's TAN 8 guidelines on the siting of wind turbines.
- 3) To order full cost-benefit analytical comparisons of potential energy developments, including all environmental and other costs, starting with a comparison between using forestry land for turbines or for biofuel over a 30 year period.