

# **Maerdy Windfarm Report on Consultation on Community Benefit Programme**

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**Renewable Energy Partnerships**

The logo for Renewable Energy Partnerships features the company name in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized, light blue wave graphic that starts under the 'P' and ends under the 's', with a small upward-pointing curve at the end.

# Contents

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<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Consultation Work</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Responses to Consultation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Conclusions</b>	<b>4</b>

## 1. Introduction

REP are developing the Maerdy Windfarm project. To try to identify and deliver desired and appropriate local benefits a Community Benefit Programme was developed (Appendix M of the Environmental Statement). The programme was offered for consultation during October, November and December 2006. This report summarises the consultation work and responses received.

## 2. Consultation Work

The consultation on the CBP ran until the end of 2006. The Community Benefit Programme (CBP) was offered for consultation through the following routes:

### **Statutory Consultation on Planning Application**

The CBP is an appendix to the Environmental Statement. Some of the schemes are integral to the planning application, some are supplementary and require the support of third parties. Opportunity to comment on the CBP has therefore been provided through the normal statutory consultation on the planning application.

### **Public Engagement Work**

REP undertook a variety of public engagement work after the planning application (See *Supplementary Report on Post Planning Public Engagement Work – January 2007*). This public engagement work included invitation to comment on the CBP.

The CBP was publicised through leaflets, adverts and articles in the local press and hand delivered leaflets in Cwmdare and Llwydcoed and through summary boards at three public exhibitions held.

The CBP itself was available as a hard copy on request, to view at local libraries (as an appendix of the ES) or to download from the project website ([www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk](http://www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk))

### **Community Group Engagement**

235 local community groups were written to, to invite their comments on the CBP and in particular the Community Funds proposals, which they may have opinions on the structure of. The list of community groups written to is included as Appendix 1. The invitation letter is included as Appendix 2.

## **3. Responses to Consultation**

### **3.1 Statutory Consultation**

From review of the planning file in mid December, none of the respondees to the statutory consultation had commented specifically on the CBP.

### **3.2 Public engagement Work**

#### **Public Access Improvements**

One gentleman who visited the Treorchy public exhibition spent considerable time explaining local footpaths and potential improvements. The gentleman remarked that the current low use of the windfarm site by the public was partly due to difficulty crossing the site in the winter. It was his opinion that access tracks would be helpful in providing a route across the site.

A circular route from Treorchy up onto the Mountain was also suggested taking advantage of a connection provided by a short section of the windfarm track that would connect up an existing farm track and an existing forestry track. The route and connection is shown in Appendix 3.

#### **Community Fund**

The Community Fund was commented on by two gentleman who visited the Maerdy Exhibition. Concern was expressed over control of the fund by powerful groups and support given to the fund being under democratic control as is proposed.

Concern was also expressed that expenses for the management of the fund should not deplete the fund.

One gentleman who visited the Treorchy Exhibition criticised the proposed Community Fund for being paltry and has gone on to campaign against the windfarm urging residents in Treorchy to send in a standard letter that he has drafted.

### **3.3 Community Group Consultation**

Three community groups responded to the invitation to comment on the CBP. These were: Abergorki Hall, Bryn Sion Mother and Toddler Group and Cynon Valley Ramblers. All responses and REP replies are included in Appendix 4.

Abergorki Hall commented that the Community Fund should be focussed on several smaller awards £<5000 and that these should be reserved for charitable operations rather than government projects Bryn Sion expressed interest in applying for a grant. Cynon Valley Ramblers expressed general concern over windfarms.

### 3.4 Other Responses

REP were contacted by Hyder Consulting. Hyder advised that they had been commissioned by RCT Council to examine employment opportunities extending from the Maerdy Colliery Site in support of funding applications to the Welsh Assembly for reclamation work on the Maerdy Coal Tip. Hyder expressed interest in the possibilities extending from the windfarm and the CBP was issued to them and their attention drawn to the potential opportunities created under the Visitor Development Opportunities and the Direct Electricity Supply schemes.

## 4. Conclusions

The response to the Community Benefit Consultation has been very low in volume.

There is very little criticism or concern over any of the potential schemes.

The few comments received are summarised below according to the different proposals in the CBP.

