

**From:** [Jo Weller](#)  
**To:** [NDE](#)  
**Subject:** Response to National Development Framework  
**Date:** 13 November 2019 19:11:44  
**Attachments:** [National Development Framework Response SJW.docx](#)

---

**For the attention of: THE NDF TEAM.**

Dear NDF Team

My personal response to the draft National Development Framework is attached. Although this is a Word document, I have followed the general layout of your Consultation Document.

I am only responding to the following sections:

- 7. Renewable Energy and District Heat Networks (Policies 10-15)
- 8. The Regions (Policy 16)
- 15. Further comments
- 16. Are you... ?

**Please acknowledge receipt of my response document.**

Yours faithfully

Mrs S J Weller

[Redacted signature block]

**National Development Framework 2020-2040**  
**Consultation Draft: 7 August – 1 November 2019**

**Consultation Response Form**

Your name	Mrs S J Weller
Your address	[REDACTED]
Preferred contact details (email/phone/post)	[REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	

**7. Renewable Energy and District Heat Networks (policies 10-15)**

- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the NDF's policies to lower carbon emissions in Wales using...

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Large scale wind and solar developments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District heat networks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- If you disagree with the NDF's approaches to green infrastructure, renewable energy or district heat networks, what alternative approaches should we consider to help Wales to enhance its biodiversity and transition to a low carbon economy?

### **Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy:**

It would appear that Local Planning Authorities, including Powys County Council, have not been taken into consideration. Powys County Council had put a lot of work into their LDP...which has only recently been passed. However, the WG. have chosen to ignore what plans they (and other Councils) have already put into place for potential Solar Energy; Wind Energy; or indeed, District Heating Networks. **They have been completely overridden, by the WG 'proposed' NDF. This is not acceptable, and ranks of Dictatorship.** A unique and very valuable Landscape will be completely ruined, and industrialised on a massive scale. This will have a devastating effect on Tourism which is a vital source of Income for the area. Mid Wales in particular, does not have the road infrastructure to cope with the movement of massive turbine blades, and additional heavy wide loads. NOTE: TURBINE BLADES CANNOT BE RECYCLED...AND THEY ARE MASSIVE!! We will need a whole new country to be used as Landfill areas.

Furthermore, Wales is a net contributor of electricity to the UK...and your plans are to totally industrialise the whole of our beautiful landscape. It is obvious from the huge land areas proposed in the NDF for windfarms and solar farms, that most of the renewable energy would have to be **exported to England....for the benefit of ENGLAND!!** WHY IN THE NAME OF SANITY WOULD ANY RATIONAL WELSH GOVERNMENT DO THAT? There is more than a hint of the controversial policy that led to the desecration of the Tryweryn valley. [The village and other parts of the valley were flooded in 1965 to create a reservoir, Llyn Celyn, in order to supply Liverpool and Wirral with water for industry.]

### **Grid Capacity**

A massive oversight on the part of the WG's NDF..is glaringly obvious. .or it should be. It is to most people who actually live here.... **THERE IS NO GRID CAPACITY IN MID WALES!!**. This was stated by Scottish Power Energy Networks, in a separate response to call for evidence....: This is a vital requisite surely, before anything can be agreed?

It must not be forgotten that any proposed new grid infrastructure will have its own effect on the landscape and the environment. A transmission line (the 'Llandinam Line') proposed by Scottish Power Energy Networks was turned down a few years ago after a Public Inquiry by a UK Government Inspector because of the detrimental consequences the line would have on the environment. Please Take Note!

## **8. The Regions (policy 16)**

- ☐ To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of developing Strategic Development Plans prepared at a regional scale?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

There should be four regions nominated in the NDF – North Wales, Mid Wales, Swansea/Milford Haven Region and Cardiff Region, because these parts of Wales are very different from each other, and require different solutions. Urban solutions do not necessarily apply to rural areas.

## 15. Further comments

- ☐ Are there any further comments that you would like to make on the NDF, or any alternative proposals you feel we should consider?

### Lack of Democracy

Yet again, I find myself having to repeat what I have had cause to say previously. The NDF has to be the most Illogical, Irrational, Ill conceived, Shambolic, Ham-fisted excuse for a proposed Planning Framework, ever to come out of the Welsh Labour Government! And there have been some! It is obvious that there has been no joined up thinking when preparing this document. It could be hilarious, if it was not so tragic for Wales.

