

Wind Farm and Pylon Meeting Maesbrook Village Hall 4 May 2011

Over 60 people met to discuss the impact of the development of wind farms, sub stations and associated transmission routes on the local community and Shropshire.

The following issues and concerns were raised by the meeting

- Visual impact of transmission lines/pylons
- Health issues
- Negative effect on housing values
- Concerns re the effectiveness of the technology
- Is the technology cost effective?
- Could investment be better spent on micro generation i.e. local solutions, PV solar panels etc
- What is the cost of wind farm and associated infra structure v micro solutions?
- Financial cost of the infra structure
- Carbon footprint of installation of the infra structure
- Impact on tourism (recent episode of country file featured south Shropshire and John Craven commenting on the beauty of the view from the Stiperstones with no pylons in sight!)
- Implications of maintenance in a floodplain particularly when floods are up
- Impact on agriculture and farming
- Impact on wildlife
- Lack of clarity on proximity of pylons to housing
- Transparency of planning process
- Is the Welsh Assembly making decisions which affect Shropshire?
- What is the rationale for the location of wind farms?
- Long lasting impact of pylons, turbines and sub stations – what is their anticipated lifespan?
- Will back up generation systems be required? What are they?
- What are the long term energy needs? – will renewable meet them
- Construction destruction – impact on landscape
- Environmental impact assessment is lacking
- Energy production not of benefit to local people
- Would existing 132kV lines that pass through the area be upgraded to 400kV lines?
- Impact on Radio telescope?
- Library bus did not have any information on consultation as was publicised