

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ
T:01588 674080 F:01588 674099
E:mail:SHAONBO @shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Press Release

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Proposed Power Plant at Brockton, Lydbury North

The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership is pressing for as much information as possible about the proposed power plant to be put in the public domain. The brief for the feasibility study and as much as possible of the study itself should be made public at the earliest opportunity. Any aspects of the study remaining confidential for commercial reasons should not prevent a clear understanding of the impacts of the proposed plant with different fuel mixes.

The 10% grant offered towards a feasibility study should not be seen as signalling the support of the AONB Partnership for the power plant proposal itself. While the Partnership remains interested in the biomass energy potential of the scheme, we are concerned that the impacts of use of municipal waste or other man-made materials may outweigh any positive environmental benefits. Given the considerable anxiety locally about the proposal, the Partnership feels it is important that accurate information is made public, to help informed judgements to be made. Conditions of the grant require that the study be completed by the end of March 2007. Officers from the AONB Partnership are continuing to discuss the proposal with the planning authority, the developer and other interested parties as more information becomes available.

The AONB Partnership will continue to seek to use its influence in whatever way possible to seek the best outcome from this case for the natural beauty of the area, taking into account social and economic needs of the local community, as outlined in the AONB's legal purposes.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

For further information contact Phil Holden, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ Tel: 01588 674088. E mail SHAONBO@shropshire-cc.gov.uk
www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 41 AONBs in England & Wales. This designation is recognition of the national value of the area's landscape, and brings duties on local authorities to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

The management of the AONB is guided by a statutory Management Plan produced by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership which comprises 5 local authorities, 31 other organisations and independent community members. The AONB staff team are funded by the Countryside Agency and the local authorities, and work with others to implement the AONB Management Plan. Shropshire County Council acts as the host authority for the AONB Partnership.