Proposal	Conclusions
Community Fund	<p>The management of the community fund should be funded by the windfarm, so as not to deplete the community funds.</p> <p>There was no opposition to splitting of the Community Fund between Maerdy and Treorchy as proposed.</p> <p>The Community Fund should be focussed on individual and charitable groups rather than government groups.</p> <p>The funds should cover many rather than a few beneficiaries.</p>
Improved Recreational Access Plans	A circular route as described in Figure 1 should be provided for in the project and promoted through signage, publicity, etc..
Visitor Development Opportunities	Could possibly support access to funding for the coal tip reclamation
Alternative Timber Haulage Route	
Direct Electricity Supply	Could possibly support access to funding for the coal tip reclamation

It is hoped that the exercise and information has been helpful in providing further direction to the potential schemes.

# Appendix 1: Community Groups Consulted

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Aberdare Amateur Swimming Club	Hamza / Gallery.studio
Aberdare Chess Club	Hanes y Rhondda
Aberdare Childrens Contact Centre	Home-Start Rhondda Cynon Taf
Aberdare Deaf Club/ Aberdare and Cynon Valley Hearing Impaired Support Group	Info. Shop iS @ Barnardos Open Door Project
Aberdare Little Theatre (T.A.D.S.)	Interlink
Aberdare Town Centre Project	International Tang Soo Do Federation (UK)
Aberdare Valley Amateur Athletic Club (A.V.A.A.C.)	Ki Aikido Group
Abergorki Community Hall - Street Style Ju Jitsu	Kyber Colts ABC
Accessible Caring Transport	Law yn Llaw
Acme Wheelers (Rhondda) Cycling Club	Llantrisant and District Local History Society
ADD-Lib	Loneliness and Bereavement Group
Adref	Macmillan Cancer Relief - Rhondda Committee
Aelwyd Housing Association	Maerdy Archive
Age Concern Morgannwg	Maerdy Community Centre
Age Concern Older Persons Advocacy Project	Maerdy Social Club and Institute
Alcoholics Anonymous - Wales and Borders Region	Mencap Care and Support Service
Alltwen Sheltered Housing Complex	Mencap Cymru Motivate
Alltwen Tenants Association	Mentoring Through Art
Alzheimers Society - Rhondda Cynon Taf Branch	Mid Fach River Care Group
Ark Youth and Community Project	Mid Rhondda Parent and Carer Support Group
Barnardos Intensive Family Support Service	Muni Arts Centre
Bethany Baptist Chapel Treherbert	Neighbourhood Watch Association Rhondda
Bethany Baptist Church Pontypridd	New Horizons Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Resource Centre
Bethesda Artworks	New Pathways R.A.S.A.S.S. (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service)
Blaencwm Residents Association	NSPCC Children's Advocacy Service
Blaenllechau Community Regeneration	Oasis Church
Blaenrhondda Community Association	P.U.P.I.L. (Pupils Understanding Problems In their Locality)
Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association	Pact Project (Parents and Children Together)
Brynnar J. Jones Day Centre	Parc and Dare Brass Band
Brynsion Mothers and Toddlers	Parc and Dare Theatre
Bush Healthcare	Pathways to Adapted Housing
Busy Bees Parent, Carer, Baby and Toddler Group	Penrhys Partnership
Cambrian Village Trust	Person to Person Citizen Advocacy
Cana Centre (PEP)	Players Anonymous
Capel Farm Resource Centre	Pontypridd and District Art Society (P.A.D.A.S.)
Cardiff Archaeological Society	Pontypridd Market RCT Mid-week Cricket League
Care and Repair Rhondda Cynon Taf	RECTIFY
Careers Shop	Rhondda Against Illegal Drugs
Careers Wales Mid Glamorgan and Powys	Rhondda Amateur Radio Society
Carers Support Project	Rhondda and East Glamorgan Rugby Union
Cartrefi Cymru	Rhondda and Taff Ely Citizens Advice Bureau

