

## Gladestry Community Council

### Minutes of the planning meeting held on Monday 14 November 2016 in Gladestry Village Hall

**Purpose: the meeting of the Council had been called to discuss the Powys Draft Local Development Plan. In particular attention to be given to Further Focussed Change 79 (FFC79).**

Present Ms Jane Bisby (Chairman), Mrs Dianne Moore (Vice Chairman), Mr Derrick Carrington, Mr Viv Lloyd, Mr Gareth Croose and Mr Kenneth Waugh (Clerk).

Apologies. Mr Dan Cosgrove. and Mr Melvyn Hughes

Welcome. Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them that this meeting of the Council had been called at her request in order to prepare a response to the consultation invited by Powys CC in respect of the above.

Background. FFC 79 is a very late change to the Local Development Plan (LDP), and was introduced at the behest of the Welsh Government. In essence, this Change adds a **new** designation of very extensive Local Search Areas for wind farms of up to 25MW and large solar arrays of over 0.5ha to a capacity of 600MW. Decisions on infrastructure of this kind will be predominantly determined by Welsh Government Developments of National Significance, and, therefore, will fall outside the remit of Powys CC.

Process. There was a discussion about what the changes entailed, and a close examination of the maps included in the Change documentation. From this examination it was clear that extensive areas of upland Radnorshire were highlighted as suitable for this type of development.

Conclusion. Councillors agreed that representation to the Planning Inspector, deciding on the issues raised in FFC79, objecting to the proposals, must be made before the deadline of 21 November 2016. The Clerk was asked to prepare a written objection urgently. Copies were also sent to Kirsty Williams AM and Chris Davies MP for comment. The objection is appended to these minutes.

The meeting was then closed by Jane.

Signed:

Dated:

## GLADESTRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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FAO Ms Nicola Gulley  
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15 November 2016

Dear Ms Gulley

**Subject: Powys Draft Deposit Local Development Plan October 2016  
Consultation: Local Search Areas for wind and solar farms (FFC79).**

I have been instructed by Gladestry Community Council to write regarding the above; in particular, the Council has serious concerns, discussed below, about the new designation of very extensive Local Search Areas for wind farms and solar arrays, and asks that these concerns are given full consideration as part of the Inspectoral process.

In an area of Radnorshire that could in all possibility bear a significant load of such development, the Council is extremely disappointed in the lack of any obvious local democratic involvement, at both Community and County level, as it appears that the Welsh Government (WG) has introduced these changes to land use policy. Because of this, Gladestry Community Council has also made representation to its AM and MP. This loss of local determination could have a seriously deleterious effect on local lives and local livelihoods without any representation from those blighted. This approach by the WG, in introducing new policy proposals after the main public consultation has taken place, clearly demonstrates its contempt for voters in Powys, especially as the proposals in no way reflect any locally expressed needs. It also conflicts with Powys' own local Development Plan Objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of

the landscape; the protection of National Trails, biodiversity and flood protection; and the promotion of all- year- round tourism.

What is also apparent from these proposals is that the WG appears to be in conflict with its own stated objectives; viz the Environment (Wales) Act & Future Generations Act; and TAN 8, which deals with Strategic Search Areas for concentrated generation to specifically prevent proliferation and landscape change across Wales.

Lastly, it is a serious omission that no consideration has been given to the extra grid transmission infrastructure that would be required, and its effect on the landscape. Also, there is no assessment of the impact on people and wildlife of the completely new policy of encouraging extensive solar farms on our uplands, not to mention the major increase in scope for wind farms. In fact, no environmental impact assessment can be found.

In conclusion, Gladestry Community Council finds these draft proposals in relation to Local Search Areas unacceptable, and requests that the Inspector gives proper weight to the comments made by the council.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Waugh

Clerk to the Council