



Press release (immediate)

GREEN GROUPS COMBINE TO OPPOSE COUNTY WINDFARM BAN

Green activist throughout Hampshire have lodged a strong protest against a proposal to ban wind farms on County Council-owned land. In a letter to the council leader, Cllr Ken Thornber, they say that the council already has powers to decide how it wants to use its land, making the ban unnecessary. There are also national planning criteria governing the location and building of wind installations.

The council says that the benefits of wind farms do not outweigh the 'adverse impact' of their presence in the countryside. It therefore wants to impose a blanket ban. But campaigners that include Friends of the Earth, climate change activist in Winchester and Portsmouth and Transition Towns condemn the ban saying it sends a completely negative message to all landowners throughout the county and is contrary to government energy strategy on renewable energy.

They have asked the recommendation to be withdrawn and put forward for debate by the whole council instead of leaving it to the council leader to decide. Campaign spokesman, Ray Cobbett from Emsworth, said " We're baffled as to the reasons for putting forward a completely unnecessary ban at a time when investment in clean British energy and jobs has never been more important."

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EDITORS NOTE:

PDF copies of the letter and council paper(see para 2.9) on Hampshire FOE website www.hantsfoenet.org.uk/hampshires-green-groups-combine-to-fight-windfarm-ban/

Further info. Ray Cobbett (0850) 604490

A deputation is planned to the county council's executive meeting on January 24th 2013