

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

**Including: Pylons, Wind Farms and Sub-station Proposals**

**31/03/26 - Minutes of meeting**

**Attendees:**

**Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council**

Dave Bartholomew (meeting chair)

Simon Aldridge

**Cilycwm Community Council**

Aled Edwards

Eurwyn Lewis

**LLandyfaelog Community Council**

Nicola Jones

**Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council**

Angela James

**Guest**

Gary Thoughrgood

**Apologies:**

Mark Hammon (Bulth Wells Town Council)

Eleri Thomas (Lampeter Town Council)

**Agenda.**

1. Green Gen revised proposals for pylon lines.
2. Round table update/information sharing from councils attending

**Green Gen revised proposals for pylon lines**

There has been a significant re-routing of Section 1 (Lan Fawr to Lampeter) of the Green Gen Towy Teifi pylon line taking the line further to the South East and avoiding the communities of Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan and Pentrefellin (which contains several listed buildings). The new route cuts through the head of the valley leading into Cellan where there is a lower concentration of houses but arguably a more diverse natural environment which is almost pristine. It then passes mainly through farmland. The start of the route is moved closer to Ffarmers, possibly to connect (via wooden poles) to the Bryn Cadwagon energy park. Although there are

seemingly less people affected by the pylons the 'problem' has simply been moved to a different part of the community and to different farms and households.

There are also changes to Section 3 (Llanllwni to Attwalis) and Section 5 (Rhydargaeau to llandyfaelog)

The Towy Usk line is also changed with two suggested options for Section 3 (Llangammarch Wells to Llandoverly) and changes to Section 4 (Llandoverly to Llandeilo). Here the change (directly affecting Cilycwm) appears to be to shield the A40 from the pylon line and looking to facilitate the connection to Nant Milth Energy Park. However, it appears not all affected Landowners have received letters from Green Gen.

Green Gen will be continuing to consult on the route and the changes later this year and have a 'project hotline' and an e-mail address for any questions.

It was noted that these route changes are proposals, so could change again or revert in the future and it is unlikely that Green Gen will now proceed straight to final consultations. There is, in effect, a potential delay of at least a year to these projects.

The changes can be viewed here:

[https://greengencymru.com/towy\\_teifi/overview/](https://greengencymru.com/towy_teifi/overview/)

[https://greengencymru.com/towy\\_usk/overview/](https://greengencymru.com/towy_usk/overview/)

It was noted that a constant criticism of people speaking out against the pylon lines and windfarms is that of being a NIMBY. With the re-routing of the lines, it was further noted that many who have been speaking out, and who now find that they are no longer directly affected, continue to speak out even now it is not actually in their 'backyard' anymore. These issues are wider than individual households, landowners, or communities and all in the affected communities should continue to be engaged.

## **Round table and additional discussion points**

### **Lampeter Hustings**

It was noted that in advance of the meeting there was some (unfounded) speculation from outside of the council that the meeting was being 'hijacked' by activist groups. The Town Council withdrew from holding the meeting. However, it was felt that the meeting should go ahead and that the communities of Lampeter and the surrounding areas should have the opportunity to meet the political candidates and put their questions. The Alliance offered to take up the booking and continue to organise and host the event, as a result meeting was held as scheduled although without representation from Labour, Plaid Cymru, or the Liberal Democrats. The original aim

was NOT to hold a single-issue husting NOR to allow it to be taken over by any single-issue group. Although The Alliance is a campaign group, they agreed to honor this commitment and they did so. The first three-quarters of the hustings involved discussion of other local/rural issues such as Transport and the NHS. When, towards the end of the Hustings, questions were raised around the issues of Pylons and Windfarms, there was notably little support from the stage for the current plans except from the Green Candidate who, it was acknowledged by many there, 'stood his ground' and argued his case. It was noted that, aside from the obvious absence of three parties, the hustings went well, was well attended, and was well received by all who did attend.

The video of the hustings can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HandsOffwales>

### **Llandyfaelog Sub-station**

Following a number of pre-consultation event full plans have been submitted running to thousands of pages. The official closing date is 27<sup>st</sup> March. A number of concerns have been raised including the size of the development (34 acres in total and including a 'land take' of 520sq meters within Llandyfaelog which is a very small rural community). There will be a single platform but it will contain three separate sub-stations built and operated by National Grid, NGED and Green Gen Cymru.

Llandyfaelog community council have raised concerns that the plans contravene several existing planning policies.

