

To Community Affairs

I have been studying wind energy for the last 2 years due to an application to build a wind farm near to where I live. Thankfully the Local Authority has now voted to reject it, but, of course, that decision could be overturned if it goes to Appeal.

What I have found dismaying in the past is the lack of information in the media regarding the case against wind energy. Most of the media reports said that the evidence was settled, that if we didn't build wind farms we would all drown due to rising sea levels. Thank goodness for the internet, without it we would all have been hoodwinked. The science seems to be far from being settled, it was just a case that the, so called, "deniers" could not get their material published.

How things have changed. We now seem to hear of a new scandal every few days. The latest is regarding high levels of pollution in China in extracting neodymium used in the magnets for the generator of a wind turbine. There are countless stories from around the world of families affected by noise/ vibration. One of these is a family not many miles from where I live. This has gone to the High Court to claim compensation as they are unable to live in their home, and are unable to sell it also. Then there are reports of loss of wildlife around wind farm sites, and loss of revenue in tourist areas.

But even if you put these issues to one side, what are you left with? Apparently Denmark has not reduced their Co2 emissions even with all of the wind turbines that they have built. It is now reported that the UK will have the most expensive electricity in the world due to the "subsidy" being paid by the consumer. Last month, reported as the coldest in a hundred years, the official figures for power production showed that total generation from wind was at times a mere 0.02 per cent. And, of course, you always have to have a back up supply. Usually spinning reserve, which is still using up fossil fuels and therefore emitting Co2, but not generating any electricity. Talk about paying twice.

To sum up. Wind power is unreliable; therefore it has to have a back up supply. It is expensive. It is widely reported as causing health problems due to noise. It is reported as having a detrimental effect on property prices. It is anti wildlife, in particular birds and bats. It only reduces Co2 if it can replace fossil fuel. And it can only do that if it has a "Green" source as back up.

I hope that this has been of help.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Stephens