



Anglesey **Against** Wind Turbines

Planning a Campaign

If you are aware of an impending planning application for a wind turbine in your area, there are various ways you can find out if an application has actually been submitted. If you live very near to the application site you will receive notification from the Planning Department. Otherwise, you need to keep an eye on the new planning applications on the Council website, or look for notices on telegraph poles near to the application site. Once you have identified that a new application is underway you need to act immediately, as there is a time scale within which the application has to be determined.

Each campaign against an application needs a lead person, and that has to be someone who will be affected by the result to enough of a degree to be willing to do the work. If you are willing to be that person, once the application has been submitted, you need to look at all the information contained in the application that has been provided by the applicant or their agent. At present this can only be done by going into the Planning Department and looking at the files on their database. Planning Department reception staff are very helpful and will help you understand the system.

If there are factual inaccuracies in the application, these should be raised with the Planning Officer who has been assigned to deal with the application, either in person, by phone, email or letter. It is always best to follow up any conversation with written confirmation. At the same time, talk to your neighbours and people who will be affected by the application, and try to get together a local group.

Early on in the application process there will be a public consultation lasting 21 days. If the main objection points can be put on the website, then our supporters will have material to write letters of objection. Then, as all the consultation responses are received, your local group can write more detailed letters, on individual points that become apparent. The total number of letters received will be mentioned in the Report to the Planning Committee, together with a list of each point raised. You can look at previous planning committee reports on the Council website.

As you continue to scrutinize the progress of the application, you may want to raise issues of which you are aware, point out inaccuracies, and possibly submit information of your own, again in person or on the phone, but always in writing as well.

You need to make yourself known to the Planning Officer, and keep up to date with progress, through regular visits to the Planning Department. You may also wish to consider some kind of protest, which can again be passed on to AAWT supporters so that they can attend, and this can form the basis for newspaper coverage. Writing letters to the local papers also raises awareness.

When the application comes to the Planning Committee, there is an opportunity for one person to speak in opposition to the application, and the applicant or their agent then has the same right. An application to speak can be made by contacting the planning department, and you will then be advised of the date on which it will be heard.

Get as many supporters as possible along to the meeting to support you. Throughout the process, the AAWT web site and its bulk mailing facility will be available to help you let everybody know what is happening.