

Labour challenged on Llandudno wind farm

Llandudno is a seaside resort where "Alice in Wonderland" was written. It seems to me that the Mad Hatter is active again proposing enormous windmill towers within sight of the beach.

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Welsh Conservatives today called on the Labour Party to clear up growing confusion over whether it supports the controversial Gwynt y Môr wind farm off the North Wales coast.

The demand comes following contradictory statements from the Conwy Labour Party and the constituency MP Betty Williams.

The Conwy Labour website said recently: "Conwy Constituency Labour Party has decided it does not wish to see any further development of nuclear power. This followed an earlier decision supporting wind power in general, and in particular the Gwynt-y-Mor wind farm proposed off the Llandudno coast, with certain conditions."

But in a newspaper article on March 6 Betty Williams said she was still hoping for a public inquiry into the Gwynt-y-Mor wind farm

Developers of power renewables want to build about 200 540ft turbines – each higher than Blackpool Tower – nine miles off Llandudno.

Welsh Conservatives are opposed to the development, arguing that the scale of the proposals will have a detrimental impact on the coastline of one of Wales' leading tourist destinations.

Dylan Jones-Evans, the Welsh Conservative candidate for Aberconwy at next year's National Assembly elections, has also challenged Labour's current AM for Conwy, Denise Idris Jones, to publicly state whether or not she supports the scheme.

Prof Jones-Evans said: "The Gwynt y Môr proposal is one of the biggest issues that North Wales has faced for many years.

"The people of Aberconwy need to be absolutely clear where their current representatives in the National Assembly and at Westminster stand on this very emotive and important issue.

"A great deal of confusion has been caused by the statement of the Conwy Labour Party and that of the Labour MP.

"It is time Betty Williams and Denise Idris Jones got off the fence and said whether they endorse the view of their own constituency party which is so clearly in favour of a development Labour describes as a 'wonderful strategic opportunity'.

"There is clearly a place for the generation of energy through wind power but I am seriously concerned at the scale of this proposal.

"It will have a significant impact on the coastline of North Wales, both visually and environmentally.

"The people of Wales have a right to expect that their concerns are properly considered and that their elected representatives are consistent in everything they say and do.

"More importantly, they need to know why our beautiful country, on which much of our tourism industry depends, has become the laboratory for the Labour Government's narrow view of renewable energy policy when in other parts of the UK, such as Cumbria and East Yorkshire, large scale wind farm schemes have been turned down.

"It has become increasingly obvious that the Labour governments in Cardiff and at Westminster are obsessed with wind power and have closed their minds off to other forms of renewable energy.

"By taking this stubborn approach to public opinion, they risk destroying our beautiful countryside and coastline with hundreds of monstrous turbines.

"Any wind farm proposals should only come as part of a balanced, well-thought out approach to renewable energy.