

Wind Watch: Industrial Energy News *filed:* March 13, 2009

If wind turbines are transported through Welshpool then roundabouts will be tarmaced over and 500 metre laybys will be built every two miles," declared Welshpool's town clerk in front of more than 200 concerned residents. "These are just two of the long-term effects Welshpool could be subjected to if lorries 49 metres long and weighing up to 130 tonnes travel in convoy through the town centre."

Others could include the removal of street furniture (lamp posts, traffic lights and bollards etc), damage to the countryside's wildlife and trees, potential damage to properties, effect on tourism and retailers, and the removal of the stones outside the council offices.

There are growing concerns about the number, length and weight of lorries that will be needed to transport equipment through the centre of Welshpool to 23 proposed new wind farms being built across Mid Wales.

Welshpool town clerk Robert Robinson said: "We have been told to expect 587 abnormal loads through Welshpool, 800 other large lorries and thousands of other lorries. The transporting of the turbines will be done in convoys every three months over a three-year period. The longest lorry will be 49 metres long and the heaviest 130 tonnes. The loads can also be somewhere between four and five metres wide. Obviously the turning circles of the abnormal loads are not fantastic and this in turn could potentially have a devastating effect on Welshpool.

From what I have been told we could see a road tarmaced straight through roundabouts by the Old Station and the Raven, lamp posts and bollards will often have to be dug up and moved out of the way. People with homes on the main street also have a lot to think about because the majority of those houses are over 100 years old and therefore have brick foundations opposed to concrete.

With the number of heavy lorries passing by these houses nobody knows what could happen. All I can suggest is that you contact your insurance company and let them know the change of circumstance. It would be also worthwhile taking photographs of your properties so you have proof of any damage should it occur.

Retailers in Welshpool are already having a tough enough time as it is and this won't help them either. Many also fear that tourism in the area will also be damaged

