



# Meeting the people

Community Liaison Officer Eluned Lewis has been out and about in the area all summer, explaining to people about the Nant y Moch wind

farm and answering their questions. "It's important for us that our neighbours have as much information as possible about

the scheme," she says. "We want the communities to feel proud of the development."

Before the end of the year, Eluned will have visited all seven Community Councils in the area to give them the latest news about the scheme and to explain more about the timetable from now on.

"All the events have gone well," says Eluned. "People have been coming up to chat and find out more."

"As well as explaining about the scheme itself and how it will be built and run, we have been able to show how all the local communities will benefit from the community fund."



Airtricity was at Aberystwyth & Ceredigion County Show

Photo: Vaughan Griffiths

## Out and about

Eluned has taken displays about the wind farm to several local shows, including those at Aberystwyth, Capel Bangor, Llanilar, Penrhyncoch and Talybont. She has made presentations to local organisations, including Machynlleth Town Council, Melindwr and Cadfarch Community Councils and also to Melindwr Merched y Wawr.

## More opportunities to meet us

Early in the new year the next series of public exhibitions will be held in all the main communities around the proposed site.

Detailed plans of the proposed wind farm will be available – showing how many turbines there will be, and their exact location – a computer-generated 3D image of the site including turbines along with a similarly produced set of photomontages will also be on display to give a clearer indication of how the site would look with the wind farm in operation.

The exhibitions will be in the same format as the successful events that were held in June.

"We look forward to seeing you there," says Community Liaison Officer, Eluned Lewis. "We will be ready to offer more information and answer your questions. The June exhibitions offered us valuable views and opinions."

Look out in the local press and on our website for the locations and times of the exhibitions.

## The facts

- The proposed site of Nant y Moch wind farm is east of the A487 and north of the A44, between Talybont and the Nant y Moch reservoir.
- The aim, provided the wind farm performs as well as others in the UK, is to have the capacity to generate between 140 and 176 megawatts (MW) – that's enough for the average electricity needs of 65,000 homes\*.
- The exact number of turbines has not been decided yet, but it's likely to be between 60 and 80. Exact details will be available at the Public Exhibitions in the new year.
- Airtricity is committed to providing £7.5 million to local communities during the 25 year lifespan of the wind farm – that's at least £300,000 every year (based on an installed capacity of 140MW).

\* (Based on household consumption of 3,300kWh a year).

## Getting it right - finding the best route

We want to cause as little disruption as possible to the local communities surrounding the project and on the delivery route, so we are carrying out thorough research to find the best route for bringing equipment to the Nant y Moch site.

That's why we're organising trial runs – this means driving an empty vehicle of the same length as the longest equipment lorries along the possible delivery routes.

"At the public exhibitions in June, many people naturally raised questions about transport and access and we are determined to investigate this as thoroughly as we possibly can," says Project Manager, Madeline Cowley.

"It is important for us, as well as for our local communities, to find the best possible route, causing the minimum of disruption."

The trial runs are designed to ensure routes are fully suitable for turbine deliveries, and to identify any areas of improvement that may need to be made along the route.

- The trial runs will involve two possible ports for shipping the equipment – Mostyn in Flintshire in north Wales and Swansea.
- Three routes to the site were considered at the exhibitions – one off the A44 at Nant yr Arian and two off the A487, at Talybont and between Tre Taliesin and Furnace.
- Points of access from the roads to the site itself have not been identified yet – the trial runs will help determine the most suitable.

"Arranging delivery of the different parts is a complex logistical operation that calls for comprehensive planning," says Madeline Cowley.

For the technically minded, the vehicle used for the trial run will be an articulated lorry with an extendable manual steer trailer. The two will have a combined length of about 49 metres.

## The IPC and our proposal

The Nant y Moch wind farm could be one of the first schemes to be decided by a new planning body.

Airtricity hopes to submit a full planning application in March or April next year, just after the new Infrastructure Planning Commission becomes fully active.

The Commission will be deciding on any 'nationally significant infrastructure projects' including proposed wind farm developments above 50 megawatts (MW). As the Nant y Moch wind farm proposal is between 140 and 176MW, it fits that criteria.

It means strict new rules on the level of consultation the company must carry out with its local communities – but Airtricity is already on the way to meeting those.

Developers will have to carry out a certain level of consultation and then show how they have handled and considered the response of communities and the public as they develop their proposals.

The IPC is expected to have 35 expert commissioners, with four of them based in Wales. Under the chairmanship of the civil engineer and former prominent local government chief executive, Sir Michael Pitt, the Commission as a whole is expected to handle about 45 applications every year.

"The Planning Act that came into force in 2008 has changed the regime for major developments like our Nant y Moch wind farm proposal," said project manager, Madeline Cowley.

"This means that the nature and level of consultation required is much greater than under earlier planning guidance.

"Of course, Airtricity has always stressed the importance for working closely and effectively with local communities, and we are confident that we are already complying with the new requirements."

## The Community Liaison Group

A Community Liaison Group is making sure that local communities are fully involved in the Nant y Moch wind farm proposal.

With representatives from all the community councils and other groups, it is an independent body and, through a Community Engagement Plan, sets out how Airtricity must consult with communities, interested parties and the wider public.

The group will be keeping an eye on

developments to make sure that Airtricity keeps to the Community Liaison Plan and will publish a Statement of Community Involvement to demonstrate how this has been achieved.

Hazel Lloyd, Chief Executive of CAVO, the Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations, has been chosen as the Independent Facilitator to chair the meetings, which also include representatives of the county councils and other bodies.



*Eluned Lewis, Community Liaison Officer*

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**mb: 07814 020097 Tel: 01654 702720 Fax: 01654 702720**

**Email: [eluned.lewis@airtricity.com](mailto:eluned.lewis@airtricity.com)**

**[www.nantymochwindfarm.com](http://www.nantymochwindfarm.com)**

We'd like to keep you informed about developments on this exciting new project. However, if you would prefer not to receive these updates, please write to us, call us, or e-mail us at the details provided.

Airtricity Developments (UK) Limited, Victoria Terrace, St Philips, Bristol BS2 0TG.  
Web: [www.airtricity.com](http://www.airtricity.com)

Registered in Northern Ireland: NI043294 Airtricity Developments (UK) Limited.  
Registered Office: 2nd Floor, 83-85 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AF, Northern Ireland.