

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-2014

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
COMMITTEE
6 MARCH 2014**

**REPORT OF:
SERVICE DIRECTOR
PLANNING**

	Agenda Item No.10
<p>APPLICATION N0: 13/1362 - ERECTION OF A SINGLE 0.5 MW WIND TURBINE (UP TO 77M BLADE TIP HEIGHT) WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS TRACK, CRANE, HARDSTANDING, SUBSTATION /TRANSFORMER, AND BOUNDARY FENCING (OBSERVATIONS REQUEST BY NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITY), LOCATION: LAND TO THE NORTH EAST OF BLAEN MORLAIS FARM, PENGARNDU, MERTHYR TYDFIL</p>	

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To give this Authority's observations on the planning application which is to be determined by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To forward the observations of this Authority to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

3. BACKGROUND

APPLICATION DETAILS

Merthyr Tydfil Council has requested the observations of the Council, as neighbouring local planning authority, on a planning application proposal for the erection of a single 0.5 megawatt wind turbine on land north east of Blaen Morlais Farm, Pengarnddu, Merthyr. The proposed turbine would be up to 77 metres in height to the tip of the blades, and would be accompanied by associating development of an access track, crane, hardstanding, substation/transformer and boundary fencing.

SITE APPRAISAL

The application site is located at Blaen Morlais, which is a hilltop north-east of Merthyr Tydfil town in close proximity to Merthyr Common and to the north side of the A465 Heads of the Valley Truck Road.

PLANNING HISTORY

Planning history records will be held by Merthyr Tydfil Council.

PUBLICITY

Publicity of the application will have been undertaken by Merthyr Tydfil Council.

CONSULTATION

Consultations on the application will have been undertaken by Merthyr Tydfil Council.

POLICY CONTEXT

The planning policy framework is the adopted Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan and Planning Policy Wales.

REASONS FOR REACHING THE RECOMMENDATION

The principle of the development and other material planning considerations fall to Merthyr Council to assess in its determination of the application. However, from a Rhondda Cynon Taf perspective the chief consideration is the visual impact of the development and in particular whether it has any such impacts on the County Borough.

Although the proposal is for a comparatively large wind turbine situated on a prominent hill top location, it is on the far side (north-east side) of Merthyr Tydfil from Rhondda Cynon Taf. Whilst none of the illustrated viewpoints in visual assessment accompanying the application are taken from within Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Zone of Theoretical Visual impact shows that only relatively limited areas of the highest ground above Aberdare, Hirwaun, Treorchy and Pontypridd would afford any views of the turbine. In any event it is considered that tree cover would further limit visibility of the turbine, and the distances involved would also reduce its effect considerably. As a consequence it is concluded that there would be insignificant cross-boundary visual impact from the proposed wind turbine, and therefore it is recommended that no objection is offered.

RECOMMENDATION

Raise No Objection

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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REPORT

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ASSOCIATED ACCESS TRACK,
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(OBSERVATIONS REQUEST BY
NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITY),
LOCATION: LAND TO THE NORTH
EAST OF BLAEN MORLAIS FARM,
PENGARNDDU, MERTHYR TYDFIL**

OFFICER TO CONTACT

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See Relevant Application File

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