

DEN BROOK WIND FARM - SECOND PUBLIC INQUIRY POSTPONED

West Devon Borough Council has issued a statement notifying postponement of the Den Brook wind farm Inquiry that was due to take place on 10th March 2009.

The postponement results from letters submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) by the Den Brook Judicial Review Group (DBJRG) together with many from supporters - "it's encouraging that our combined voices can be effective against the might of corporate and Government organisations" commented DBJRG spokesperson Mike Hulme.

"Our view is that the Inquiry cannot take place until we have received all the noise and related information we need from the developer, Renewable Energy Systems (RES). We understand that RES have undertaken new noise tests. "However", said Mike Hulme, "it is clear that RES have had considerable time to collect their data, and therefore it is essential that DBJRG have sufficient time between the release of data from RES and the second Inquiry to carefully review and evaluate all the information".

DBJRG had requested extra data in early November last year, and although RES indicated they would let them know by the end of that month, **DBJRG have still not received any further notification or the information requested.**

The additional data requested included all the anemometry wind speed data and associated information considered essential for a rigorous evaluation of the proposed wind farm, and its likely harmful impacts. Only very recently, for example, have the wind farm developers reluctantly acknowledged that CO2 savings from wind farms are only half [430g rather than 860g CO2/kWh] of that previously claimed. "Is there any wonder that we are concerned about the reliability of information provided by the developers?" questioned Mr Hulme.

The freedom to access data, considered to be of considerable importance to the future lives of people in the community, has been held in question since RES had previously withheld access to the noise data for more than 3 years. When it was eventually released following DBJRG's High Court action, the noise data assessment turned out to be significantly flawed. Planning permission for the Den Brook wind farm was subsequently quashed by a Court of Appeal Consent Order and sent back to PINS for re-determination.

Mike Hulme went on to say, "continuing our endeavours to uphold local democracy and establish a level playing field for the impending Public Inquiry (possibly later this year) requires an enormous amount of voluntary work from the core members of DBJRG. We appreciate the considerable support received from members of the public and welcome any help, however small, from anyone willing to assist".

DBJRG has engaged experienced professional expertise so that the case is assessed and presented both accurately and persuasively. "Whilst enormously grateful for all the support to date", said the spokesperson, "please, if you are able, continue to donate whatever you can. Our scrutiny of the wind farm proposal must continue in order to search out any shortcomings within the developer's assessments and to ensure the 9 x 125 metre (approximately 410 feet) high turbines are not unreasonably foisted on our currently tranquil local environment without a full and accurate evaluation of any likely damaging impacts."

Den Brook Judicial Review Group

Details and where to send donations are posted on the DBJRG website www.denbrookvalley.co.uk along with a PayPal facility. Alternatively, please make contribution to "Den Brook Judicial Review Fund" and send directly to Nick Jewell, Lynderies, Heath, Spreyton, Devon, EX17 5AN