It is my understanding that NO consultation was done with the AMs prior to the launching of the consultation. Our very own AM Mr Russell George, who I believe is CHAIR OF THE ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, was surprised when the consultation was launched without having been debated in the Assembly. Yet again, making AM's surplus to requirements. It is my understanding that he had NO knowledge whatsoever that these plans were being published at this time, I believe. No warning at all - Outrageous!! AMs are there for that very purpose surely?

I feel it will, sadly, be a total waste of time anyone daring to contradict your horrendous plans, for the defilement of the Mid Wales Landscape. Previous experience has shown that the WG do not consider Local People, or Local County Councils, or even DEMOCRACY! As an illustration, I refer to the utter contempt shown to Mid Wales regarding the Llandegley Rhos Common 'HENDY' WIND TURBINE application. Despite being refused by the People, Powys County Council, and **the Government Inspector**, who had very strong views: **"I have reached the conclusion that the harm which would be caused by this development, would clearly outweigh the Benefits"**. Yet the Welsh Government's Minister, **Lesley Griffiths**, saw fit to RUBBER STAMP IT, overruling the Government Inspector!! (Moreover it appears she did not even do it the courtesy of a Site Visit). Utterly disgraceful actions, and contempt for the Inspector's views. Obviously he is superfluous to

requirements from here on in. She has created a disastrous precedent, and all such applications will be deemed suitable to approve. No consideration for CUMULATIVE effect (especially Wind Turbine NOISE).

The disgraceful TAN8 (an earlier farce) has been a complete failure. Again, the majority of the Strategic Search Areas were in Mid Wales!! This is starting to look like victimisation! The so called SSAs were meant to protect other areas from development, but they have been ignored, and windfarm development allowed outside the SSAs. For instance the Hendy Windfarm was allowed by the Welsh Government in spite of being rejected by Powys County Council and the Welsh Government's own Planning Inspector.

Developers are riding roughshod over Planning Rules. And being allowed to. They do not appear to recognise local issues in any way whatsoever. Our Uplands (Peat Bogs...vital for storing CO2) and water retention, biodiversity, our Unspoilt Landscape and Historic areas, which are the draw for Tourists from all over the world, seeking beauty, calm, and a peaceful environment, is about to be destroyed. The proposed NDF is a foolish and ill thought out madness. It will destroy the Environment, not save it. Wild, calm, unspoiled landscapes are FOOD FOR THE SOUL WHICH HAS BEEN RECOGNISED BY MANY DOCTORS. Our Landscape in Mid Wales is RARE, and UNIQUE. The WG are about to turn it into an Industrialised Landscape...barren. Except for Turbines, Pylons, and Solar Panels and cables criss-crossing our landscape. What will future generations have to wonder at? Shame on you! The NDF so called 'Plans' should be scrapped, and a more intelligent, forward looking plan thought out. The glaring outcome would be a total mess of un-regulated planning applications being passed. In fact, it appears that NO PLANNING PERMISSION WOULD BE NECESSARY, as any Refusal would be overruled by Lesley Griffiths. Therefore, Local Planning Departments would become irrelevant also.

The Welsh Labour Government is in serious danger of being remembered as the party that single-handedly destroyed WALES in its entirety. Mid Wales is known locally as 'The Jewel in the Crown' because of its beauty. Technology is advancing rapidly, and by the time these useless 'monsters' are erected, the turbines will be obsolescent – but too late for Wales. Our Energy requirements cannot be sustained by wind, which is unreliable, and at best, intermittent.

### **Economy (including Tourism, Rural Economy and Agriculture)**

When reviewing proposals for the NDF, it is vital, imperative even, that the effect on Tourism is thoroughly understood, and possible detriment fully assessed. It is important that the pursuit of one objective does not unintentionally damage the tourism sector. If these proposals go ahead, and the massive Infrastructure is put in, it will cause unprecedented damage. Not just to the Landscape, with massive tracks being gouged into our hillsides, but the DESTRUCTION OF HUNDREDS OF TREES, HEDGES, AND VERGES. The very things that actually HELP THE ENVIRONMENT. There will be Tonnes and tonnes of Concrete (worst for the Environment) poured into our hillsides (which cannot ever be removed)! Flooding is a very real possibility in our valleys. We already have field after field totally immersed in water when it rains heavily in Montgomeryshire. Farm animals are severely affected, as are homes! How can that be allowed? The desire for one objective could so easily kill another vital asset for the Environment. LANDSCAPE.

