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# Call for Shropshire Council to fight power line plan

**Council chiefs will be urged to put pressure on National Grid to justify its plans for a high voltage power line through the west of the county.**

A motion will be presented to a full Shropshire Council meeting next week by Councillor Arthur Walpole, who represents Llanymynech, calling for all members to object to the 400kv overhead power line being planned to connect wind farms in Mid Wales to the existing power grid.

In his motion, Councillor Walpole says: “The proposed overhead power line will have a detrimental impact in Shropshire with no perceived beneficial gain for Shropshire communities and will adversely affect our local communities our environment and our tourist economy.

“The construction phase including the impact of the construction traffic on our local roads and communities would have a detrimental effect on the quality of life and on property.” Councillor Walpole said he is concerned at the amount of anxiety the plans are creating along the proposed route of the pylons, crossing the border from Mid Wales at Llanymynech and heading up to Welsh Frankton, near Oswestry.

He said the anxiety is being caused by National Grid carrying out consultation on the plans despite some of the proposed wind farms not yet having confirmed planning permission.

He will call for the council to “press National Grid to re-examine the justification for the overhead pylon route and to present a feasibility

case for a solution using underground cables” if the power lines are deemed necessary.

Jane Taylor, National Grid spokeswoman, said:

“Due to the time it takes to develop a new connection, we have to develop our proposals in parallel. We always keep our work under review and if it’s established there is no need for a new connection, we wouldn’t build one.”

The plans for an overhead power line have been criticised by a string of top-level politicians including Nick Clegg, William Hague and Lord Paddy Ashdown.