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Direct Line: 01588 674085
Email: Joy.tetsill@shropshire.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Date: 21st July 2008

Dear Martin

Re: Application no: 1/08/20829/F – Installation of 17.75m high domestic wind generator on land adjacent to the Miner's Arms, Priest Weston.

Thank you for your consultation on this application. It has been assessed in terms of its impact on the visual amenity and the landscape character of the Shropshire Hills AONB.

1. Impact on visual amenity

The proposed wind turbine is located on a steep slope within a deeply incised valley to the west of the Stapeley area. It is unlikely to break the skyline from anything other than the immediate vicinity. Views towards the site from the south west (outside the AONB) will read the turbine against the habitat mosaic on the hill slope. From the west, east and north (including from the AONB) views of the turbine will be extremely limited by the landform. More immediate views will be possible within Priest Weston itself but will be screened by vegetation in some places. Views of the site from most public paths and the Six Castles Cycle route will be similarly shielded. This very restricted visibility and the low numbers of people likely to see the turbine means that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on the visual amenity of the AONB.

2. Impact on landscape character.

The location of the proposed turbine serves to conceal it in the wider landscape and thus greatly reduces any impact on the character of the surrounding countryside. Within the village, whilst the turbine is clearly a newer form of development, it will not be incongruous in the context of the mostly pre-industrial character of the settlement. The impact on the landscape character of the AONB is thus likely to be low.

3. Conclusion and recommendation.

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on either the visual amenity or the landscape character of the AONB and the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership has no objections to this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Joy Tetsill
Planning and Policy Officer
For the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership