

The ACCB (Area C Community Benefit) Group. Frequently asked Questions

Background / History.

The Welsh Government (WG) has an objective to produce, in Wales, electricity from renewable sources. In 2005 WG set a target of 800 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity from onshore wind.

WG issued Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8), defining specific areas suitable for large scale wind farm developments - Strategic Search Areas (SSA's)

Two of these SSA's, B and C, are in the area covered by Powys County Council (PCC) and a third, SSA D partially.

Currently, within PCC's area there are 4 operational wind farms and a further 20 potential developments, 11 of which are in SSA B and 9 in SSA C.

Where is SSA C?

SSA C is from south of Newtown to north of Llandewi, towards Rhayader in the west and the English border in the East. It covers, wholly or partially, Community Councils (CC) Abbey-cwm-Hir, Beguildy, Kerry (*Dolfor*), Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llanbister, Llandinam, St. Harmon and Mochdre.

What is Community Benefit?

Westminster and WG have stressed that local communities impacted by wind farms should benefit from the development(s), to mitigate the impact of wind farms.

Where developers have made community benefits, it is normally in the form of an annual cash payment, based on an agreed rate per MW of the developments "installed capacity".

What is PCC Involvement?

PCC want, where renewable developments are permitted, the local communities affected to obtain the maximum Community Benefit. It offers support to the communities in negotiating the benefits.

What is the ACCB Group?

It is a discussion and advisory group NOT a decision making group. It is a working group looking to gain the best for communities in or close to SSA C, that may be directly affected by development of wind farms if planning permissions are granted.

Who are the members of the ACCB Group?

ACCB represents the Community Councils (CC) which are wholly or partially in SSA C. The members of the Group report back to their respective CC at their meetings.

In addition, elected members of PCC representing these areas are invited to contribute to ACCB's discussions, together with support from PCC.

What is the purpose of the ACCB Group?

In the event of permission for wind farm developments being granted, the ACCB Group aims to create a local organisation that can represent the interests of the communities, negotiating with developers to achieve the maximum possible amounts and to receive and manage these community benefits through a local fund. It will ensure that funds are not diverted away from the communities by any outside organisations

Confidential – For Discussion Purposes Only

The Group will put forward the best options to the member CC's. Each will decide for itself to agree or reject these proposals. It is **NOT** part of ACCB's brief to advocate, encourage or otherwise the development of wind farms.

For more information.

Contact your Community Council. It is updated by their representative on ACCB and receives notes of ACCB meetings.