

'Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (Draft)'

I am extremely concerned at the proposals in the above document relating to Renewable Energy (RE), specifically as detailed in Policy 17 and Policy 18. My concerns are summarised below and I trust that you will take them into account.

- While the move to generate more energy from renewable resources is to be welcomed the intention seems to be to deliver this via huge (250m high) onshore wind turbines. Huge swathes of our countryside have been 'pre assessed' and in these areas there will be a 'presumption in favour of **large scale wind energy development**' (my emphasis). The Welsh Government has apparently modelled the likely impact on the landscape and found that developments could be accommodated in an acceptable way. However, I have read nothing that explains the factors taken into account in the modelling nor what constitutes 'acceptable'. There has certainly been no public consultation on this issue.
- Policy 18 states that, **outside** the Pre -Assessed Areas, any proposed development should not have 'an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape...'. The logical conclusion is that in the Pre-Assessed Areas there will be **no** requirement to consider the visual impact of any proposed development nor the effect upon the adjoining landscape. Given that turbines may well be of 250m high, the devastating visual impact would be visible from a distance of many miles from the development.
- Policy 18 states that there should be 'no unacceptable adverse impacts on the transportation network...' with a specific reference to the construction phase. However, it is impossible to imagine how the component parts of such massive wind turbines, particularly the blades, could be safely transported along our rural roads and then to the construction sites. There appears to be no recognition that additional infrastructure would be needed and that this would have a negative impact on our beautiful upland countryside.
- Policy 17 acknowledges that infrastructure would be needed for the transmission and distribution of energy. There is reference to minimising the visual impact of such infrastructure, but I am sure that I am not the only person who does not understand the reference to transitioning to 'a multi-vector grid network' and what this will mean in practice. I fear that, inevitably, the infrastructure will mean the erection of massive pylons over swathes of our countryside, further despoiling the natural beauty of our area.
- Section 26 of the NDF report refers to the 'outstanding landscapes' of Wales. These are seen as critical to providing a 'high quality of life'. They are a resource freely available to rich and poor alike and are a vital source of tourist income for Powys. Yet all this is under threat by the proposals in the National

Plan. Why would we ruin this precious asset when, if never before, we have been made all too aware of how access to the countryside is essential to our physical and mental well-being. As regards tourism, has there been any assessment as to the impact of large wind farms on the rural economy? After all, what would be the attraction of visiting the Welsh countryside simply to 'enjoy' views of wind turbines?

- The proposals would, in effect, industrialise huge areas of our countryside. How has the impact of such industrialisation on biodiversity been assessed? For example, what would be the impact on wildlife corridors and tree planting schemes?
- Finally, I do not understand why onshore windfarms are being considered when much more energy is produced by offshore installations. Appropriately sited offshore turbines are far less intrusive than onshore installations and would render onshore developments unnecessary.

Thank you for taking time to consider the issues I have raised