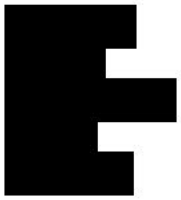


From: [Julie](#)
To: [NDE](#)
Subject: Consultation letter from Powys Upland Resident/Equine Tourist Business Provider
Date: 13 November 2019 08:42:20
Attachments: [Welsh Gov NDFC Consultation.doc](#)

Please find attached my consultation letter concerning the 'Proposed' new Welsh Government National Develop Framework.

J. A. Leggett.



15/11/2019

The statement below concerns the proposed Welsh Government's, National Development Framework Consultation in relation to Policies 10-14 **Wind and Solar Priority Areas**.

1. Adverse effects of the 'Proposal' on Tourism.

Tourism is second only to the Farming Industry in Employment and Income in Rural Wales. The main draw for Visitors to Wales is the Landscape, Tranquillity and Green Space. Visitors do not come here for the weather!

Even if the National Parks in Wales are seen as 'no go development areas' for Wind Turbine 'Farms' and Solar Arrays, these Industrial Scale Developments **WILL be seen from these protected areas!**

It is acknowledged that Powys has a monumental Network of Public Rights of Ways (PRoW's), and is steeped with Natural History, Ancient Monuments and Rich Sensitive Biodiversity. By targeting Powys in the way the Welsh Government proposes threatens all of these elements and amounts to 'Vandalism' of **our most precious Natural Resource, the Landscape!**

I have spent 14 years building up, and investing time, money and effort developing an Equine Bed and Breakfast Establishment. I now have visitors from all over the country come to stay with their Horses. The out riding from the doorstep onto and around the Radnorshire Hills is second to none!

The British Horse Society (BHS) encourages individuals and groups to take up one of the many Equine disciplines with an emphasis on 'Off Road Riding' due to the ever increasing volume of traffic on Public Highways. In 2018 the BHS reported that 87 horses and 4 people were killed on the roads with 73% of accidents occurred due to vehicles passing too closely.

The 'Red Dragon Endurance Event' is a BHS Endurance 'Premier' Event. This event is run from the Royal Welsh Show Ground, takes place over three days and takes in miles and miles of the Radnorshire Uplands. The Event attracts competitors from all areas of the UK, and this year, was also run as a 'Home International'.

This is just one example of how 'Equestrian Tourism' boosts the Economy of Powys.

Turbines and horses are not a good mix. The BHS recommends Turbine distance of three and a half times the height of the machine away from any Bridleway.

At a time when taking 'exercise and fresh air', in any shape or form, is so vital to Health and Wellbeing, there is a continuing erosion of assets to facilitate this 'Human Right'!

2. Local Democracy v National Dictate.

Sadly one such location has already succumbed to the slaughter of the 'Right of Passage'; that is the development of the Hendy Wind Farm at Llandegley Rhos Common, Llandegley, Powys.

The demise of this area rests completely, totally and firmly with the Welsh Government.

The Application by Njord Energy was refused by Powys Planning Authority; the refusal was appealed by Njord Energy. Welsh Government appointed their 'in house' Inspector who **also refused the**

Development. The Welsh Government, in the 'form' of Lesley Griffiths, **overturned the expensive, well researched, well considered refusal of her own Inspector**, without, (as far as I am aware), even making a site visit! The Development does not take into consideration the distance the BHS advises Turbines should be away from Equine Rights of Ways which run through the site. At one point a mere 10m is 'spare' should a Turbine fall over! The only mitigation is the use of a 'permitted way' which does not compensate in any measure for the loss of the Right of Way. The Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) will remain open as it is a 'PRoW' and can still be used if any rider dare! Llandegley Rhos Common has a network of PRoW's which 'Hendy Wind Farm' will now be 'punctuated' with Turbines! The BHS in their recommendations point out that Turbines to 'either side' of a Horse, to the 'South', Moving Shadows and 'Shadow Flicker' can cause serious risk to riders. Hendy Wind Farm serves up all of these!

No one in their right mind would even try to venture there on a Horse!

(I am more than willing for any member of the Welsh Government to 'give it a go on my Welsh Cob!)

I wrote an initial objection, attended local meetings prior to the planning meeting, was overjoyed at the outcome of the planning meeting, dismayed at the Appeal, I sat through and spoke at the Inquiry, I was elated at the finding of the Welsh Inspector then **devastated by the Welsh Government's intervention!** Months of enduring a pointless 'roller-coaster ride', resulting in **Local Democracy 'Lose', National Diktat 'Win'!**

3. Local Development Plan. (LDP)

Again, as above, hours and hours of 'person power' were consumed during an exhaustive 'thrashing out, visiting, re-visiting' of the **Local Develop Plan** for Powys.

The adoption of the **LDP** was finally arrived at by lengthy meetings, debate, more meetings, plus Public Inquiry by Planning Inspector Welsh Civil Servants in attendance.

Again, in terms of Time, Tax Payers Money, and Effort of all those involved is immeasurable, and, must not be 'swept aside' by the 'Welsh Government's NDF'.

This is a period of '**Consultation**'. '**Democracy**' is at the very root of '**Consultation**'; '**Democracy**' is the "Institutionalisation of Freedom". Those who Reside, Work, and Recreate in Powys should, as major stakeholders, be 'The 'Representatives' for Powys, not those who do not!

