

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	24th of June 2015
TITLE	Planning Appeal – Wind Turbine, Crugeran, Sarn
PURPOSE	Present information
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Service Manager
RECOMMENDATION	Decide on comments to be submitted

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been included on the Joint Committee's agenda at the request of one of the local members.
- 1.2 The issue concerns the Planning Appeal which has been made following refusal of planning permission for an additional wind turbine to be placed on land near Crugeran, Sarn Mellteyrn. **Refer to the Appendix for further information.**

2.0 THE INITIAL PLANNING APPLICATION

- 2.1 In 2014 an application was made for a three bladed wind turbine, 50 kw capacity and measuring 34.2 meters in height at Crugeran Farm. The application number is C14/0974/32/LL. Details of the application, together with additional documents, can be found on the Gwynedd Council website. There were a number of background documents with the application, these included a location plan, details of the turbine, Design and Access Statement etc.
- 2.2 The site lies outside the boundary of the AONB, but the development would be clearly visible from the designated area, as the turbine which has already been erected indicates.
- 2.3 Comments were made by the AONB Service Manager on the application, which included the statement adopted by the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). A full copy of the comments can be found on the Council's website. The conclusions were:

The turbine concerned would certainly create a significant amount of renewable electricity. This can mean a saving of carbon emissions but energy and materials would be used to produce and install the turbine. In this case one turbine has already been constructed on Crugeran land in order to contribute to the income of the business and the sustainability of the farm. Although the current proposed development site is not next to the existing turbine, there must be consideration to the cumulative effect of both wind turbines on the landscape.

The fact that the turbine's blades turn means that the visual impact is more than of a stationary structure – this cannot be conveyed in pictures or photomontages. Information on the potential impact of the development was presented in the DAS, but there are some concerns and doubts regarding some aspects of this information.

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in order to maintain and protect the special landscape and beautiful coast of the Llŷn Peninsula. The area where the turbine would be located is close to the boundary of the AONB and the turbine would be prominent from some parts of the AONB and in views towards the AONB (e.g. Porth Neigwl, Rhiw Mountain and Garnfadryn).

It is believed that the development would be an additional intrusive and foreign element on this rural and historic landscape in this part of the peninsula. It would interfere with the setting of the AONB and views in and out of the national protected area and an area recognised by Register of Historic Landscapes.

Also included below are comments by the AONB Joint Advisory Committee. The Joint Committee has been established since 1997 with the aim of advising the local authority and other organizations on issues regarding landscapes conservation, countryside management and the environment which affect the AONB. Local Members, Community Councils, organizations and institutions are members of the Joint Committee. Following a discussion on the matter the Joint Committee adopted the following statement regarding wind turbines near the AONB boundary:

"Applications for wind turbines higher than 11 meters within the boundary and view of Llŷn Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and Ynys Enlli should be rejected, to avoid significantly harming the setting and views of the AONB."

- 2.4 A Report on the application was prepared by the Case Officer and the application was considered through the delegated procedure and was refused.

3.0 PLANNING APPEAL

- 3.1 An appeal against the refusal of planning permission has been made by the applicant. The start date for the appeal was May 19th and there is a period of six weeks for comments (by June 30th). Comments must be sent directly to the Inspectorate in Cardiff (the appeal will be considered through a written procedure).

4.0 FURTHER COMMENTS

- 4.1 There is no intention to make further comments on behalf of the AONB Unit as original comments are quite detailed. However, as only a general statement was made on behalf of the JAC it would be possible to send further comments that are more specific to this particular case.
- 4.2 If further comments are to be made, members are encouraged to make relevant comments on the basis of firm planning issues.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Decide on detailed comments to be submitted on the appeal and authorize the Service Manager to submit them to the Inspector on behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee.