

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED
DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 - TO DATE
PLANNING AND COMPENSATION ACT 1991
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ADVERT REGULATIONS 1994
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)
ACT 1990
APPLICATIONS FOR PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

These are reports and recommendations by Officers for consideration and resolution by the County Planning Authority.

All the applications in respect of the proposals specified in this report will be available for inspection by the Members of the Committee prior to and during the meeting at which the said applications will be considered.

The Background Papers relating to each application, including forms, plans, relevant correspondence, Development Plan and guidance documents are available for public inspection during normal office hours

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

NORTH HOYLE OFFSHORE WIND FARM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT.

- 1.1 The Council have been consulted by the Department of Trade and Industry on an application under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for an offshore windfarm. The Council are required to make any comments before the end of March. A related planning application for onshore works was considered earlier on this Agenda.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 National Windpower propose to construct a wind farm of 30 wind turbines 7.5 kilometres north of the Prestatyn/Rhyl coast line. The turbines would be 80 metres in height with a 100 metre rotor diameter.
- 2.2 The application has been accompanied by an environmental assessment, a copy of which has been made available in Rhyl and Prestatyn libraries and at the Council offices in Ruthin and Prestatyn. The environmental assessment (EA) will be available at the meeting. A summary of the EA is on the website - www.northhoyle.co.uk
- 2.3 It is anticipated that the construction of the wind farm will take 8 to 9 months and it will have a life span of between 20 and 25 years. Should decommissioning ever be required this would take place over a similar period as the construction.
- 2.4 There are also proposals for a second offshore wind farm at Rhyl Flats (north of Abergele) which are being developed although these are not yet subject to a formal application. The Council have recently made comments on a scoping report for Rhyl Flats in advance of the preparation of an EA.

3. PUBLICITY

- 3.1 In July 2001 a project briefing took place for local Councillors. Public exhibitions have been held in July 2001 and March 2002 in Prestatyn and Rhyl. A scoping document for the EA received wide consultation and was subject to comments by Denbighshire Officers. The current EA has been publicised recently through press notices and the exhibitions and is available in local Council offices and libraries.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 There are no County Council planning policies specific to offshore wind farms as such proposals are not within the planning regime. However, Policy MEW8 of the UDP supports the principle of energy from sustainable sources and Policy MEW10 advises that wind farms will be permitted subject to certain criteria.

- 4.2 In national terms the need for renewable, sustainable energy is actively promoted by the Government with the target that 10% of UK electricity will be from renewable sources by 2010. The general thrust of government policy has been towards the employment of renewable energy sources.
- 4.3 The EA considers the full range of impacts on the environment from the offshore wind farms although some of these impacts do not directly affect Denbighshire.
- 4.4 The EA deals with the physical environment including sediments, hydrography, water quality and long shore drift. The assessment concludes that there will be no material impact on these factors and therefore no requirement for mitigation.
- 4.5 The biological environment is assessed including benthic communities, mammals and birds. Mitigation includes the timing of construction and the turbine layout, together with the particular location of the wind farm.
- 4.6 Perhaps the most discernible impact on Denbighshire will be on the seascape and visual environment. The assessment has included considering alternative layouts and also assessing the potential cumulative impact, particularly taking into account Rhyl Flats. Although navigational safety has been given a high priority in the array design as has energy capture efficiencies, the assessment concludes that comparing a random appearance with a grid layout would make little difference from most viewpoints including those in Denbighshire. The proposal is for a grid layout.
- 4.7 Impact on the human environment is assessed including socio-economic issues, marine recreation and amenity, commercial fisheries, noise, traffic, shipping and navigation, and impact on existing installations and off shore human activity. Some loss of fishing grounds will arise but this would be small given the low intensity of fishing on the site and the potential for year round boat access to the wind farm site for maintenance and tourism.
- 4.8 Wrecks and archaeology are also considered but there is no affected archaeology off shore.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The comprehensive environmental assessment does not identify any significant adverse impacts. At the time of writing this report no issues had come to light which would materially adversely impact on Denbighshire. Any issues which arise before the Planning Committee will be reported at the meeting.
- 5.2 **Recommendation - that Denbighshire County Council raise no objections to the proposed North Hoyle Offshore Wind Farm.**

ITEM FOR INFORMATION NAMING AND NUMBERING OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:

- 1.1 To advise Members of new developments which have recently been named and numbered by Planning Services.

2. NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

- 2.1 Listed below are the new developments

- (a) **Land adjoining The White Horse, Llandyrnog**
Named: Hamdden Clwyd, Llandyrnog, Denbigh, LL16 4HJ
- (b) **Land at Henllan Centre, off B5428, Henllan, Denbigh**
Named: Godre'r Garn, Henllan, Denbigh

3. RECOMMENDATION:

- 3.1 This item is for information only.

A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

DATE OF SITE VISITS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the likely date of any Site Visits requested by the Planning Committee.

2. DATE OF THE SITE VISITS

- 2.1 In consultation with Legal and Administration, it has been decided that the **Friday 5th April 2002** is most suitable. This date has been provisionally booked.
- 2.2 You are advised, therefore that any site visits arranged today will take place **On Friday 5th April 2002 (in the afternoon -times to be advised).**

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SITE VISIT PANEL

- 3.1 This will depend on Political Balance and will include the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and the relevant Local Member(s)

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That Members agree to the Site Visits being held in the afternoon of Friday 5th April 2002

**Decisions Made by the Head of Planning Services under
Delegate Powers
9th February 2002 - 8th March 2002**

Item For Information - Copies available from Head of Planning Services

This is a list of applications where the decision has already been made under delegated powers. If you wish to discuss the application/decision please contact the Case Officer.

DECISION TYPES

GRANT	- grant planning permission
APPROVE	- approve reserved matters or condition
CONSENT	- grant listed building, conservation area, or advert consent
NO OBJ	- no objection to works to tree(s) in conservation area
DETERMIN	- determine that prior approval is not required or is granted on determination application (certain telecom or agricultural works)
P DEV	- proposal found to be permitted development after receipt
WDN	- application withdrawn by applicant
REFUSE	- refuse all types of application