

Open Meeting of Community Councils to discuss Towy/Teifi, Towy/Usk & Vyrnwy Frankton projects

Including: Pylons, Wind Farms and Sub-station Proposals

04/11/25 - Minutes of meeting

Attendees:

Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council

Dave Bartholomew (meeting chair)

Simon Aldridge

Builth Wells Town Council

Mark Hammond

Llangammarch Wells Community Council

Sue Lilly

Lampeter Town Council

Gary Thourgood

Llanllawddog

Harvard Hughes

Llangunnor

Matthew Williams

Llandrindod Wells

Steve Deeks-D'Silva

Llandyfaelog Community Council

Nicola Jones

Meifod Community Council

Jonathan Wilkinson

Joy Sisley

Llansadwrn Community Council

Christine Jones

Mary Smith (New South Law)

Jonathan Colchester (CPRW)

Apologies

Huw Thomas (Llandovery Town Council)

Angela James (Llanfihangel ar Arth Community Council)

Andrew Rees (Llanllawddog Community Council)

Roger Daniel (Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council)

Agenda.

1. Green Gen (Pylons) response to second consultation feedback
 - a. Standing item, review/discussion of any received
2. Request received to extend meetings to include Town and Community councils on the route of the Vyrnwy Frankton pylon line.
3. Update from Mary Smith of New South Law
4. Powys County Council call to Welsh Government to pause wind turbine applications
5. Hustings
 - a. Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) - hustings proposal
 - b. Town and Community Council hustings proposal

Open

Welcome was given to Jonathan Wilkinson, Mary Smith and Jonathan Colchester, who spoke on items 2, 3 and 5a.

Green Gen (Pylons) response to second consultation feedback

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

It was noted that both Green Gen and Bute Energy have been offered open meetings to discuss consultation feedback (GreenGen/Llanfair and Cellan) and development proposals (Bute Energy/Lampeter TC). Both declined in favour of a closed council meeting, which was rejected by both councils. Lampeter TC has gone back to Bute with an alternative proposal but as of the date of this meeting has received no further response.

Request received to extend meetings to include Town and Community councils on the route of the Vyrnwy Frankton pylon line.

The request was agreed unanimously. Although it was suggested that the Towy/Teifi and Towy/Usk pylon lines (which would both connect into the grid at the Llandyfaelog) could be seen as distinct from the Vyrnwy Frankton pylon line (to the north east and which connects to the grid in England) it was agreed that the developments are linked as part of a 'Wales-wide' strategy to deliver energy generation and transmission infrastructure and that these three pylon lines, and the energy parks which will link to them, are integral to that strategy.

It was further agreed that extending the invite to include councils on the Vyrnwy Frankton line would provide greater opportunity for engagement and information sharing. This in turn would lead to a greater understanding of the cumulative impact of these developments to the environment and our communities, and the long-term ambitions within Wales, of GreenGen and Bute. There was a consensus that more councils becoming involved and working together is vital at this time.

It was also proposed that we extend invites to future meetings to ‘guest speakers’ from other relevant organisations, to widen perspective and give greater access to information and also public opinion.

A larger forum meeting is under consideration to be held in the Spring of next year, to bring together all interested stakeholders, from action groups to Senedd members, to discuss the implications, for the whole of Wales, of what is being proposed.

Update from Mary Smith of New South Law

Since the court summonses brought by GreenGen earlier in the year, negotiations with them have proved difficult and non-productive. In the meantime, GreenGen have continued to behave in an aggressive and threatening manner towards landowners.

A legal team has been assembled by New South Law drawn from four separate legal chambers providing specialist and experienced barristers.

In October New South Law wrote to GreenGen and advised them that they were at risk of being issued with court proceedings giving them 14 days to issue a satisfactory response to their requests. Although GreenGen did respond, it was not considered a satisfactory response and court proceedings have been issued against them.

There are three claimants; Justice for Wales (representing individuals who have been impacted by GreenGens’ actions), the Campaign for Rural Wales (CPRW) (representing the Welsh countryside / environment and impacted communities), and one claimant in person.

The proceedings cover the following issues:

- the lawfulness of their use of statutory powers
- their unreasonableness
- their use of land agents and ‘land consent agents’ who have been both threatening and intimidating in their dealings with people
- interference with people’s private lives and interference with property
- the way in which they have obtained, and are sharing, data.