Catholic Presbytery	Rhondda and Taff Ely Young Carers Project
Chequers Youth Facility	Rhondda Animal Aid and Cats Protection
Children and Parents Support (CAPS)	Rhondda Apostolic Mission
Childrens Information Service	Rhondda Breast Friends
Christ Church - English Baptist Church	Rhondda Cardiac Support Group
Church Army Valley of Hope Project	Rhondda Chess Club
Church of our Lady of Penrhys	Rhondda Community Development Association
Church of St. John the Baptist	Rhondda Crime Prevention Panel
Cilfynydd Art Society	Rhondda Cynon Taf Aspergers Syndrome Support Group
Clochdar - Welsh Language Community Paper	Rhondda Cynon Taf Centre for Independent Living
Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO)	Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts
Coliseum Theatre	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Youth Theatre
Colstars (Coliseum Operatic and Dramatic Society)	Rhondda Cynon Taf Epilepsy Group (RCT Epilepsy)
Combine House Day Centre	Rhondda Cynon Taf People First
Communities First - Fernhill	Rhondda Cynon Taff Crossroads (Caring for Carers)
Communities First - Penywaun Partnership	Rhondda Cynon Taff Freecycle
Communities First - Treherbert	Rhondda Disabled Riding Group
Community Services Substance Misuse Team	Rhondda District Forum
Cornerstone Church Centre / Cornerstone Project	Rhondda Family Support
Cory Junior Band	Rhondda Flower Arrangement Society (R.F.A.S.)
Crazy about Music and Entertainment	Rhondda Heritage Park
Creative Vision	Rhondda Housing Association Disability Action Group - RHADAG
Crosstitch Crazy Club	Rhondda Kids
Cruse Bereavement Care - Merthyr Tydfil / Rhondda Cynon Taf area	Rhondda Sea Cadets
Cwm Cynon Womens Aid	Rhondda Sports Centre Squash Club
CwmNi	Rhondda Swimming Club
Cwmparc Community Association	Rhondda Talking Newspapers Association
Cylch Meithryn Nant Dyrus	Rhondda Triathlon Club
Cynllyn Ieuenctid Y Cymoedd (CIC)	Rhondda Volunteer Information Centre (The Cabin)
Cynon Valley Broadcasting Service	Rhondda Womens Aid
Cynon Valley Crime Prevention Association Company Limited - registered charity	Rhondda Writers Circle
Cynon Valley District Forum	Royal Air Forces Association
Cynon Valley History Society	Royal Glamorgan Stoma Care Support Group
Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Centre	Salvation Army
Cynon Valley Macmillan Cancer Relief Committee	Sanctuary
Cynon Valley Mencap Society	Seion Baptist Church
Cynon Valley Model Railway Society	Selsig Amateur Operatic Society
Cynon Valley Musical Society	Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen Families Association (SSAFA)
Cynon Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association	Speak Easy Advice Centre
Cynon Valley PALS	Spectacle Theatre
Cynon Valley Ramblers	St Johns Ambulance Brigade in Wales
Cynon Valley Sub Aqua Club	Stroke Association - Dysphasia Support Organisation
Cynon Valley Writers Circle	TEDS - Progress2work
Cynon Valley Young Carers Support Project	Ton Pentre Cricket Club

Daerwynnon Outdoor Centre	Ton Pentre W.I.
Disability Sport Cymru Development Officer	TraVol Community Transport
Dragonsavers Credit Union Ltd.	Treatment and Education Drug Service - TEDS
Drugaid	Treherbert and District Gardening Society
Duke of Edinburgh Award	Treherbert Band
Dyslexia Support and Assessment	Treherbert Boys and Girls Club
Empower Disability Information Surgery	Treorchy and District Chamber of Trade
Evergreens	Treorchy and District Womens Institute
Eye to Eye Youth Counselling Service	Treorchy Library
Fairbridge in the Valleys	Treorchy Male Choir
Families First	Ty Rhondda Young Single Homeless Project
Family Awareness and Drug Support (FADS)	Upper Rhondda Angling Association
Ferndale Old Age Pensioners (Wesley House)	Upper Rhondda Brass Band
Fernhill Workmens Social Club and Institute	Upper Rhondda Cricket Club
Forum of Older People in the Cynon Valley	Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Friends R Us	Valley Cougars Rugby League
Gelligaled Bowling Club	Valleys Womens Ethnic Minority Support Group
Get Sorted (Support on Relevant Training and Education about Drugs)	Viva! Project
Girl Guiding Central Glamorgan	Welsh Aikido Society
Glamorgan Family History Society (Pontypridd and Rhondda Branch)	Y Gloran
Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Consortium	Ynyswen Gardening Club
Glyncomel Angling Association	Ynyswen Welfare Institute
GMD Centres for Deaf People in Pontypridd and Bridgend (Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf)	Ystrad Old Age Pensioners Association
Gosen Christian Centre	Ystradyfodwg Art Society
Green Meadow Riding for the Disabled Group	Treorchy Senior Citizens Club
Greencare Programme	Treorchy Comprehensive School Band
Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf	St. Matthew's Church
Group for Environmental Awareness in Rhondda	Pengelli Senior Citizens Mixed Bowling Club
GTFM	Ynyswen Miner's Welfare Institute
Hafal Dolen Network in Rhondda Cynon Taf	Abergorki Community Hall - Film Club
Hafal Rhondda Carers Support Group	Communities First - Maerdy
Dare Valley Country Park	Arts Factory
Rhondda Civic Society	

