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Wendy Walters Chief Executive

Carmarthenshire County Council

c.c. Adam Price MS

Cefin Cambell MS

Nerys Evans MS

3rd November 2026 Delivered by email

Request for a moratorium on works at the proposed Llandyfaelog substations and a county-wide review of major energy infrastructure

Dear Wendy,

I am writing to ask Carmarthenshire County Council to seek a moratorium on any works associated with the proposed substations at Llandyfaelog, until the concerns of local residents regarding consultation, community involvement and the wider cumulative impact of energy infrastructure have been properly addressed.

There are serious concerns within the local community about the quality of the consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed Llandyfaelog substations. Residents do not feel that they have had a meaningful opportunity to understand fully, challenge or influence what is proposed or how it will affect their homes and communities.

Particular concerns have been raised about the way in which the visual impact of the development has been presented. Residents have reported the use of photographs and viewpoints which, in their view, do not accurately demonstrate what the development would look like from the homes that will be affected. This includes concerns about photographs being taken immediately in front of hedges or other screening, rather than providing a realistic representation of the impact from people's properties.

There is also a wider feeling that local people have not been sufficiently involved in a process concerning development which could have a significant and lasting effect upon their community.

The Llandyfaelog community has also requested that alternative sites, particularly brownfield sites, be considered rather than the pristine farmland of Llandyfaelog. Residents deserve a clear explanation of

which alternative sites have been assessed, how brownfield options have been compared with the proposed location, and why the farmland at Llandyfaelog is being proposed.

However, the concerns surrounding the proposed Llandyfaelog substations expose a much bigger issue.

This development cannot be considered in isolation from the other major energy infrastructure being proposed across Carmarthenshire.

Communities are being asked to consider individual proposals involving substations, electricity transmission infrastructure, overhead power lines and pylons, wind developments, solar farms, access roads and associated infrastructure.

Each may be subject to its own planning or consultation process. But taken together, they have the potential to produce a profound and permanent change to Carmarthenshire's landscape and communities.

That raises a fundamental question:

When are the people of Carmarthenshire going to be consulted on the cumulative impact of all of these developments?

It is not good enough simply to consult residents on one substation, followed by one power line, then one wind development, then one solar farm, without giving the public the opportunity to understand and debate the overall picture.

People cannot meaningfully comment on the pieces if they are never shown the completed jigsaw.

We therefore believe that the time has come to pause and have a complete rethink

Before further irreversible decisions are taken, the public should be provided with a clear and accessible account of:

- what major energy infrastructure is currently proposed across Carmarthenshire;
- what additional infrastructure is reasonably anticipated;
- how the different developments relate to and depend upon one another;
- where substations, power lines, pylons, wind developments, solar farms, roads and associated infrastructure are proposed;
- what the cumulative impact could be on communities, homes, health and wellbeing, agriculture, biodiversity and the landscape, including the potential implications of the proposed 230 m turbines and any ground stability or landslip risks associated with their installation and related works;
- the scale and purpose of the infrastructure involved;
- how much electricity the proposed developments are intended to generate or transmit;

- where that electricity is ultimately expected to be consumed;
- what assessment has been made of Carmarthenshire's and Wales's future energy requirements;
- what national objectives these developments are intended to achieve;
- what environmental costs, as well as benefits, arise from constructing the necessary infrastructure; and
- what alternative approaches have been considered.

These questions become particularly important when considering the scale of some of the infrastructure now being proposed.

The proposed energy plan includes extremely large structures and significant associated works, including huge foundations, access roads, grid connections, substations and transmission infrastructure. Communities should have the opportunity to understand the combined consequences of that infrastructure rather than being expected to consider each element separately.

The Council are proposing 355 MW of wind generation , this would probably require 90 turbines, each 230 m high. The turbines proposed are offshore designs repurposed for onshore use. These models will be at a height that have never previously been installed and operated onshore in Wales. Residents should be given clear evidence of their suitability for the proposed locations and an explanation of how any issues associated with their first onshore use in Wales would be assessed and addressed.

The assessment should also address the potential health and wellbeing implications for nearby residents of installing and operating the proposed 230 m turbines. Communities should be given clear evidence on these issues and on any measures needed to protect residents. There should also be a site-specific assessment of ground stability and landslip risk, including whether turbine foundations, excavation, access roads and associated works could affect slope stability, and what measures would be required to prevent or mitigate any identified risks.

There is also a fundamental issue of democratic accountability.

Individual developers, contractors and network providers can explain the projects for which they are responsible. They cannot necessarily answer the bigger questions that residents are increasingly asking.

Why has this overall approach been adopted?

Who determined that this was the appropriate strategy?

What alternatives were considered?

What are the cumulative environmental consequences?

What benefits will the communities hosting this infrastructure receive?

How were the interests of those communities weighed against the wider objectives being pursued?

And, fundamentally, who is accountable to the public for those decisions?

We also challenge the number of jobs being promised. How many of these jobs would genuinely be available to people in Wales, and how many would be lasting positions rather than temporary installation work? If installation is undertaken by specialist contractors brought in from outside Wales, those jobs will exist only for the duration of the works, with only a small number of specialist roles remaining to maintain and monitor the installations. On that basis, the long-term impact on Welsh job numbers would be limited. Residents should therefore be given a clear breakdown of the promised jobs, distinguishing temporary construction and installation roles from permanent maintenance and monitoring posts, and explaining how many are realistically expected to be filled by people in Wales.