4. The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

This 'Act' is directly contravened by Welsh Government through the removal of **Local** Community Involvement in **Local** Planning Procedure.

As a **Local** Resident of Powys who Lives, Recreates, and by design is 'Employed' by the 'Truly Unique Powys Landscape and its amazing PRow Network', personal 'Wellbeing' is not something that appears to be high on Welsh Government's agenda!

Imagine waking up every morning after spending restless nights worrying about the threat of livelihoods' being ruined, not being able to sell your home, not being able to meet the ever rising energy bills generated by inefficient 'technology', having the very reason for living in the Uplands of Powys 'forcibly removed', the impact and damage to Ecology, Heritage, Biodiversity, Hydrology and the Unlocking of Carbon as Wind Farms stomp their way across **our hills** with all their 'associated trappings'.

The threat of vast, newly 'proposed' search areas are having a profound impact on mental health.

5. How Effective, How 'Green'?

Firstly, Wind Turbines are not as efficient as Developers insist they are, and some Welsh Cabinet Ministers think they are! Developers always give 'best scenario data', that which, '**could**' be achieved in optimal conditions. Sadly the Topography of Powys does not create 'optimal conditions'.

For example the Hendy Wind Farm Site at Llandegley Rhos Common sits in a 'bowl'!

Turbines are also not as 'Green' as they are proposed to be. Already Turbine Blades are ending up in Landfill as they are not able to be recycled and presently Blade efficiency drops by 20% after 15 years due to the erosion of the blade coating. There is 'issue' of toxins entering the extensive Upland Water Table and Courses. Concrete is not good news! There are 'the issues' during construction of these Industrial Machines from the number of lorry journeys it takes to transport and pour concrete, to the Infrastructure to facilitate all the works, to sub-stations, connection to the grid, to transport of the 'generated energy' with the further it travels the more energy is lost (!), to on site diesel generators.....first and foremost, where are all the materials sourced from to 'construct' these 'Green Machines'? The answer my friend is 'Blowing in the Wind', often abroad, and Third World Countries where our need to 'Go Green and be Carbon Free' is hidden! The list goes on and on!

The 'sum needs to be totalled' before 'The Sacrificial Lamb', namely Powys, is slaughtered in the name of, 'Green' Renewable Energy! There are many other Technologies that can be uses other than Wind Turbines

6. Education to Save, not Squander Energy.

Rhun ap Iorwerth asked Lesley Griffiths if she would "give certainty that Welsh Government will remove that threat" he was referring to the threat of Wind Turbines of up to 250m on Anglesey. Considering that Holyhead Mountain is only 220m high one can understand that '**fear**' in the real sense of the word is felt by every Resident and Tourism Operator on the Island! He also questioned the absence of alternative

technologies for Renewable Energy Production such as tidal, stating that it is not even referenced in the Framework!

No straight answer was given. In place of an answer Lesley Griffiths stated that “we are currently out to consultation” and that she has “has engaged” with the Minister for Housing and Local Government “fully and collaboratively”. I am not convinced that the population of Anglesey will now have their fears allayed! She then said the scope for innovation, and “opportunities for tidal and marine energy are huge”, adding that she had attended a ‘marine conference’ which demonstrated “energy opportunities you could only dream of”. Powys Residents really do need Welsh Government appointed Lesley Griffiths to ‘think out of her box’ and grasp these ‘New Innovations’. Not to ‘dream’ but take action and stop flooding the Landscape with the same ‘old’ inefficient, invasive ‘technology’!

A great deal more could be done through Education to save energy and lessen Carbon Footprints. How about turning off 2 out of 3 street lights, turning off lights when not needed, not leaving appliances on ‘standby’, ensuring that every householder has a responsibility for some level of their own energy production, ensuring that every new farm building is covered with Solar Panels, (With the explosion of Chicken Units there must be acres of roof tops available!), situate Wind Turbines in Industrial Areas and closer to where energy is needed to lessen energy loss.....

7. Plant Trees not Pylons.

Very current is the recognised need to plant trees! All things green and growing are designed to take in CO₂ and produce O₂ as a bi-product, a clever thing, ‘Photosynthesis’!

An area the size of half of Wales planted with is needed for the UK to produce the amount of O₂ needed as ‘offset’.

Instead of ‘Littering the Landscape’ with Industrial Monstrosities Wales could become the ‘Lungs of the UK’. Electricity would still need to be produced but by ‘New Innovations and more sympathetic methods of Sustainable, Renewable Energy.

8. Conclusion.

The points made above are not exhaustive. Many other considerations should be examined before finalising the Welsh Government’s NDF. Welsh Government should be minded that this is a vital and necessary Consultation period in which procedure and democracy must be served.

Wind Turbines and Wind Farms on the scale that could result in the proposed NDF ‘New Search Areas’ are completely and utterly unacceptable, many of which are totally unsuitable!

The Welsh Governments NDP is fundamentally flawed and is not fit for purpose. The only way to win back Public Support is to remove the ‘threat of unacceptable renewable schemes’ and except the detailed findings of Welsh Government Inspectors and Local Authority’s where ‘Facts’ and ‘Democracy’ are given full, intelligent consideration.

Julie Leggett