# Appendix 2 – Letter to Community Groups

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X Community Group

Dear Sirs

## **Maerdy Windfarm – Community Benefits Consultation**

Renewable Energy Partnerships are developing an eight turbine windfarm between Maerdy and Treorchy, called Maerdy Windfarm. A public consultation was conducted on the preliminary proposals in the winter of 2005/6 and the final proposals are now with Rhondda Council for planning determination.

The primary purpose of windfarms is to tackle the issues of national energy security and climate change. However, we are keen that the windfarm should also deliver a package of local benefits, and as such have developed a Community Benefit Programme, that we are currently consulting on. The Programme includes a wide range of suggested benefits including: improved recreational access, community funds, visitors centres, discounted electricity to neighbouring industry and alternative timber haulage away from valley communities.

We are keen to gather as much opinion on the Programme as possible in order that it is best designed to suit local needs. As a local community-based organisation we thought the proposals, in particular the Community Fund, may be of interest to your organisation and we would like to invite any comments you had on this or any other parts of the programme.

## **Community Fund**

It is proposed that the windfarm deliver a community fund of £50,000 each year for the life of the windfarm (circa 20-25 years), or alternatively, a £600,000 up front capital sum. There are key questions on where and how the fund should be spent. It is currently proposed to have democratic funds, where local residents are entitled to vote once a year on how the fund is spent. Applications for funding would be invited and posted on a website and in libraries, and then voted on by residents through the website, postal votes and an annual meeting.

The hope is that an annual event with decisions by the residents might foster community engagement, empower individuals and encourage applications from the local communities through heightened awareness. The proposal currently is for the fund to be split equally between Maerdy and Treorchy. It is intended that the residents of Maerdy and Treorchy control the fund on the basis of the local geography of the windfarm, however it is anticipated that funding applications would come from wider a field.

## **Consultation**

We would welcome any comments you wished to make on the structure of the Community Fund or any other part of the Community Benefit Programme. This way we hope any final proposals are best designed to meet the needs of the local community.

