

Open Meeting of Community Councils

to discuss Teifi / Tywi & Tywi / Usk links

Including: Pylon, Wind Farm(s) and Sub-station Proposals

30/09/25 - Minutes of meeting

Attendees:

Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council

Dave Bartholomew (meeting chair)

Llanllawddog Community Council

Andrew Rees

Llanfihangel ar Arth

Angela James

Llandovery Town Council

Hhw Thomas

Builth Wells Town Council

Mark Hammond

Llangammarch Wells Community Council

Sue Lilly

Apologies

Simon Aldridge (Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council)

Roger Daniel (Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council)

Eleri Thomas (Lampeter Town Council)

Nicola Jones (Llanyfaelog Community Council)

Harvard Hughes (Llanllawddog Community Council)

Agenda.

1. Green Gen (Pylons) response to second consultation feedback
 - a. Standing item, review/discussion of any received
2. Waun Maenllywd Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power): Pre-app. Consultation
3. Bryn Cadwgan Energy Park (Galileo Empower): Pre-app. Consultation
4. Lan Fawr Energy Park (Bute Energy) – Project Announcement
5. Bryn Rhudd Energy Park (Bute Energy) – Project Announcement
6. Local Ownership and Community Benefit Funds for
 - a. Waun Maenllywd (select link below and click on 'Community')
 - b. Bryn Cadwgan (select link below and click on 'Community Offering')
 - c. Lan Fawr and Bryn Rhudd

Open

Welcome was given to the newly attending councillors; Sue Lilly (Llangammarch Wells), Hhw Thoms (Llandovery Town Council), Mark Hammond (Bulth Wells).

The purpose of the meetings to share information and allow a dialog between

councils affected by the Pylon lines which are proposed by Green Gen as part of the Teifi/Tywi link developments. By the nature of the interconnected energy infrastructure projects proposed for this area, topics of discussion may include associated windfarms and substation proposals.

Green Gen (Pylons) response to second consultation feedback

None of the councils present reported any feedback from Green Gen regarding their own feedback to the second consultation by Green Gen.

However, it was noted that many calls have been made for Green Gen to consider undergrounding the energy lines and that the response is always that this would prove too expensive and that Green Gen have produced reports to support this. In contrast it was noted that a separate study conducted on the East Anglia Network suggests that while undergrounding cables may be a more expensive option in the short term, if the project is delayed by 4 years to 2034 undergrounding the cables is estimated to be in the region of £600,000 cheaper than building pylons. *(Post meeting note: A copy of a link to the study was requested during the meeting and is given here:*

<https://www.neso.energy/about/our-projects/offshore-coordination-project/east-anglia-study>, - The underground option is 'option 8' in the findings table. It is only presented as a 2034 alternative, it is estimated as £0.6b cheaper than option 3, onshore 2030 option)

Waun Maenllywd Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power)

This is a smaller windfarm development (six wind turbines) in the vicinity of Llanddewi Brefi which is proposed to connect directly to the existing substation at Lampeter using wooden poles. The exact route of the connection is not yet established but it is believed to likely to cross the boundaries of Llanfair and Cellan community council. This project is at pre-planning application stage and application to PEDU for planning permission is targeted for the end of 2024. Following this there will be a 5-week period for statutory bodies and the public to comment on the application or raise objection and then the application is considered by PEDU. Belltown Power informed us that this can take up to 12-18 months and do not expect to start development (assuming permission is granted) until 2027. It was noted that; the Senedd elections and the Purdah period may also impact this timescale (and for other planned developments) next year, and that, with multiple applications being made to PEDU within a short space of time, a backlog may form further delaying decisions.

It was noted that some windfarm developments with less turbines proposed and which are proposed/developed by smaller companies often offer localized energy to communities using less intrusive wooden poles. In addition, these companies seem to be more open in their approach and willingness to engage with the communities affected. These are in contrast to the larger infrastructure projects

proposed by major developers (such as Bute/Green Gen) which connect via the pylon lines to the new substation at Llandyfaelog where energy is supplied to England via the National Grid and who have been less open and less willing to positively engage with communities.

A further windfarm ([Glyn Cothi | Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru](#)) is proposed for the Brechfa Forest area and to be connected by wooden poles to the substation at Llandyfaelog.

Bryn Cadwgan Energy Park (Galileo Empower)

The project is also at pre-planning application stage and application to PEDU for planning permission is targeted for the end of 2024 and (it is understood) will be connected to the Llandyfaelog substation possibly by wooden poles (the connection details are vague, as the connection will be subject to a separate planning application). The development is for 19 wind turbines, Solar and a BESS (*detail confirmed after meeting*). Materials will be shipped via the A40 and A482, and then using tracks created across forestry owned land around the Doligothi Gold mines. There will be a 'blade transfer area' at Llanwrda. The company state that there will only be a need to remove some trees very close to the A482, and no need for widening, as the (40m) blades will be angled on the transport from the transfer area to the site. Given how narrow this road, including two single vehicle stone bridges, this is considered questionable.

