

Dear Mr Norman

I speak for the residents of Shetland who have never been 'consulted' about the Viking Energy project. When Viking Energy was in its infancy I [REDACTED] I continually opposed the proposal to go ahead with the project. My opposition was based on the firm belief that it a wind farm on such a scale was totally inappropriate for Shetland and constituted a serious threat to our unique environment, our wilderness and wildlife.

I was assured by the leaders of the Shetland Islands Council that "it would never happen" if the people of Shetland didn't want it. In spite of many such promises over the years the people of Shetland have never actually been asked if they want any commercial wind farms to be built in Shetland. We were further mislead by false by promises that the Viking Energy project would not lead to an explosion of applications for further wind farm projects in Shetland. I [REDACTED] where two such add-ons are already proposed, Peel Energy in Burravoe and Energy Isles in North Yell, and many others are being mooted the length and breadth of Shetland based on false promises of 'community benefit' and 'green energy'.

Going back to the beginning again, I reiterate comments I made in writing to Alastair Carmichael MP and Tavish Scott MSP :

"Shetland is ideally placed, and blessed with the resources, to become energy self-sufficient (using tidal/wave power and possibly off-shore wind turbines). It is absolutely not ideally placed to be a net exporter of energy produced by land-based wind farms".

As a former chairman of Shetland Amenity Trust I was involved in submitting its unanimous objection to the original planning application for the Viking Energy project.

The arguments against commercial land-based wind farms are even more compelling now that we understand more about the environmental impacts of such projects in Shetland:

the idea of disturbing, nay destroying, enormous quantities of peat bog, one of the most precious carbon sinks in the world, is anathema to any environmentalist;

the resources of steel and concrete, 'landscaping' and the logistics of the construction process itself in undeveloped, remote areas will release vast amounts of carbon dioxide which will take years and years to 'pay-back';

the construction of the interconnector will be extremely expensive and wasteful;

the construction of a massive converter station in one of the (generally agreed) most picturesque locations in the heart of Shetland (Kergord) is mindless;

the disturbance to Shetland's wildlife is wholly unacceptable and I believe the permanent destruction of large parts of our unique wilderness flies in the face of EU Wilderness Directives, let alone common sense.

I hope and believe that it is never too late too late to halt this ill-conceived nightmare that will create an environmental and financial disaster.

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Please think again...

Yours very sincerely