Llandyfaelog community have also responded on a number of issues:

- questioning the cumulative effect of the developments and this substation
- the displacement of natural species in the area (Badger sets and the Common Door mouse in particular)
- the visual plans have been challenged as only a few vantage points have been used to take pictures most of which have views which are obscured by hedges and bushes with poor overlays of the planned development
- challenged on why a Green Field site has been chosen over Brown field sites (for example, by Swansea, Port Talbot etc)
- the inconsistency in designating 'named properties
- visual, noise and emf assessments are being challenged.
- concerns that during the building phase access routes used by emergency services will be severely affected
- security fears have been raised as this substation could become a national infrastructure target for terrorists as it is the largest substation in the UK
- moving water and gas pipelines will cause disruption and will cost vast amounts of money

This planning application does not come under PEDW but will be dealt with by Carmarthenshire County Council planning department (however GreenGen and NGED will be assessed separately).

Further details about the substation including the status of the proposals and documents/objections submitted can be found on the following links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c14k8rjzkkzo>

<https://carmarthenshire.my.site.com/en/s/planning-application/a0bQv00000A8DQXIA3/pl10552>

[https://planning-carmarthenshire.msapproxy.net/PublicAccess\\_LIVE/SearchResult/RunThirdPartySearch?FileSystemId=PS&FOLDER1\\_REF=pl/10552](https://planning-carmarthenshire.msapproxy.net/PublicAccess_LIVE/SearchResult/RunThirdPartySearch?FileSystemId=PS&FOLDER1_REF=pl/10552)

### **Judicial Review**

A comprehensive update has been received from Justice for Wales and is attached at the end of these minutes. The review will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **Glyn Cothi Winf Farm**

Now proposed 27 additional turbines in the Brech Forest area. Details of the proposals can be found here:

<https://glyncothi.com/>

### **Llanfair and Cellan community ‘drop-in’**

A community ‘drop-in day’ was held by the community council on 28/02 to collect local views and opinions through a series of targeted questions. This was carried out to gain documented evidence of strength of feeling about the local pylon and windfarm developments and also to poll opinion on OTHER local issues of concern ahead of the hustings held in Lampeter. Some of the questions put forward around transport and the NHS were raised at the hustings.

The data collected shows the community to be almost 100% ‘very strongly’ against the pylon line development. The numbers reduce slightly if the line was to be placed underground. It is hoped that these data points will be useful when it is time for the council to consider any planning applications.

**Next Meeting** 7.30pm on **Tuesday** 19<sup>th</sup> May

Update from Justice for Wales received March  
27th

<https://cprw.org.uk/what-we-do/energy-map/>

Cyfiawnder i Gymru

Justice For Wales

## An Update for Our Supporters

\*Please note there has been new routing information on the Green Gen routes released today. We are expecting the new notices to be arriving imminently, more detail on this below\*

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## Dear Friends and Supporters,

We want to share a full update on our legal case. A huge amount has happened over the last few weeks, and **together** we've made real progress. Every step forward has been because we have stood together - calmly, firmly, and with a clear sense of purpose.

## On January 20th 2026, We Won Permission for Our Judicial Review - A Major Step Forward

On 20 January, the High Court agreed that our Judicial Review should go ahead. The judge said that five of our grounds raise real, arguable problems with the way Green GEN has been using its powers to enter land across Wales, and she granted permission on Grounds:

**Ground 1(b):** Entering onto land at a “reasonable time” and other entry requirements - **Granted**

**Ground 1(c):** Failures Re: biodiversity / biosecurity obligations – **Granted**

**Ground 2:** Unreasonable/irrational use of statutory powers - **Granted**

**Ground 3:** Procedural impropriety (policies and protocols) - **Granted**

**Ground 4:** Breach of the Human Rights of the First Claimant (Natalie Barstow) - **Granted**

These grounds include serious issues about how the law has been applied, whether Green GEN has acted fairly or reasonably, and whether people’s rights have been properly respected under the statutory scheme.

Sub-ground 1(c) was dropped by us before the hearing – that was entry using unlawful threat of use of force. The judge did not give permission on two sub-grounds - 1(a) and 1(e) (more on these below) - but the core of our challenge was allowed to proceed, and that is important.

Judge Jefford made clear to GreenGEN that when they are exercising statutory powers, they must comply with the enhanced legal obligations towards people and the

environment that come with them.

Additionally, Green GEN were forced to give a formal promise to the Court to continue not entering land using its statutory powers until the application for interim relief could be decided. That promise extended the protection we had as a community from November to the Interim Relief Hearing (more on this below).