Questions have been raised concerning the environmental impact of the site development, including construction of the access tracks, site offices, storage facilities etc. This development will take several months and the impact will be ongoing.

Lan Fawr Energy Park (Bute Energy) & Bryn Rhudd Energy Park (Bute Energy)

Two larger windfarms (55 wind turbines combined – *details confirmed after meeting*) proposed by Bute in the area to the East of Lampeter and Tregaron. Lan Fawr is slightly north of Bryn Cadwgan stretching to the east and west, Bryn Rhudd is slightly north of Lan Fawr.

A further Bute development, which has previously been discussed at these meetings, Nant Ceiment Energy Park (Bute Energy, 13 wind turbines – *detail confirmed after meeting*) was also mentioned. It lies to the south of Lampeter and to the north east of Glyn Cothi (27 turbines wind turbines – *detail confirmed after meeting*).

Local Ownership and community Benefit Funds - Waun Maenllywd

This was not specifically discussed. But it was highlighted that Belltown Power have acknowledged that affected parties can sign any formal documentation to receive community funding after planning permission has been granted.

Local Ownership and community Benefit Funds – Bryn Cadwgan

This was not specifically discussed.

Local Ownership and community Benefit Funds - Lan Fawr and Bryn Rhudd

It was noted that Bute have stated that they will place the community funding into a CIC fund and councils/communities will have to apply centrally to access monies to support local projects. This has changed from the original description of the fund allocation. Potentially, as different communities have different needs, and would be applying 'against' each other for a share of a finite pot of money (the sums involved sound large but are relatively small to be dispersed across a number of communities which have been suffering from reduced services for some years now), competition for the funding could cause friction and set communities at odds with each other.

General Discussion.

The windfarms mentioned previously all lie close to the Teifi vally pylon line and the meeting was informed of windfarm developments which follow the Tywi pylon line including the cluster around Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells. These were noted to include:

- Aberedw Energy Park to the east of Builth Wells (Bute Energy – 18 wind turbines and new road construction).
- Bryn Gilwern, to the north of Aberedw and to the south east of Llandrindod Wells, (Bute Energy - 16 wind turbines)
- Radnor Forest Wind Farm (aka Nant Mithil) to the east of Bry Gilwern (Bute Energy – 31 wind turbines)
- Between Bryn Gilwen and Radnor Forest Wind Farms, Hendy wind farm (Njord Energy, 7 turbines which have never been connected or used)

Further windfarms are proposed to the south of Builth Wells adjoining the Sennybridge training area:

- Banc y Celyn energy park adjoining training area and to the north of Brecon (Wind 2 Ltd, 27 wind turbines – *detail confirmed after meeting*)
- Garreg Fawr Energy Park adjoining training area and A40 and to the east of Llandovery (Bute Energy, 22 wind turbines – *detail confirmed after meeting*).

Concern was also voiced that people still appear not to realise the total net effect of the developments and the large infrastructure changes which will take place in this region and it was questioned, whether even at local council level, there is a sufficient level of understanding of the overall net effect of the combined developments. It was suggested that some may take the view that these developments are far into the future and that there are more pressing matters for individuals and councils to consider, such as the forthcoming Senedd elections. However, the incremental nature of the development process means that what is happening now has a direct impact on events and proposals years into the future.

It was suggested that some of the communications being issued by some campaign groups are too technical and too detailed and many people are simply put off by that and therefore an opportunity to engage is missed. Two questions were raised:

- How can the community and Town councils best support communication of information around these developments (and their individual and combined effect) especially in the runup to the Senedd elections, so that people can make better informed decisions.
- How can this forum be expanded to go from the current representation (circa 8-10 councils attending) to include representation from all councils on the invite list (23 councils along both pylon routes).

In response to the first question, there was discussion of organizing a 'joint hustings' event with a combined invitation to all parties taking part in the Senedd elections. It was suggested that the invite could be issued from several councils and perhaps the major Town councils in the area.

In response to the second question, it was agreed that all attendees of this meeting would attempt to contact colleagues in other invited councils which have not attended these meetings, in order to increase awareness and attendance and have a voice in the discussion.

The originally invited councils are:

- Llanddewi Brefi
- **Llanfair Clydogu & Cellan**
- **Lampeter Town Council**
- **Llanfihangel ar Arth**
- Bronwydd
- Abergwili
- Llanpumsaint
- **Llanllawddog**
- **Llandyfaelog**

- **Llangunnor**
- **Llanybydder**
- Llanllwni

Recently the invitation list has been extended to include:

- Cilycwm Community Council
- **Llandovery Town Council**
- Llangaddog Community Council
- Llanwrda Community Council
- Dyffern Cennen
- Llandeilo
- Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council
- **Llangammarch Wells Community Council**
- **Builth Wells**
- Treflys - Garth, Beula
- Climery

Invitations are sent to the clerk of each council. The councils in bold have sent representation to one or more meetings.

Next Meeting 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th November.