Working Groups

Working groups have been set up, populated by subject matter experts, to pool skills and expertise, to give greater and more detailed consideration to plans. The groups are not geographically restricted as they collaborate online and address a diversity of themes from ecological to economic impact.

Net Zero, 30-by-30, and Wellbeing of Future Generations

The tension between the development of new energy infrastructure to meet the UK Governments Net-zero commitment, and the Government's commitment to the '30-by-30' worldwide initiative (to designate 30% of Earths lands and oceans as protected areas by 2030 - [LINK - gov.uk](#)) and the 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act' (to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales [LINK - gov.wales](#)) was also noted. All are key Government commitments and any impact on those commitments should be considered in-the-round when reviewing plans for energy developments in Wales.

Powys County Council call to Welsh Government to pause wind turbine applications

The motion resulted from cross party collaboration between Liberal Democrat (proposed) and Conservative (seconded) councillors and received cross party support to gain unanimous backing.

The motion calls on Welsh Government to pause DNS applications for major onshore windfarms in Powys until the Government clearly sets out how it will consider and manage the cumulative impact.

A similar motion is proposed for discussion within Carmarthenshire County Council

It was noted that there is a lack of information being provided about the scale of planned developments as each is announced as a single independent development and no long-term strategy for energy production in Wales is publicly available. Because of this there was agreement that more County Councils should take action to call for time to communicate the full extent of the plans and allow for full consultation and consideration of the whole. The public are mostly unaware of the scale of the developments or the potential impact. It was felt this is especially true in larger towns and cities away from the rural areas affected.

Hustings

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) - hustings proposal

The Justice for Wales Rural Futures Hustings (in association with CPRW) will be held on Saturday 29 November, 6.30pm at Ysgol Rhys Prichard School Hall, Llandovery.

All councils have been requested to support and publicise the event within their communities to ensure that it receives a high turn-out. Speakers from all parties are being invited.

Though it is not directly linked to the Senedd elections next year, it is an important opportunity for communities to hear from all the parties about their view with respect to pylons, windfarms etc. and to pose questions.

It was noted that the publicity generated by the court proceedings and also the motions passed/raised by various County Councils may stimulate interest and increase attendance and ultimately, participation in the discussion.

Town and Community Council Hustings proposal

A proposal for a series of local hustings to highlight key rural issues to be held within the catchment area of some of the larger towns along the proposed pylon routes. Unlike the Justice for Wales Hustings, the agenda would be broader and include; farming, tourism, transport, NHS provision, and energy generation and distribution developments.

There has been interest from other councils and specifically the mayors of; Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells, Llandovery, and Lampeter in also running hustings events. The towns along the lines of the pylons, having larger populations, would be appropriate to host Senedd election hustings for local candidates. With this in mind it was suggested that this list should also include the mayor of Carmarthen.

It was proposed that a coordinated 'rolling' hustings taking in towns along the pylon routes may give an opportunity to hear from candidates across boundaries and allow as many people as possible to take part in a rural focused hustings.

A meeting will be held on the 19th November to initiate this.

Additional discussion points

It was noted that:

- Llangunnor will be impacted (surrounded) by both the Towy/Teifi and Towy/Usk pylon lines. The council has posed the question of undergrounding the lines but have been told by Green Gen that this would be too expensive. It was also noted that the pylon lines themselves are only required because of the size and number of the proposed windfarms
- The windfarms (Bute) are dependent on the GreenGen power lines for energy distribution. GreenGen are heavily dependent on the success of the

sub-station development in Llandyfaelog. The planning applications for the sub-station are expected early next year.

- Planning applications for separate development will be made 'piece-meal' which may cause the cumulative effect of all proposals to be underestimated. It would be better if applications arrived together so that they could be considered holistically.
- 'A Cambrian Manifesto for 2026' issued by the Cambrian Mountain Society was shared with the group.
- Although there is a perception in some areas that they are not affected by developments because the developments are not close by, it should be noted that everyone who pays council tax is affected.
- Some councils which have recently joined the meeting will have missed discussion in previous meetings around the need for dispensation forms. All councilors are advised to check their position with respect to 'personal interest' in developments (usually resulting from a financial gain or loss) and to complete and submit dispensation forms as appropriate. Entire councils can also apply for a 'blanket' dispensation.

Towards the end of the meeting there was some discussion around the community funds which are being offered by the companies. It was agreed that a fuller discussion should be held at the next meeting. Interest was also expressed in adding undergrounding options and cost as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Next Meeting 7.30pm on Monday 1st December.