## **We Are Appealing the Refusal of Grounds 1(a) and 1(e)**

We are not giving up on these two grounds. We feel we have a strong case to argue these grounds and we are now asking the Court of Appeal to look again at this.

Ground 1(a) is about whether Green GEN lawfully used its powers when it had not served proper notices under section 174. The judge refused permission on this ground not because it was weak, but because she thought trespass was an “alternative remedy” and in a Judicial Review case, you cannot usually proceed if there is another remedy available to you.

Green GEN argued we could individually pursue claims in trespass and many us (not all) could, but this Judicial Review is not about how one person was treated but how Green GEN’s way of working is affecting all of us. The Appeal argues this was wrong – individual claims in trespass cannot fix the wider problems stemming from unlawful ways of working affecting hundreds of people.

**Ground 1(e)** is about Green GEN’s collection and use of data gathered from land entries. This ground was refused on the basis that the data was “not arguably personal data”. Our appeal argues this is legally incorrect, because the information is used to make decisions affecting people’s land rights and therefore them personally, and the judge did not address key issues about how that data was being shared.

The Court of Appeal has already said our appeal will be put at the front of the queue, which shows they recognise the urgency and importance of the case. The first step is for the Court of Appeal to agree that our Appeal meets the criteria to be heard. We expect to hear more on this soon.

## **The Interim Relief Hearing**

# What Happened on 10 March

On 10 March, the Court made an important decision about what Green GEN can and cannot do while we wait for the full hearing.

## What Green GEN wanted

Green GEN pushed hard for unlimited access to land under section 172 - without restrictions and between the hearing in January and this hearing. They worked hard to introduce a swathe of policies, protocols and procedures to comply with their legal obligations and expert evidence to say that these were adequate.

## What we asked for

We asked the Court to stop all survey access until April or until proper protocols could be agreed. We argued that whilst it was positive that Green GEN were now introducing policies, protocols and procedures to comply with their obligations, they were only doing so because they were forced to and that they were still not adequate nor had they been implemented.

## What the Court ordered

The judge reached a balanced middle ground - but one that gives us as a community meaningful protection.

He ruled that Green GEN can only enter land for a very small set of time-critical ecological surveys, specifically:

- breeding bird surveys

- woodland vegetation (NVC) surveys
- bat activity surveys
- great crested newt eDNA and population surveys
- and only other ecological surveys that can happen **at the same time** as these surveys – i.e. are “incidental to” - with no extra visits allowed.

This is a *major restraint* compared to what Green GEN wanted.

### **Strict conditions on any access**

The judge also said:

- Only qualified ecologists may enter the land – that means no land agents, “land consent agents”, or other staff bullying you on your land or at your home.
- They must follow Green GEN’s Biosecurity Protocol, Survey Access Protocol, Protected Sites and Species Policy, and Vulnerable Person Protocol every time they enter and Green GEN must act in “good faith” and continue to improve these policies and protocols.

This shows the Court took biosecurity, environmental risks, and farming operations seriously.

### **New legal notices must be served first**

No surveys can happen until Green GEN sends new s.174 notices giving:

- 14 days’ notice; and
- an invitation for you to explain biosecurity risks, disease issues, stock movements, lambing periods, and anything else needed to make access safe and reasonable.

This gives each of us a real say in what a “reasonable time” for access means on our own farms.

## A positive outcome for the community

The Court did *not* give Green GEN the unrestricted access it asked for. The judge agreed that our concerns justified limiting their powers. It is very unusual for a Court to restrict the use of statutory powers in this way. Importantly, despite Green GEN's best efforts to convince the Court otherwise, the Judge made clear that there was no evidence that we had behaved unreasonably.

This outcome happened because the community has been professional, reasonable, and united - and because we have consistently shown respect for the Court and for the legal process.

## The Main Judicial Review Hearing

21–22 April 2026

The full two-day Judicial Review will take place at Cardiff High Court on 21 and 22 April. This is when all the evidence and arguments will be heard. This is our moment to show - clearly and openly - why the community is challenging Green GEN's conduct, and why the Court should step in.

**We Must Keep Going — and We Need Everyone With Us**

## Thank You for Standing with Us!

Thank you to everyone who has helped get us this far — and to those who are able to help carry it forward.

With Thanks and Solidarity,

Natalie Barstow

On behalf of Justice for Wales

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## Justice For Wales

Standing Up For Rural Wales



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