Those questions need to be answered directly by the public bodies and decision-makers responsible for the strategies, policies and decisions which have brought us to this point.

That is why we believe Carmarthenshire needs more than a succession of developer-led consultation events.

We would like to see public meetings held across the county, giving communities a genuine opportunity to question those responsible for the overall direction of energy policy and infrastructure development.

The appropriate elected representatives, public authorities and other responsible bodies should attend those meetings and answer questions directly. In particular, we expect the Members of the Senedd responsible for these decisions to be present at every meeting, to explain why this approach has been adopted and to listen directly to the people of Carmarthenshire. Decisions with such far-reaching consequences should not be shaped by a small group of decision-makers without meaningful engagement with the people of the county.

There also needs to be an open discussion about alternative ways of meeting our future energy needs and reducing carbon emissions.

That discussion should include the role of nuclear power alongside renewable generation, including the potential for generation closer to where electricity is required. It should also allow consideration of the appropriate transitional role of gas and other technologies while secure lower-carbon generation and the necessary infrastructure are developed.

If achieving net zero is one of the principal reasons for this transformation, then residents are entitled to ask precisely what each development contributes towards that objective and how this has been balanced against the environmental consequences of constructing it.

That means considering not only electricity generation, but the infrastructure required to enable it: concrete, roads, foundations, substations, transmission lines and the other works needed to connect generation to the grid.

Those questions should be answered with evidence.

This is a call for democratic accountability, transparency, proportionality and meaningful public involvement before decisions with permanent consequences are made.

We therefore ask Carmarthenshire County Council to:

1. Seek an immediate pause, to the full extent of the Council's lawful powers, on works associated with the proposed Llandyfaelog substations while concerns surrounding consultation and community involvement are properly examined.

2. Call for a wider moratorium on major new energy infrastructure development across Carmarthenshire while its cumulative impact is properly assessed and the public is given the opportunity to consider the overall picture.

3. Publish, or request that the relevant authorities publish, a comprehensive county-wide map identifying proposed and anticipated major energy infrastructure, including generation projects, substations, transmission lines, pylons, access infrastructure and associated works.

4. Seek a cumulative assessment of the combined impact of these developments on communities, homes, health and wellbeing, agriculture, biodiversity, the Welsh landscape and local infrastructure. This should include an evidence-based assessment of the potential health implications of installing and operating the proposed 230 m turbines, together with site-specific assessments of ground stability and landslip risk arising from turbine foundations, excavation, access roads and associated works, and the measures needed to address any identified risks.

5. Organise public meetings across Carmarthenshire, rather than leaving communities dependent upon separate consultations organised by individual developers and network providers.

6. Invite the relevant decision-makers and public authorities to attend those meetings, with the Members of the Senedd responsible for these decisions expected to be present at every meeting, to explain why this approach has been adopted, why the infrastructure is considered necessary, how the overall strategy was determined, what alternatives were considered and what benefits there will be for the communities being asked to host it. Those responsible must listen directly to residents and address their concerns, rather than leaving decisions to a small group without meaningful engagement with the people of the county.

7. Provide the public with evidence about the energy case for these developments, including anticipated generation and transmission, future demand, where the electricity is expected to be consumed and how the proposals contribute to the objectives being pursued.

8. Ensure that reasonable alternatives are openly considered, rather than presenting communities with individual projects after the strategic direction has effectively already been determined. In particular, address the Llandyfaelog community's request for alternative brownfield sites to be considered rather than the pristine farmland of Llandyfaelog, and publish a clear comparison of the sites assessed and the reasons for the proposed location.

9. Where these matters are outside the Council's direct control, formally make these representations to the Welsh Government and other relevant decision-making bodies and seek their participation in the county-wide public discussion.

The experience surrounding the proposed Llandyfaelog substations should be an opportunity to stop and ask whether the present approach is genuinely giving communities the voice they deserve.

Consultation must mean more than presenting a project and inviting comments on it. It should give people a genuine opportunity to understand the reasons behind a proposal, examine its consequences, challenge the evidence, consider alternatives and influence the decisions that follow.

Most importantly, consultation cannot be truly meaningful if communities are repeatedly shown individual pieces of infrastructure without ever being shown the overall plan of which they form part.

Before Carmarthenshire is committed to a series of developments which could permanently alter its communities and countryside, its residents deserve to see that whole picture.

They deserve to know what is planned, why it is planned, what alternatives have been considered, what the cumulative consequences will be and who is accountable for the decisions.

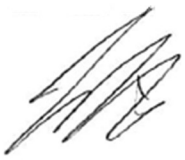
We therefore ask Carmarthenshire County Council to call a moratorium on all works and bring together residents, elected representatives and the relevant decision-makers for a genuine county-wide discussion about the future of energy infrastructure in Carmarthenshire.

I would be grateful for a substantive response addressing each of the requests above and setting out what action Carmarthenshire County Council is prepared to take.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Beer MS | Carmelo Colasanto MS | Sarah Edwards







Members of the Senedd for Sir Gaerfyrddin

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