

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
5 October 2023**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor James Gibson-Watt
Leader**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas

What communications have Powys County Council had with Bute Energy/Green Gen Cymru?

Many thanks for your interesting question, it begs the further question of the extent to which we, Powys County Council, should engage with potential major investors seeking to develop in Powys, in this instance in energy and infrastructure. Bute Energy is just one of a number of companies proposing multi-million-pound investments, the sum total of which far outweighs the Mid-Wales Growth deal.

Powys Council has declared nature and climate emergencies and is making progress with plans to adapt to the changes which will need to be made by us all. And so, in this context, I strongly suspect that we need to be engaging much more with any and everyone who has a potential contribution to make.

That said, and to directly answer your question, I shared the same table at the President's lunch on the first day of the Royal Welsh Show 2022, with two employees of Bute, but to my best recollection no discussions took place about any proposals they had for Powys. A few months ago, I attended an online information meeting with PCC and Bute officers and I believe Bute officers attended one of PCC's events at this year's Royal Welsh Show and were also present at this year's WLGA Conference, but I had no contact with them.

I am also aware that the Cabinet Member for a Connected Powys met Bute Energy and other major developers in a round table event he had organised on community benefit. He had one follow up meeting with the community benefit team and also attended a public pre-application meeting for the Radnor Forest proposals, hosted by Cllr Geoff Morgan. I also understand that he visited the Bute stand at the Royal Welsh Show, as you and other members may have done, but for which I can't account. Like myself, he has not knowingly spoken with anyone at Green Gen Cymru.

Planning services have been approached on a number of projects by Bute Energy/Green Gen Cymru in relation to seeking pre application advice.

