



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

NDF Team,  
Planning Policy Branch  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Dear Team,

**Re: Draft National Development Framework**

I refer to the above consultation exercise that is currently under way, in particular references made to renewable energy.

At the outset let me emphasise that I fully support renewable energy in the right place and fully support economic development in rural areas.

Having read the full consultation document I find that there is a bias towards both South and North Wales, with Mid Wales appearing an after thought apart from a mention of renewable energy and potential development of Newtown. It seems that Mid Wales is a no man's land , out of sight and forgotten. We hear about multi billion schemes to improve the lot of other regions- Metros, Rail improvement links, improved transport links utilising low emission vehicles and electrical vehicles, City initiatives –the list goes on!

Has anyone in Kerdiff ever set foot in Mid Wales?

For instance in your report for Mid Wales the overview mentions a population of 900,000 which includes 574,000 living in Swansea ,Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire. This leaves 326,000 populating an area as big as , if not bigger than the area where 574,000 are crammed.

This area cannot be compared to those in the South. The area has suffered and is suffering from lack of investment, poor road and rail links and has a fragile economy which is reliant mainly upon Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism. There are pockets of industry and SMEs attracted to Newtown and Welshpool by the now defunct DBRW which developed small industrial and business estates in the 1970s.

- Financial and Social pressures over the years have seen a decline in occupancy of units. The units themselves look out of date and in need of refurbishment, modernisation or rebuild. There is little to recommend to potential businesses.
- Until recently Newtown was notorious as a bottle neck which did not encourage investors and businesses into the area. However after 35+ years of lobbying a new by-pass has been opened. It used to take in excess of 1 hour to cover 2.5 miles- worse at weekends and bank holidays.

The A483 is the main arterial route along the Severn Valley for tourists from the English border and passes through varying topography, sites of outstanding beauty, heritage and unspoilt landscapes. It is imperative that these aspects are preserved without disruption to the ecology and natural environment.

I notice Mid Wales does figure prominently under policy 26 "A resource rich region" paragraph 2 relating to its role in decarbonising and supporting renewable energy.

As a result of its topography Mid Wales is deemed to be the location for the siting of wind farms which capture the prevailing winds mostly from the west and has become an obvious target for this industry. There have been several on-shore and off-shore farms built in the area over the years.

I would point out however, having resided in Tenby, Swansea, Newport and Chepstow in my lifetime that the same west wind blows up the funnel that is known as the Bristol Channel with just as much force.

My question is therefore what plans are there for the WAG to develop wind power in the Channel – I'm sure these turbines would be a welcome sight and attraction to Cardiff Bay and the Senedd. It would give credence to WAG's commitment to renewable energy strategy.

I believe I can answer my own question:-

- They are variable in output which means it is difficult to rely on wind power to generate electricity 100% of the time
- There is a high initial investment need which relies on government funding and subsidy
- The visual impact of farms sited in locations of outstanding nature
- Between 25/5/19 and 3/6/19 power from wind farms fell from 6kmw to less than 500mw
- 8 days without generating substantive power.

How many wind on and off shore farms are 100% owned by Welsh businesses?

Research shows that nearly all farms are foreign owned- apart from subsidised power what is their contribution to Wales?

I would also query why the WAG is driven to impose these farms on the Mid Wales' landscape. Compared to savings made on CO2 emissions they are pin prick on a global scale when compared to the emissions made by fossil fuelled countries.

- For instance – Didcot “A” coal fired power station generating 1.44.gigawatts was demolished.
- China generates 993 gigawatts of coal fired energy (equivalent to 690 Didcots) and plans to develop a further 259 gigawatts of coal fired energy ( a further 180 Didcots)
- The UK’s WHOLE electrical generation capacity in ALL forms of power is 85 gigawatts
- If we gave up using no electricity whatsoever it would make no difference to the impact of China’s coal burning on the atmosphere.
- India is increasing coal generation to reach 200 gigawatts (139 Didcots)

If WAG wish to reduce CO2 emissions they should turn their attention to these 2 countries and introduce tariffs on their products that flood our nation.

There are alternative processes to generate electricity.

Tidal wave power. Three quarters of Wales is surrounded by water. That resource is free.

- It is more predicable and reliable than wind or solar power
- It is cyclical – 2 tides on a daily basis, 365 days per year – enabling designs for greater efficiency.
- Longevity of equipment with a perceived lifespan of 75-100 years compared to wind and solar of between 20-25 years.
- The Bristol Channel has one of the highest tidal flows in the world
- They would be more pleasing to eye, encourage safe water sports and recreations.

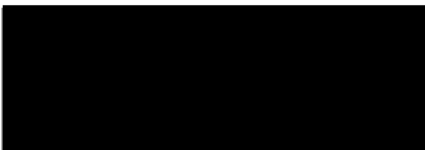
Therefore I must protest and object to WAG’s proposal to impose further wind farms on the Mid Wales landscape. Enough is enough, there are alternatives, focus on the CO2 emissions of the polluters.

A copy of this letter is being sent to :

Russell George AM

Gareth Pugh Powys County Councillor

Yours faithfully,



Trevor Ogden