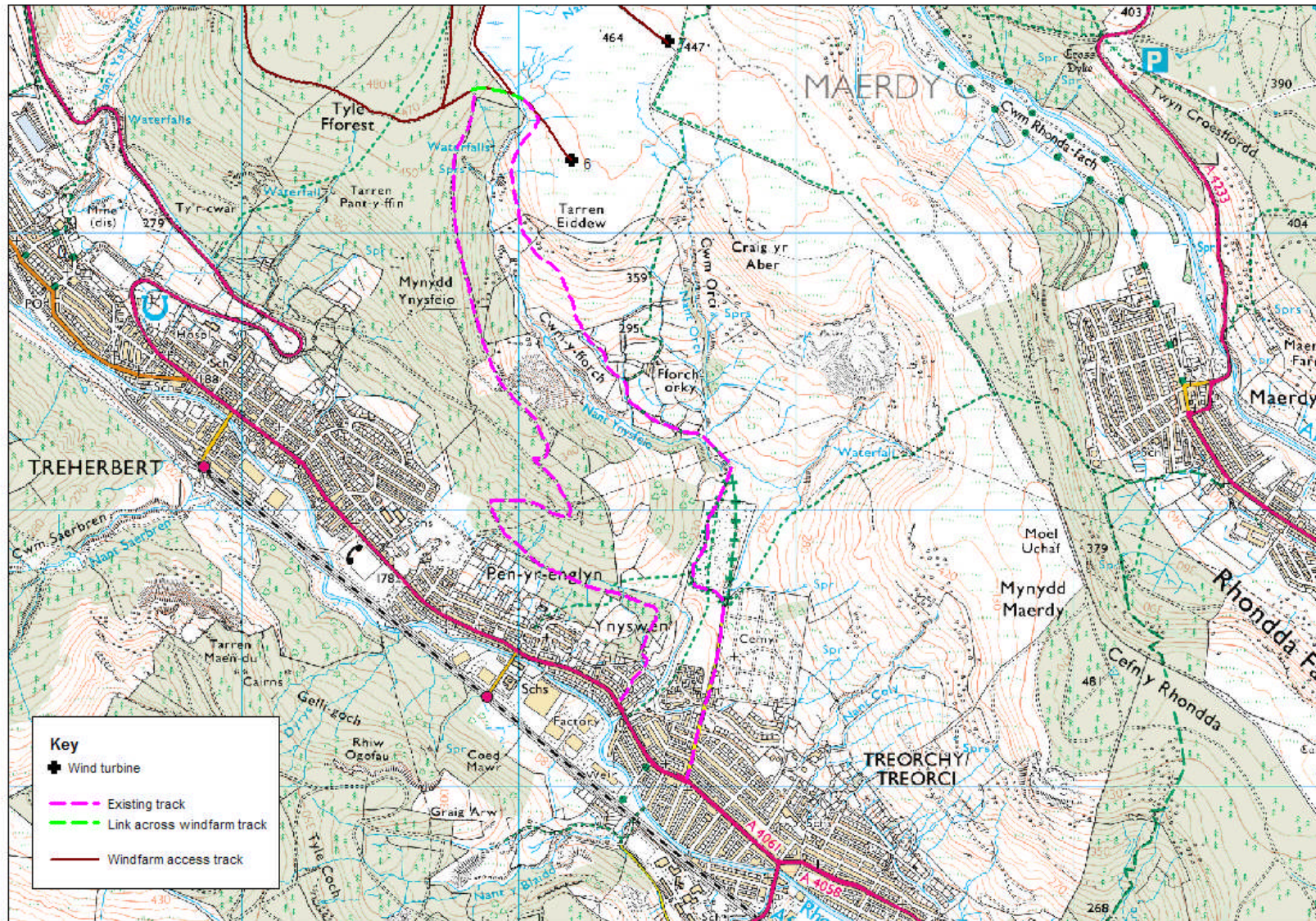
The consultation on the Community Benefit Programme is running to the 31 December 2006. The consultation document is available to download from the windfarm project website at [www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk](http://www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk). The document is also an appendix to the windfarm planning application that can be viewed at local libraries. Alternatively, please advise us if you would like to receive a hard copy of the document. Details of the windfarm itself are also available on the project website.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hadwin  
Commercial Manager  
richard.hadwin@r-e-p.com  
07968 583153

# Appendix 3 – Treorchy Circular Footpath Proposal



# Appendix 4 – Responses from Community Groups

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(Member of Wales Council for Voluntary Action)



ABERGORKI HALL  
16-18 Bute Street  
Treorchy  
CF42 6DB

Telephone: 01443 439596  
01443 440875

Registered Charity No 1082175

Directors: Ken Richards  
Steve Jones, Keith Skinner  
Derek Williams

(Maerdy Windfarm)

Dear Sir.

Date.30.11.06

Thank you for writing to ourselves and other groups that use our community hall.

Abergorki community hall caters for a large number of the people of Treorchy, these people use the hall for their education, hobbies, and sporting activities.

At present the hall caters for over 700 men women and children, most of these people have used the hall facilities for a number of years.

The grant scheme that you have suggested would help the people of Maerdy and Treorchy. Community facilities such as our own are nearly always in need of repair, this is because of the shortage of grants and our Government's lack of interest and assistance.

If you are committed to helping the above-mentioned areas it may well be worth making the grant process only open to charities and non profitable organizations, this would prevent government and councils from acquiring the limited amount of funds, council facilities are well funded and maintained unlike community groups that have to struggle to gather funds to maintain their facilities.

