



**CPRW: NANT MITHIL (BUTE'S RADNOR FOREST WIND ENERGY PARK)**  
**your *DAILY DOSE* no 11. ....and how to find it :**

<https://bute.energy/green-energy-investment-from-the-wales-pension-partnership/>  
**Wales Pension Partnership investment in Bute's windfarms and overhead electricity lines**

**Wales Pension Partnership (WPP)**

**Includes Pension Funds from 8 Welsh Councils**

*Carmarthenshire County Council*

*City and County of Swansea*

*City of Cardiff Council*

*Cygnor Sir Gwynedd*

*Flintshire County Council*

*Powys County Council*

*Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council*

7 of these Pension funds have invested in Bute plans via a "co-operation or partnership" with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (a global company with 12 world-wide offices, including an HQ in Denmark).

The initial advance from the WPP was around 18.5 million, as part of a total advance from WPP of around 68 million, "dependent on the conditions of the investment agreement".

We know most of these details from a recent email, probably early May 2024, from Cllr. Alun Lenny, **Carmarthenshire County Council Employer Representative** to the **Chairman of the Board of the Dyfed (Carmarthenshire County Council) Pension Fund**. The long email explains (shortened in our words).....

WPP has invested in one or more of the Bute Group of Companies. The commitment to invest in one or more Bute Group Companies was made before January 2023, the time when Councillors became aware that the GreenGEN/Bute 'Tywi-Usk' (Towi-Usk) electricity export scheme would impact on Carmarthenshire and involve an overhead line on pylons along an insensitive route. Powys Pension Fund didn't invest because of sensitivity about the related Bute plans for new wind farms in Powys. Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) never voted upon or otherwise approved the investment. They relied on WPP's external consultants and lawyers.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, CCC approved a motion to write formally to Bute asking them to work with landowners to underground the cables. The Council itself is a landowner and had refused voluntary entry onto its land by Bute representatives wanting to survey the pylon route. CCC were disappointed by Bute's lack of transparency and reluctance to co-operate. They noted that their employees (involved in the pension fund) together with many others would suffer from the adverse impacts including "property devaluation, economic loss for those involved in agriculture and tourism, loss of visitor revenue, and of course prejudice to general health and wellbeing from the despoiling of our beautiful county".

The letter requests the Dyfed Pension Fund to explore:

- Dyfed Pension Fund and WPP release from the arrangement with GreenGEN/Bute,
- the options of release for the Dyfed Pension Fund alone or for the WPP group of seven
- recovery of the first advance payment and withholding of the future payment.
- appeal to Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), as an organisation "based in Denmark" where national policy is to underground all such lines, to help towards undergrounding in this case.

However, Cllr Lenny recognises two hurdles:

- Pension Funds and CIP have obligations towards pension contributors
- GreenGEN/Bute may be holding out for an overhead line on pylons because this requires formal planning consent. Planning consent is a saleable asset. Underground lines are "permitted development" and therefore there is no financial benefit from selling on consent.

The email says a copy has been sent to Ofgem and that some Pension Fund meetings have been arranged to discuss these issues. We do not know the date of the initial investment commitment or any further outcome.



It seems Carmarthenshire CC didn't know about the Towi-Usk line before January 2023 although Bute told PEDW on 8/12/22 that "consultation with Statutory Consultees was ongoing". See [2022-12-08 - DNS 02379 Nant Mithil Grid Connection - Inception Meeting Note - Final \(Redacted\)](#)  
**Wasn't Carmarthenshire CC one of the Statutory Consultees consulted?**