# Residents challenge wind turbine plans as Blaenau Gwent faces looming landscape changes



# Resident Concerns Mount Over Wind Turbine Development in Blaenau Gwent

The proposed installation of wind turbines in Blaenau Gwent has ignited a wave of opposition among local residents, concerned about the substantial alterations to their beloved landscape and the direct impact on their daily lives. The project is set to feature turbines soaring to a maximum tip height of 180 metres—comparable to iconic structures like the Gherkin in London—prompting unease about their proximity to homes and community facilities.

Cwm resident and psychologist, Dr Robert Edmunds, is among those vocalising fears that the turbines will not only dominate the skyline but may also intrude upon the privacy of local residents by casting shadows over gardens and generating unwanted noise. “I do not feel most people realise the scale of the project,” Dr Edmunds expressed, lamenting the minimal consideration given to the community's voice in the decision-making process. “It is a scandal that people can just have this foisted upon them by a government initiative,” he added, highlighting the feeling of powerlessness prevalent among concerned residents.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Steven Millard, who stressed the impracticality of placing such substantial structures in close proximity to homes, special schools, and a hospital. He pointed out that some residences are merely 450 metres away from these towering installations. Millard emphasised a disconnect between the town's energy ambitions and the palpable impact on the local environment, noting, “It is odd that, in order to protect our climate and the natural world upon which we depend, businesses and governments wish to destroy large swathes of our upland green spaces.”

Residents have raised additional concerns about known side effects associated with large wind turbines, such as noise pollution and shadow flicker, issues that have been documented elsewhere in the Valleys. This apprehension mirrors historical dissent against similar projects; in 2009, a community in the south Wales valley fought fiercely against a proposed wind farm on Blaenau Gwent mountain, citing safety and environmental risks, including the area's susceptibility to landslides.

Further complicating matters, the discussions surrounding a separate proposal to build eight wind turbines at Mynydd Carn y Cefn have raised questions about geological stability, with local councillors voicing scepticism over the accuracy of geological assessments and the potential risks of vibrations from turbine operations. Reports indicated that the area is already troubled by historical incidents of fissures and rockfalls, leading to calls for more comprehensive assessments to ensure community safety.

The developers, Cenin, have sought to address these concerns, asserting that they are actively engaged in discussions with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council regarding a broader local energy network. The company argues that the renewable energy generated by the project will provide significant benefits to the community, including job creation. They claim, “There are no major negative effects of noise and shadow flicker,” and assured that they would continue to listen to community input and respond to concerns.

Despite these claims, residents express a persistent sense of bewilderment regarding the approval of the project in the face of overwhelming local objections. The juxtaposition of renewable energy goals and the preservation of local heritage and natural landscapes remains a delicate balance, underscored by prior successful campaigns against similar developments in the area.

As the debate continues, it becomes increasingly evident that the struggle over wind farm development in Blaenau Gwent is not solely about energy generation but also about the values of community, landscape preservation, and environmental stewardship in an era of climate change mitigation.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25147373.blaenau-gwent-residents-raise-concerns-wind-turbines/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23307988.eight-new-wind-turbines-negative-impact-blaenau-gwent/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25147373.blaenau-gwent-residents-raise-concerns-wind-turbines/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/8293311.stm)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25147373.blaenau-gwent-residents-raise-concerns-wind-turbines/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.herald.wales/south-wales/blaenavon-windfarm-developments-face-backlash-over-threat-to-historic-landscape/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23313240.blaenau-gwent-mountain-wind-turbines-planned-not-stable/), [[7]](https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2023/02/10/mountain-earmarked-for-major-wind-turbine-development-not-stable/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25147373.blaenau-gwent-residents-raise-concerns-wind-turbines/?ref=rss), [[5]](https://manmoelwind.co.uk/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25147373.blaenau-gwent-residents-raise-concerns-wind-turbines/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23307988.eight-new-wind-turbines-negative-impact-blaenau-gwent/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25147373.blaenau-gwent-residents-raise-concerns-wind-turbines/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/8293311.stm> - In October 2009, residents in a south Wales valley vowed to fight a wind farm development on Blaenau Gwent mountain. Developers appealed to build four turbines, but local campaigners expressed concerns over safety and environmental impact, citing the area's history of landslides. Despite the developers' claims of economic benefits, residents remained opposed, emphasizing the project's potential negative effects on the community and landscape.
3. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23313240.blaenau-gwent-mountain-wind-turbines-planned-not-stable/> - In February 2023, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Planning Committee discussed a proposal by Pennant Walters Ltd to build eight wind turbines with a maximum blade height of 180 metres at Mynydd Carn y Cefn. Councillors raised concerns about the mountain's stability, citing past issues like fissures and rockfalls. They questioned the adequacy of the provided geological assessments and the potential impact of vibrations from the turbines on the area's stability.
4. <https://www.herald.wales/south-wales/blaenavon-windfarm-developments-face-backlash-over-threat-to-historic-landscape/> - In 2023, proposed wind farm developments near Blaenavon faced opposition due to potential threats to the Blaenavon World Heritage site. Councillors expressed concerns over the visual impact of turbines on the 19th-century industrial landscape and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. They emphasized the need to balance renewable energy goals with preserving cultural and natural heritage.
5. <https://manmoelwind.co.uk/> - The Manmoel Wind project proposes five wind turbines at Manmoel Common, aiming to generate enough renewable energy to power over 20,000 local homes. The project is part of CENIN Renewables' initiative to bring clean energy to Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly. The development has undergone extensive community engagement, including consultations with local residents and councils, to address concerns and ensure local benefits.
6. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23307988.eight-new-wind-turbines-negative-impact-blaenau-gwent/> - In February 2023, a report indicated that building eight wind turbines at Mynydd Carn y Cefn would have a 'negative impact' on Blaenau Gwent. The Local Impact Report highlighted concerns over the visual impact, noise, and potential geological risks, including evidence of shallow mining and subsidence. The council emphasized the need for comprehensive assessments to mitigate adverse effects on the area.
7. <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2023/02/10/mountain-earmarked-for-major-wind-turbine-development-not-stable/> - In February 2023, councillors warned that Mynydd Carn y Cefn, earmarked for a major wind turbine development, was 'not stable.' They cited past issues like fissures and rockfalls and questioned the adequacy of geological assessments. Concerns were raised about the potential impact of turbine vibrations on the mountain's stability and the surrounding community.