

For those of you who couldn't make it - here is Lyndsey's speech in full:

It's great to see you all here today representing your communities and making your feelings known to the Scottish National Party, regarding the increasing devastation caused by wind farm developments, not just here in the Perth, but across the whole of Scotland.

If all members of all the groups across Scotland had been able to afford to make the journey here today, Perth would have been gridlocked!

Many of us have read or seen on the internet how thousands of people are suffering or are threatened by the destruction of their local and wider environment by wind farms across the whole of the UK, Europe and the world. A lot of us have been able to research the viability of wind energy ourselves. Some of us may have once have thought it was a good idea but soon changed our minds. The facts are out there so if we can, as mainly lay people, find out the truth why can't the people who govern us do the same?

With growing numbers of scientists, engineers, economists, environmentalists all opposing industrial wind farm developments why is nobody at the top listening?

Here today we have the SNP meeting. No doubt patting themselves on the back and congratulating themselves for being in government and imposing their policies on the people of Scotland.

The SNP need to start listening to the people in rural communities and find out what is really happening out there and they need to do it fast.

Holyrood cannot lay the total blame for the wind farm fiasco at the doors of Westminster – much as the SNP would like to – because they are responsible for planning and where wind farms are sited - and we all know how fair and democratic the planning process is don't we?

In addition our First Minister has set the most ambitious targets for renewable energy in Europe – while the UK only aspires to 15%, Alex Salmond wants Scotland to be producing 100% by 2020 with no upper limit.

Both the Westminster & Scottish governments set the subsidies to encourage development and are, therefore, responsible for the supplements on energy bills. With more than 6 million households in fuel poverty today it is appalling we are all being forced to pay for such an unreliable and uneconomic energy source as wind. If the governments had to fund these subsidies out of their budget, there **would be no** wind farms built because the subsidies would have been slashed a long time ago and there would be no lure of easy money for the developer.

If a supplement went to helping a new viable technology that would be different. Most, if not all, of us are passionate about the environment and that is why we battle to protect it. We welcome new ideas and solutions that help us to use less energy and reduce our bills and reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. Wind cannot be part of that – it is too expensive and unreliable. It is a highly visual 'tick box' exercise so the politicians here in Scotland and in Westminster can puff themselves up and say

'Look what we are doing to save the planet'.

Yes let us take a brief look at what they are doing shall we?

They are offering excessive rewards to developers to build their wind farms in our communities and precious landscapes even though most of us don't want them.

That is our money they are offering

They are allowing the wind farm developer to offer huge rewards to landowners for simply having turbines on their land.

That is our money they are offering - again.

The same developer offers the communities a monetary benefit – which even politicians now openly call a bribe - to try and gain support and secure planning consent.

That is our money they are offering back to us.

They are allowing multiple proposals for wind developments in places that shouldn't even be considered.

They are allowing extensions to developments before the original is even constructed.

They allow proposals in areas close to where other developments have been fought successfully by communities.

This means the same communities have to battle all over again and spend years of their time and their own money fighting multi national companies with bottomless pockets.

They are putting massive burdens on the resources of councils and other consultees like SEPA and SNH.

Where there is local opposition, which is supported by their councils, there may be Public Inquiries. Councils have to spend even more of **our money** defending their objections and fighting developers who insist on relentlessly pursuing their proposals, despite overwhelming local rejection. Tens of millions of pounds is spent. Money that could be spent much more effectively in our communities.

How long do you think it will be before these councils and consultees will find they can't afford to object to developments? Who will speak for the people and the environment and the wildlife then?

What else?

They allow developers to behow shall I put it.... economical with the accuracy of the information they provide to the public.

It would appear no one checks out what is shown at public exhibitions. That means the turbines in the photomontages may not look as large and dominating as they will be.

The computer generated images showing the proposed view from someone's home may not be quite as shocking as it will be.

Some developers produce leaflets that show a piper or a tractor in the foreground and a turbine looking not much higher behind.

That's clever stuff – designed to make people think it won't be that bad. So maybe they won't object.

Will they have to take the turbines down when it clearly is 'that bad'? No of course not.

And what about CO2?

Its debateable any is saved at all with the pollution that the thousands of tonnes of concrete in the infra structure and turbine bases cause and the pollution of keeping fossil fuel power stations running 24/7 in case the wind stops blowing. SEPA and SNH have **NO remit or funding** to check CO2 savings calculations. No one has verifiable figures for actual CO2 saved by an existing wind farm – the only figures we get are purely theoretical.

If you read a developer's Environmental Statement you probably won't find any mention of CO2 caused by new infrastructure required to connect the grid that could well be miles away.

Probably not a mention if the turbines used will contain neodymium from China, where the toxic waste left behind from the mining and extraction is seriously damaging the health of the local citizens. The copper in every turbine produces Sulphur Dioxide when it is processed. Sixteen tons of copper in each onshore turbine produces 32 tons of SO2. Sulphur Dioxide produces acid rain. Acid rain destroys the environment.

The Statement also will **not** tell you **what CO2 will be caused** by the decommissioning process because they will have to comply with regulations in a quarter of century's time – and **THEY** don't know what they will be.

Somewhere in the Statement you may be able to find a line or two that says any CO2 figures could be variable!

Basically not worth the paper they are written on then.

