

PA15/02977 Levalsa wind turbine  
Consultee Comments

\*\*\* St Ewe Parish Council considered this application after lengthy discussion at its May Ordinary Meeting, which included public participation from various people from the areas affected by this application. St Ewe OBJECTS unanimously to a wind turbine at Levalsa and would like it to be refused for the following reasons.

**Firstly**, the public consultations are insufficient and do not comply with recommendations in Cornwall Council's original document, "The development of onshore wind turbines, Renewable Energy Planning Guidance Note 3". Furthermore, many nearby residents, including those affected by shadow flicker, have not been informed in writing of the details of the application and its important dates. Though a 500 metre radius is the 'cut off' for notification (according to Cornwall Council's new Renewable Energy Draft Supplementary Planning Document), this is not sufficient and could not objectively be considered best practice, considering the constant impact this turbine would have on the surrounding farm businesses.

**Secondly**, at the one consultation carried out before submission of the application, public opinion was overwhelmingly negative, yet Cornwall Council has ignored the community and has gone ahead with the application. The Parish Council believes very strongly that this turbine engenders such opposition because it is badly placed, for all the reasons mentioned here.

**Thirdly**, no proper assessment of the impact on nearby footpaths and bridleways has been made. The lane by Tregenna Farm is regularly used by horse riders, and horses are negatively affected by turbines. A horse taking flight on a road used by vehicles is dangerous. Horse riders from St Ewe are forced to avoid ever more areas within the parish and in the adjoining parishes.

**Fourthly**, the 'swish' and 'thump' of the blades has not been assessed, nor its effect on residents, horses, or the nearby farm business, including any cattle. Equally, the effect of the shadow flicker and shadow throw on the neighbouring farms (Tregenna, Higher Tregenna, Penstrassoe Barton and Penberlan) should weigh heavily against this application.

**Fifthly**, the business case is weak. As squeezed as Cornwall Council is for income, £23,267 average income per year (from the 25 February 2015 "Wind Energy Programme" document) does very little to outweigh the detrimental impact of the wind turbine on the amenity of the rural landscape, on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is close by, on the residents and on the farm business nearby. No assessment of its effect on tourism has been made, and tourism is the second major source of income for local residents after farming. Any detrimental effect would contravene Section 3 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Core Planning Principle, paragraph 17, which "should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, ... recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it".

**Sixthly**, the turbine itself is mismatched; i.e., oversized for the situation; it will be geared down to a lower output. Considering the impact of such a large structure on the rural landscape, this is badly designed and inefficient.

**Seventhly**, the Parish Council notes the OBJECTION of the Cornwall Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit and agrees with the Unit's preliminary assessment from its first site visit, which indicates a high level of viewer susceptibility (Annex 2: Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidance for Cornwall - Wind Turbines).

**Eighthly**, the turbine is too close to farm buildings and the farm business at Higher Tregenna.

**Ninthly**, this application's impact assessment is inadequate. It is impossible to judge from the application documents what the visual and noise impact will be. The impact of loss of amenity in a primarily rural area near an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty must also be emphasised and should carry much weight against this application, especially when considering the cumulative impact of other turbines in the area on horse riders, walkers, the rural residents, the tourists and local businesses that depend on tourism.