Another suggestion would be to make a number of grants of £5,000; this would help more of the community rather than a lump sum to one or two groups.

Yours faithfully  
Ken Richards Secretary.

5 December 2006

Dear Mr Richards

Maerdy Windfarm

Thank you for your response to the consultation on the proposed Community Benefit Programme for the Maerdy Windfarm.

Your comments regarding support for community facilities echo comments we have received from other community hall groups around that area. We recognise the struggle and considerable fund raising efforts made by voluntary groups to keep these facilities going. We hope that should the windfarm go ahead, that the local residents (who it is proposed would determine the fund allocation each year) would also recognise this worthy group of recipients.

The Council will earn considerable non-domestic rates from the windfarm (estimated at between £48,000 to £192,000 per annum). We therefore hope that the separate Community Fund can justifiably be kept solely for the local communities.

Hopefully by the fund being totally democratic, this will attract many applications, from a wide variety of sources. As said it is proposed that the application be determined by local residents, but we anticipate that with such a broad base this would lend to a larger number of beneficiaries rather than a small group.

Thank you for taking the time to respond. Comments do help enormously to gauge whether the proposals are going down the right track or need correcting. As an interested party I will, with your permission, keep you informed about development of the fund.

With best wishes of the season,

Yours sincerely

Richard Hadwin

Commercial Manager

Mrs. P. Morgan,  
32 Harriet Street,  
Trecynon  
ABERDARE  
CF44 8PP



01685/870645  
4th December '06.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your offer to put an application for funding before you. We do operate a Mother + Toddler's group on a voluntary basis twice a week, catering for approx twenty plus parents with their children. We have sufficient gifted money for day to day needs, but as we occupy the Vestry of a CADW, listed Grade II Chapel, circa 1850, we are in need of financial help to renew the deteriorating slate roof in order to ensure continuity + survival of voluntary community work in our area.

A grant for this purpose would be most appreciated as not only the Mother + Toddler group would benefit, but also the various club meetings for children aged 4-8yrs, 9 to 13yrs + the Youth work, all of which are run from the same premises during the week.

Thank you for your consideration + appreciation of voluntary community work.

Yours faithfully,

P Morgan

MILL STREET TRECYNON ABERDARE RHONDDA-CYNON-TAF CF44 8LY

11 December 2006

Dear Mrs Morgan

#### Maerdy Windfarm Community Benefit Programme

Thank you for replying to the consultation on the Maerdy Windfarm Community Benefit Programme. I am sure that your group and the obvious pressing need for funding would be an excellent candidate for the proposed Community Fund. The award of funds would actually be determined by local residents through a ballot, rather than ourselves. With your permission I will hold your letter on file and if and when the windfarm is built we will contact you again to invite a formal application.

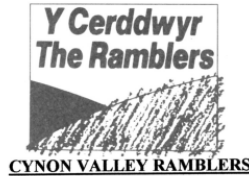
Unfortunately the timescales for these matters are slow, we hope if the windfarm receives planning permission to start construction in 2008, with operation in 2009. Therefore any fund would be at least 2 years away at this stage. I hope it is possible that the roof can hold out that long! In the meantime I wish best wishes to your group and thank you for your interest,

Yours sincerely

Richard Hadwin

66 Mae Cymdeithas y Cerddwyr yn hyrwyddo cerdded yng nghfeiri gwlad, yn diogelu llwybrau cyhoeddus, yn ymgrychu dros fynediad i dir agored ac yn amddiffyn harddwch cefn gwlad.

RHANBARTH MORGANWG



66 The Ramblers' Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside.

GLAMORGAN AREA

15, Plasdraw Road,  
Aberdare,  
Glam.  
CF44 0NR.  
Mr. R. Hadwin,

Commercial Manager,  
Renewable Energy Partnerships,  
Overmoor,  
Neston,  
Corsham,  
SN13 9TZ.

29<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.

Dear Mr. Hadwin,

Maerdy Wind Farm – Community Benefits Consultation.

I refer to your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 and must firstly apologise for the delay in replying. This was caused by it being sent to the group's secretary and it only coming into my possession yesterday.

