

Western Morning News

## **WINDFARM COMPANY TO FACE ANGRY RESIDENTS**

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A national power organisation which plans to build three giant wind turbines in South Devon has announced it will attend what is expected to be a heated public meeting to discuss its controversial proposals.

There had been concerns that Npower would not attend the meeting. Then residents understood representatives would be there simply to "gauge public opinion."

Now, however, residents have been told officials will not only attend, but also answer questions on the company's proposals to build three 100m-high turbines at Goveton, in the South Hams.

Dave Mitchell, secretary of South Hams Against Unsightly Turbines (SHOUT), said: "I explained to an Npower representative that although we objected to the plans, they were welcome to state their case in favour. He confirmed that Npower will be there, and will hand out publicity material in favour of their case, and forms which people can send in with comments to them.

"Npower are not prepared to make a presentation and that is their choice.

"Our meeting will start with South Hams District Council planning department telling us about the application before our expert will give a short presentation about what we consider to be the evils of turbines.

"It will then be open to a question and answer session.

"We're trying to create a forum where people can exchange views and we're more than happy for people to come along if they are in favour of the project.

"Because the parish council seems unable to represent us we have had to find some way of stimulating local democracy.

"We're hoping that the meeting will attract something in the region of a few hundred people at least."

Chris Lloyd, project manager for the windfarm at Npower Renewables, said: "I can confirm we will certainly be at the meeting.

"We will be answering questions if necessary but we're not going to give a formal presentation. There will also be some comment forms and support leaflets.

"We want to encourage the silent majority to come out and give their opinion at the meeting."

A meeting of parishioners from East Allington, Goveton and Buckland-tout-Saints had been due to take place to gauge public opinion.

However, the meeting was cancelled because of safety fears, leading to the residents taking the matter into their own hands and organising a separate meeting.

Their meeting takes place at Buckland-tout-Saints Hotel at 7pm tomorrow night.

It will be chaired by Roger Pope, principal of Kingsbridge Community College.