

Important Update on Slyers Lane Wind Farm

The planning application process for Slyers Lane Wind Farm is nearing completion and is expected to be decided at a West Dorset Development Control (Planning) Committee - quite soon, possibly October.

Since the election the government has taken a number of steps relating to planning guidelines and renewable energy subsidies that make it particularly difficult for onshore wind projects.

Community support has been made a key consideration in the planning decision. It is now even more important that local people, who would like to see this wind farm become a reality, voice their opinions to councillors and in the media.

Please start now and we will keep you informed as we receive more information.

Is Community Ownership an option for Slyers Lane?

The government has indicated that it is more likely to retain subsidies for projects with a substantial element of community ownership. The developers, Broadview, aware of local support for the wind farm, have approached West Dorset Pro Wind with a view to exploring the potential for community ownership. A small group drawn from several local groups has met to begin examining the feasibility of forming a Community Benefit Society to share the ownership of Slyers Lane Wind Farm.

To take the idea forward we are publicising the next meeting more widely.

Slyers Lane Wind Farm
- Exploring the Community Ownership option
with consultant Jake Burnyeat of Communities for Renewables

7 p.m. Wednesday 26th August

The Wessex Royale Hotel
32 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UP

Put it in your diary

We have asked Jake Burnyeat of CFR (Communities for Renewables), who are consultants to a number of solar and wind projects, to speak to all of us about forming a legally constituted society. This society, should planning approval be granted, would become the vehicle for raising capital, managing the wind farm and distributing all profits to the community.

For any hope of success we will need everyone's enthusiasm but we will also need individuals with relevant financial, business, legal and technical backgrounds to provide oversight.

Please come to the meeting or e-mail us if you have any thoughts, questions or skills to offer. If you can let us know whether you can attend or not, it would help give us an idea of numbers. You are, of course, welcome to come along at the last minute.

Jeanie Averill
on behalf of the West Dorset ProWind Group