

# Llandderfel Community Council.

Public meeting to discuss the Gaerwen Wind Farm Project,  
7pm Friday, December 2nd 2022 at Neuadd Bro Derfel.

Present: **Maldwyn Jones (chair), Eifion Davies (deputy-chair), Bethan Thomas, Gwenda Evans, Gwenda Morris, Gary Thomas, Dewi Pritchard, Eilir Rowlands, Rita Jones, Alwyn Jones, the clerk and members of the public.**

Apologies: **Iolo Evans, Gwynedd Jones and County Councillor Elwyn Edwards.**

1. Welcome.

**The Chair of Council, Maldwyn Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

2. Presentation/ introduction by RWE representatives.

**Eleri Davies from RWE introduced her colleagues Arfon Edwards and Angharad Davies from Cadno Communications who works on behalf of RWE. As the public had already had the opportunity to see the information about the project around the hall it was suggested that we moved on to the questions.**

3. Questions from the Councillors.

**As there was so many members of the public present and RWE representatives were only available for an hour, it had been agreed that the councillors would not ask questions so that everyone else could have the opportunity to do so.**

4. Questions from the public.

	<b>Points raised.</b>	<b>RWE response</b>
1.	<b>Why build projects on land and ruin the countryside when offshore projects can produce more energy?</b>	<b>RWE strongly believes in having a combination of onshore and offshore projects. Offshore projects are the best but the consultation process etc. is longer.</b>
2.	<b>How much energy will the plan produce in a year?</b>	<b>Energy production is intermediate, over a year they will work 80% of the time.</b>
3.	<b>Are noise assessments carried out, measuring infrasound in particular? Evidence that infrasound causes health problems such as migraines.</b>	<b>There are European Standards the plan must meet. Noise consultants will measure background noise before starting the project and include it in the consultation document. There will be different levels for day and night.</b>

4.	<p><b>When are the community's comments to be considered? How much does the point of view of local people count when the Planning Inspector makes his decision?</b></p>	<p><b>They will be included in next year's statutory consultation. The Inspector's decision can go either way, he can override previous decisions and approve or reject the project. The Welsh Government Minister makes the final decision based on the Planning Inspector's recommendations.</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Community Fund, how will this work?</b></p>	<p><b>The size of the funding area and the amount that can be applied for will be decided when the work starts. RWE do not decide what kind of projects the money will be used for.</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Is there flexibility with the location and size of the turbine, installing some less than 180m?</b></p>	<p><b>Turbines less than 180m have not been considered, there is flexibility regarding their location. It's early days, we need to look at the habitat reports, visual and consultations with a number of agencies, the National Park, Natural Resources Wales etc.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Will there be compensation for a reduction in the value of neighbouring houses?</b></p> <p><b>It was proposed that people should get a valuation of their houses now for comparison later on if needed.</b></p>	<p><b>No evidence that house values fall with projects like this so there will be no compensation. You are welcome to submit evidence but this is also not a planning consideration.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>How did RWE come to seek the work?</b></p>	<p><b>Gaerwen is within an area pre-assessed to be included in 'The Future of Wales: The Welsh Government's National Plan 2040'. The landowners then opened the tender process, RWE had the successful tender.</b></p>
9.	<p><b>How will the turbines be carried to the site?</b></p>	<p><b>RWE will look at all options, it is likely that the</b></p>

		access will be from the A494 but no decision has been made at this time.
10.	Where will the power lines go?	We are still discussing with the National Grid as the current connection is 8km away.
11.	The previous company walked away, when will RWE do this?	RWE will look at all the reports and information and if these show that the plan is not feasible then that is when they will withdraw.
12.	<p>There is concern about the effect on water supply to nearby houses?</p> <p>6 weeks is not enough time for people to read such an important document.</p> <p>If stones, soil etc. are moved during the work this can affect the water table and cause water to flow down differently than now, what will RWE do about this?</p> <p>You need to bring the hydrological experts here to answer the public's questions.</p> <p>If the plan affects the water supply of nearby houses what will RWE do about this?</p>	<p>A hydrological assessment will be fed into the Impact Statement and will be included in the full report. They will take water samples before starting the work and then during the work to see if there is any difference. The Local Authority will monitor and step in if necessary. Carrying out a hydrological assessment is a regulation and there will be 6 weeks of statutory consultation</p> <p>RWE agreed to consider extending the consultation period.</p> <p>When doing their work RWE will do their best to mitigate any impact in this way.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the experts were unable to come to the meeting today.</p> <p>RWE will have to solve any problem that arises and try to find another water supply.</p>
13.	Will RWE fund a 3rd independent survey?	No, RWE won't do this.
14.	When will the residents get answers to the questions raised at the meeting?	Hopefully in January.

15.	How will the comments made at the meeting be considered in the process?	The information will be fed into the consultation.
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**Comments made during the meeting: -**

**The Welsh Government is to blame for including the area as a designated area for a project like this.**

**The local residents do not want this, nor did they invite RWE here.**

**It would be better to build windfarms in England where the energy is needed but there would be more opposition so that's why they come here.**

**Ordinary planning applications for local people are refused and large projects like this are encouraged by the Government.**

**An independent group has been established called 'Save Gaerwen' in order to send an their opinions directly to the Planning Inspector.**

**A Facebook page has been set up with over 400 members, many questions are raised on it.**

**Offshore plans 2:1 more effective than onshore but cheaper onshore. Community Chest for both types of plans.**

**Who will win, the landowners, no one is interested in the Community Chest, we can't be bribed!**

**Who wants a 180m tower on their doorstep, nobody!**

**5. The chairman reiterated his thanks to everyone for attending the meeting and to the RWE officers for answering the questions. The meeting was closed at 8.15pm**

*Bethan Jones*, Clerk