

Iles, Nicholas (ESNR-Planning)

Subject: Handy Wind Farm

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 28 October 2018 21:28

To: Correspondence mail - LG <Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales>

Subject: Handy Wind Farm

Dear Mrs Griffiths,

For the past five years we have been dreading the possibility that the seven turbines would be constructed on this beautiful landscape.

We thought when the nearly unanimous decision of the Planning Committee went against their being built, that we were safe. We listened to all that the councillors had to say. We knew from what they said that they felt as we did. One Councillor who was not from this part of Powys said after the site visit "he knew we had something special here that needed protecting".y Most people who live here know the worth of this landscape and know it needs protecting. The road from The Forest Inn to Builth is one of the loveliest roads in the country. However many times one travels it it gives one a sense of wonder. Soon it will suffer a severe injury from which it's loveliness will fade away.

We sat through the week of The Public Inquiry hearing the evidence. We knew that however lovely the land Hywel Wyn Jones had to keep in mind the advantages of renewable energy and that the process he so carefully engaged in was clinical. He could not be swayed by emotion. He had been trained to seek factual answers and come up with a fair analysis.

And he did. He assessed all the evidence and came to the conclusion that for the amount of renewable energy gained the sacrifice of this landscape would be too great a price.

Why then, when you have not yourself gone through the evidence, heard it at first hand, and seen what he has seen, can you contradict his verdict? You may have read the report but you have not learnt as much as he has about this site. How can you be so high then as to disrespect it?

Have you a quota to achieve? Is your personal career at stake? Are there any parts of Wales you think should not be Turbined? Do you think Wales should be sacrificed for renewable energy regardless of degrading its beauty?

Does the fact that this land which is admittedly a little off the beaten track, somewhat lonely and known perhaps less than it deserves, has that made it easier to sacrifice? The fact it does not have a designation or is not a National Park is not because it does not deserve it. Part of its beauty is its gentle unassuming nature that has not been spoilt for thousands of years. It is not the home of the great and the good who might have demanded its designation. You have taken unfair advantage of this omission. You have used your power to injure the innocent and defenceless landscape. But we who live here did all we could for it and we got what we deserved. We won! Until you decided we should lose.

We feel that we have been in a charade. We have rejoiced when we were just being taken in. What point then is there in local government? What point in writing letters and going to Planning meetings and Public Enquiries?

I am not a political person, Mrs Griffiths, but from what I have seen of this process, I have very little respect for Politics now, for Government in Cardiff or local Government. And if, as is now very likely, some more farmers put in an application for more turbines, it won't be worth going through all this again, will it?

Very sincerely,