Your proposals are, on the face of it, a boon to the local communities and I leave it to local communities whether the benefits outweigh the disadvantages of having a wind farm on their door-steps. Some would regard your proposals as a bribe to the local community to accept the wind farm as proposed. I would prefer that there were no wind farm in the area with no benefit to the local communities other than to enjoy the open countryside and hills of our beautiful landscape which is only now recovering from the rape of the nineteenth century industrialists. I fear that we will be raped again, this time with the aid of Welsh Assembly Government and in the spurious aim of saving the world from global warming.

I shall be writing to the Local Planning Authority to make representations about your planning application.

Yours sincerely,

D.E. James.  
Chairman and Footpath Officer.

Dear Mr James

## Maerdy Windfarm

Thank you for your letter of 29<sup>th</sup> November.

I was sorry to receive your letter and the sentiments it conveyed as we have tried very hard to develop a windfarm sensitive to those with walking interests. I only hope that your comments were made before you had an opportunity to review the Environmental Statement or Community Benefit Programme. I note you mention you only received the letter the day before replying and understand that these are lengthy documents to digest and discuss with your colleagues.

I understand your concern and respect your personal opinion toward windfarms in general. Please could I express to you that under the current climate, of international and national decisions regarding the pressing need for onshore windpower, our role as a windfarm developer is to locate the best sites and then develop them in the most balanced way we can.

We have examined many sites across south Wales, consulting with bodies including CCW, Cadw, etc. One of the factors influencing the choice of developing the Maerdy Site was that it provided one of the best opportunities to minimise impact on walkers. As I'm sure you know windfarms generally need open, expansive upland, away from housing, and that this often clashes with some of the preferred areas for walking. The Maerdy site was located next to a brownfield colliery tip, away from AONB's, National Parks, major footpaths, etc. and so we hoped a site least likely to provide a major conflict. We deliberately rejected development of other nearby sites because of footpath and landscape issues.

The environmental impact assessment determined through consultation and first hand experience the extremely low use of the Maerdy site by the public. Analysis attached this to the poor access onto the site – steep slopes, forestry, etc, poor signage, the single footpath through the site not being part of any logical network, the existence of more attractive routes nearby and lack of any specific features on the site.

As well as designing the windfarm to minimise any impact, we have tried to enhance the public use of the site through the Community Benefit Programme that includes Public Access Improvement Plans with a new PRoW, improved signage, new styles and footbridges. We hope that the windfarm may be a feature of interest to users of long distance routes, attract people to Dare Valley Country Park from where none of the windfarm is visible around the central lakes, but that its proximity might attract people up over the Darran to investigate. The new PRoW would also created a circular route from Maerdy Colliery Site, should the community wish to develop the recreational aspects of the site.

We have recently held public exhibitions on the windfarm proposals, following public consultations last year. I spent a good two hours talking to a gentleman in Treorchy who is a very keen walker and local voluntary group activist. He with his colleague who rides his horse around the area explained that the boggy nature of the site was also a major deterrent to people using the site. We did design the tracks to avoid the existing footpath, but he pointed out that these tracks would be useful in winter months for traversing the site. We also received useful comments about how circular routes from Treorchy could be created by a small section of the windfarm track linking up an existing farmers path and a current ProW and also how to improve routes down the Cefn-y-Rhondda ridge.

Please, sir, we would gratefully welcome your group's input into these aspects of the community benefit programme, which is why we wrote to you in the first place. If you have objections to the windfarm, we would seek to try and address these.

Further, please could we ask you to distinguish between objections generally against windfarms and those against this project in particular. There are several windfarm proposals in the area for which planning application has been applied and I am concerned that the Maerdy Windfarm receives your criticism, not because it has a markedly bad impact on public amenity, but because we were one of the few organisations that made the effort to consult you.

Finally I must protest at the mention in your letter that our community benefit programme may be construed as a bribe. National planning policy (TAN8) promotes the requirement for community benefits including community funds for windfarms. It also stresses that these should not be material factors in consideration of planning applications. We are trying to maximise local benefits from a project whose purpose is national and international and we are also directly following national policy. I think this is an unfair criticism.

I sincerely hope it is possible to receive your observations on our proposals and, if possible, to work with you to address any objections. I enclose a copy of the non-technical summary of the Environmental Statement and the Community Benefit Programme. Also copies of these can be downloaded at the project website: [www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk](http://www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk).

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Richard Hadwin

Commercial Manager