

From: Mortimer, Ceri (Gelligaer CC, Llanbradach & Pwllypant CC) <MORTIC1@caerphilly.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Nelson Community Council <clerk.nelson@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Consulting on PEDW process for Developments of National Significance

Hi Lewis

Thank you for your email which I have agenda'd for my next GCC meeting and I will get back to you with our comments/observations.

Bute Energy ran several public consultations which were held in our local villages such as Nelson, Senghennydd and Llanbradach. And I can only speak on behalf of the public attending the Llanbradach event, were generally very much in favour of the development.

Visual impact from the turbines in Llanbradach is unlikely, or minimal, but proposals to transport materials via Pwllypant would have an impact and therefore community benefit would apply.

Llanbradach & Pwllypant CC had no objections on learning that the development would generate enough electricity for 80,000 homes per year and very supportive of clean renewable energy.

In relation to community benefit, a solar farm was installed in Gelligaer some year's ago and a community benefit package to the sum of approximately £42k was paid to Gelligaer CC. Enough electricity is generated to power 3,700 homes over 35 years. After which, the land will be reinstated for agricultural use.

Furthermore a wind turbine visible from Ystrad Mynach, generates approx. £8k in community benefit per annum for GCC, payable over 25 years.

Cofion cynnes / Warm regards
Ceri

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PWYLLWCH cyn ARGRAFFU / THINK before you PRINT

From: Nelson Community Council <clerk.nelson@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:39 AM
Subject: Consulting on PEDW process for Developments of National Significance

Hi Clerks

Some of you will be far more knowledgeable in this area than I am- our members in Nelson here have asked me to draw this to your attention. I'll put it simply so newbies can follow my understanding so apologies if I haven't got it quite right.

What is happening

- There is a proposal for wind turbines to be installed on Eglwysilan common. These will be nearest to Nelson but visible from Gelligaer residents at least but potentially others such as Maesycwmmmer and Aber Valley.
- There are 14 proposed (<https://twynhywelenergypark.wales/>). These are a new design and will be 200m in height. Most are currently around 85m.
- It is deemed to be a project of national significance given the generation of renewable energy and the area has been highlighted as a good area to do it.
- As a result the planning decision is made by PEDW (Planning and Environment Decisions Wales)
- The planning application for this project has been submitted and as soon as PEDW accept it, there is a 5 week window to submit representations.
- The LA will be asked to submit an objective Local Impact Report and the Community Council can submit one voluntarily. I don't know how we do it and whether there is value in submitting one alongside the LA's but getting advice as Members are keen to do it.
- There are separate developments for a synchronous condenser and solar farm. The substation up there is also getting bigger because it has permitted development rights to support the national grid. The wind turbine developers claim to not be linked to the condenser but this seems difficult to believe that they won't be linked at some stage. The developers of the condenser are more difficult to engage with and are not at the application stage which will be processed by CCBC.
- There is a promise of community benefit. However, there is recent evidence that promised community benefit doesn't always materialise as binding contracts are not necessarily made and companies change ownership structures easily which avoids their obligation
- CCBC are to develop some guidance for stakeholders in how to manage these developments on our doorstep.
- There are similar developments lined up in Upper Rhymney and Abercarn/Newbridge and maybe one in New Tredegar on a quick search.
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust have been helpful in providing guidance and linking with developers.
- There is a concern that if we don't get this right as communities we may be blighted by these developments as we were with the coal industry

Concerns

- these things are huge with huge platforms to go with it
- Should be avoiding water table but concerns by residents that they are not taking concerns seriously especially by farms that aren't on mains water
- potential impact on drainage
- no guarantee of community benefit
- impact of construction process on local villages
- unknown impact of other related developments
- general blight on the landscape
- change of use of common land to affect everyone's access
- our general positivity of renewable energy might allow us to be objective about the impact on our communities.
- understanding that the impact on immediate residents is very serious
- the planning process is really quick once it starts so it may be too late to raise concerns (that will be considered) by the time it starts

In short-

2 things to consider:

1. Neighbouring wards- I think you should bring this to members' attention. Please feel free to offer any representations via me for consideration in our representation to PEDW
2. Be mindful that these developments might be coming to your ward and a collective approach to managing them would be useful
3. Should be raised at the Liaison Committee Bob

Guidance for communities and interested parties: <https://www.gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-engaging-process>

- Guidance for applicants and Local Planning Authorities: <https://www.gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-procedural-guide>

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