Jobs

Where are all these thousands of jobs wind farms are supposed to give local people? They are certainly not easy to find in the numbers trade association Scottish Renewables trumpet on a regular basis.

What is even more shocking is that the Scottish Government admitted this month that the jobs figures of over 11,000, parroted by them, comes directly from Scottish Renewables with **NO independent** checks. Taking what Scottish Renewables, whose job is to promote the wind farm industry, say as accurate is no better than putting the shark in charge of the fish farm.

Households powered by windfarms

All quoted figures are based on 30% efficiency of wind farms. That should be 70% inefficient and we all know the figure is higher than that. Many wind farms run at closer to 20% efficiency – **80% inefficiency**. On top of that transporting electricity from windfarms to where the power is actually needed incurs transmission losses and this is not factored into efficiency claims.

All this means that the number of households, which developers quote their windfarms as supplying with electricity, is significantly exaggerated.

A request has gone to Scottish Renewables asking if this same 70% inefficiency figure applies to claims of CO2 savings for wind farms. The silence, so far, has been deafening! I wonder why.

What else?

Oh yes the birds and the bats. They are affected. They are killed by turbines. Probably in greater numbers than ever officially reported. Reports from all over the world say it is happening in huge numbers yet our governments dismiss this as not a problem. We would be, quite rightly, treated as criminals if we killed and maimed protected species like eagles and kites but if you are a wind farm owner go ahead you won't be investigated by the RSPB or arrested by the police that's for sure!

Finally and probably the most important of all.

The People The communities who are forced to live alongside this industrialisation.

What are **our** governments thinking of by allowing these massive structures to be built within a few hundred meters of homes? Homes where people may make a living through tourism, farming or simply want to reside peacefully and raise their families.

You are living your life, paying your taxes and then suddenly **BANG!** Wake up - your life will be shattered by a government, planning process and developers who care nothing about you. They may profess to care about the wildlife but not about the human beings. Lives are shattered forever and properties worth so little that people cannot afford to move away. The developers fight the communities – all they can see is massive profits. **The Scottish people are collateral damage to an insane energy policy endorsed by Westminster and Holyrood.**

Noise issues and health problems caused by living near turbines are frequently reported. Regulations are 15 years out of date and were produced when turbines were much smaller.

The Waubra Foundation in Australia says turbines should be no closer than 10 KM from homes to protect the residents.

Even our children are being put at risk by turbines in school playgrounds with no exclusion zone against the recommendations of turbine manufacturers themselves.

We all know these things, but the governments aren't listening and if they are, they aren't doing anything to protect us.

What other industry would be allowed to get away with this kind of behaviour?

Not long ago over 100 MPs wrote to the prime minister asking that subsidies be cut so this insane rush for wind could be halted. Alex Salmond immediately said Scotland would guarantee subsidy levels even if Westminster cut them further than the expected 10%

How Mr Salmond? We don't have enough head of people in Scotland to pay all the billions of pounds of subsidies guaranteed to wind farm operators for the next 25 years. Our energy bills would have to rocket and plunge an even higher percentage of our population into fuel poverty.

The same would happen if we have independence. **Bullish rhetoric** will **not** pay to keep people warm this winter or in the future.

Things **are** changing but too slowly to protect some of our communities and landscapes.

Talk to your neighbours and your friends and your families and show them where they can go to find the truth. Tell them it is costing them dearly for something that is painfully inefficient and that pays the owners of wind farms mind boggling amounts of money if they generate and even more if they are asked to switch off because of low demand. Wind is uncontrollable and the grid is not designed to cope with such an unreliable energy.

For every megawatt of wind installed we need a megawatt of back up for when the wind doesn't blow. Not one conventional power station will be closed because of wind as other countries have discovered. Wind farms do not make nuclear power stations redundant. Germany, which has far more operational solar and wind power than Scotland, and plans to stop using nuclear, is now building more than twenty coal-fired power stations to keep the lights on. Why are the Scottish and Westminster governments ignoring what is happening in the countries that are ceasing or reducing the subsidies for economic reasons? **Why are they so backward in forward thinking? Is it because we are paying and not them?**

Speak to the people who are supposed to represent you in the councils, Holyrood and Westminster. Make sure they know they will not be able to count on your vote in any future elections unless they stand up for your concerns.

We invited every MSP to join us today and wrote personally to the leaders of the main parties to come and speak to you all about their views on the current energy policy.

The leaders all declined and the vast majority of the MSPs didn't bother to respond.

There is an independence referendum in 2014. If we can't trust this SNP government to protect our rural communities and environment from predatory wind farm developers now then how can we trust them if we give them even more power in two years time?

We need to think very carefully about that.

There was uproar, little more than a week ago, when Alex Salmond, referring to industrial wind farm development, publicly stated at a low carbon conference

'There's no amount of noise or foot-stamping that's going to distract the Scottish Government from discharging its responsibilities properly'

Well Mr Salmond the **Foot Stampers** are here, we are making a **noise** and you need to start listening quickly before you turn even more of the Scottish people against you.

Thank you all for coming today and I hope you have all managed to have a good look at the blimp and can now visualise the shocking height of proposed onshore turbines.

I would also like to thank all of you who made such a great effort with their masks and costumes. The prizes will be handed out shortly.

SNP Conference, Concert Hall, Perth 20th October 2012

Lyndsey Ward 07899 035135