Tourism will be massively affected. Notwithstanding the years of disruption to traffic, being held back by delivery of the gigantic blades. Hotels, B&Bs, Cafes, Restaurants, Caravan Sites, Outdoor Pursuits etc. etc. will all be seriously affected. Hundreds of jobs are at risk, as Tourism is a major player in our Economy. We must not forget businesses also. They struggle as it is to survive in mid Wales, WITH MOBILE AND BROADBAND CONNECTION SPARSE. Many people from other parts of the Country have bought Caravans here. This is purely because of the magnificent scenery, peace, and quiet. **The Tourist pound is worth millions!** Visitors will not want to come to be caught in permanent traffic chaos, which is already a problem) or to see an Industrialised landscape covered with whirring Turbines, Pylons, and associated infrastructure. Miles of lines stretching as far as the eye can see, even into Shropshire, who probably have not been consulted. The nightmare caused just a few years ago of Turbines came through many small towns and villages, was dreadful. Deliveries could not get OUT or IN. Business suffered greatly because of these massive loads, and police closing roads to allow them through. People could not get to vital HOSPITAL OR DOCTORS appointments. Lives are put at risk by these endless deliveries and road works. People were late for work, causing loss of wages. Bus timetables went out of the window. The Welsh Government cannot totally ignore these facts, just because of the drive for a TOTALLY UNREALISTIC Carbon footprint. **HAVE YOU HEARD OF CHINA?** Toxic Lakes being made, due to mining for the rare earth minerals that help make the magnets for these Turbines batteries, and other Batteries. It is causing a waste land, and destroying THEIR LIVES. Does this not matter so long as WALES meets its ludicrous Targets? IT SHOULD... We should not be destroying another country, to 'save' our own.

### **Natural Environment**

The unique landscape in mid Wales, and its natural environment, are fundamental to Tourism in Wales, especially in mid Wales, which is not yet an industrial area. It is the basis of most of our local economy, and any changes may have a massive impact on this Economy and the Environment. 'Visit Wales' Tourism is always saying we want to improve on the high number of Tourists coming to Wales. The NDF as proposed would lead to the complete opposite to these plans, in a very detrimental way. Every person, and business, in mid Wales would suffer considerably if tourism and access to many places were severely disrupted by the transportation, or erection, of turbines and the associated infrastructure...The NDF has a duty of care to assess these impacts thoroughly.

Management of the natural environment and landscapes are inevitably linked to farming. The NDF must ensure that the objectives of managing the natural environment consider the objectives for agriculture. Massive disruption is likely to be the outcome of the NDF Energy policies. Farmers would be severely affected by such infrastructure on, or crossing, their land. This needs to be considered, and discussed, as a matter of urgency.

### **Transport**

Rural transport is a major problem across Wales and the NDF should ensure this is dealt with. Train and bus transport is inadequate or non-existent, and even by car, poor roads mean that rural access to nearby towns is difficult. A better Infrastructure is desperately needed here in Mid Wales, not just in Cardiff or Swansea.

Opportunities for Mid Wales arising from their nearness to the English midlands are not fully realised. The NDF should show how communication links can be improved and Mid Wales can benefit from economic opportunities over the border.

Most people are of the opinion that we don't count in this area. This should not be the case, and it is your duty to see that 'we are all in it together'. We see nothing for the extortionate Council Tax we pay - a 9.5% increase this year alone.

### **Conclusion**

I would respectfully urge the Welsh Labour Government to reconsider their proposed plans for the NDF. It is in contravention of anything Democratic, with little or no time for a thorough consultation with local people, or businesses that will be severely affected by these changes. Many small villages are already subject to large development, despite the glaringly obvious fact, that there is no public amenities in that village. It will mean hundreds more cars in the narrow, and winding lanes, which are already dangerous and congested. People will be forced to drive MILES TO WORK, thereby causing more CO2 Emissions. Rural areas are not covered by Public Transport. I myself, despite having a bus pass, have NO BUS!

The so called proposals, bear no resemblance to anything sustainable, logical, or efficient. They have not been thought through thoroughly, by people with the Expertise to understand the outcome.

PLEASE, FOR THE SAKE OF WALES, AND ITS BEAUTIFUL, UNIQUE, AND PEACEFUL LANDSCAPE....THINK AGAIN...BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

### **16. Are you...?**

Providing your own personal response	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
Submitting a response on behalf of an organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Responses to the consultation will be shared with the National Assembly for Wales and are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------