What is local acceptance - and how can we shape it

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What/who defines local acceptance?

- The local politicians/members of City Council?
- The citizens in the municipality?
- The coming neigbors to wind turbines?
- We need a precise definition, because the debates and decisions concerning wind turbine projects are highly political!...And politics is about fighting for your interests!
- How many and who shall be in favor: a key question.

Characteristic:The politicians

- No common acceptance – on the contrary: there is disagreement among them in most municipalities
- No characteristic pattern in the political disagreement, which resembles political preferences on national level….
- No guarantee for agreement inside a political party
- Many decisions concerning wind turbine projects are unpredictable – seldom a decision is taken with support from every member of the City Council
- Some politicians care for votes…others for the climate

Characteristic:The citizens

- In generel they are positive, but normally they don't care about wind turbine projects

- They are not engaged, more or less they ignore the debate about wind turbine projects

- They prefer not to articulate their personal opinion because they feel it might turn out to be "dangerous". They might risk to get "enemies" in their neighbourhood

Characteristic:The neighbors

- Before erecting the wind turbines: Many of them have very little knowledge….Many fear the unknown…The public debate, thick of undocumented arguments, leaves an impression of strong resistance among the neighbors.

- In reality only few key persons form the public debate – both locally and on national level.

- After erecting the wind turbines: Peace and silence rule…Many reconsider their attitude of wind turbines. They get more positive.

So: What is the reality about local acceptance? 1

- Negative press debate
- Petitions among neighbors and citizens
- Protest meetings with hundreds of participants
- Close decisions in the City Council, some times yes, some times no.
- **Certainly: There is no distinct acceptance**

So: What is the reality about local acceptance? 2

- Opinion polls showing numerous times, that the citizens are in favor of wind energy...also when it comes to realizing wind turbine projects in their own municipality

- Opinion polls with neighbors show that they find no or few annoyances living nearby wind turbines

- Analyses showing that a lot of people on their own move to houses near big wind turbines

- **Certainly: There is local acceptance**

What do we know for sure ? 1

- Epinion 2012 for Naturstyrelsen/Danish Nature Agency

- 1.014 randomly selected participants

- 86 % say that DK should prioritize wind energy

- 76 % say that their own municipality should find more spaces to erect wind turbines

- 68 % say that it would be OK to erect wind turbines in their own neighborhood

What do we know for sure? 2

- Jysk Analyse 2012 (Knowledge of Wind):
- 1.278 participants living within 2 km from 125 big wind turbines at 30 different locations (including every big wind turbine erected in DK 2002-2011)
- 81 % say that they have no annoyances
- 23 % became more positive after they have tried living nearby
- 12 % became more negative.

What do we know for sure? 3

- Jysk Analyse 2013 (Knowledge of Wind): Same population as in the 2012-opinion poll but only neighbors living within 1000 m from the wind turbines

- 237 respondents participated – equalling 39 % of the total number of households

- 9 % would consider selling their house due to annoyances from the wind turbines; 16 % would consider it for other reasons; 65 % would not consider selling what so ever.

What do we know for sure ? 4

- Jysk Analyse 2015(Knowledge of Wind).
- 252 partipants living within 1000 m from big wind turbines in Hvide Sande, Vildbjerg og Aalestrup
- 88 % say "no annoyances"; 12 % say they have
- 37 % had become more positive after the erection of the wind turbines; 6 % got more negative
- Only 13 % had bought owner shares in the wind turbines

It's all about politics!

- The battlefield about local acceptance is not a fight fought on the basis of reality
- It's a battlefield of how to create a certain *image* of local acceptance or not...because that's what many of the local politicians mostly are concerned about.
- That gives the neighbors a key position..
- ..and a hint to the developer: Be clever – act politely – communicate openly and includingly

The fight on national level for local acceptance: It's all about money

- The cost of the green transition is perceived too high among some
- Distributional issues- why do we export wind power at lower than average market price after we've paid support to it ?
- The right for neighbors and citizens to buy owner shares on advantageous conditions
- The compensation for loss of property value – if it is a reality
- The Green Scheme – money to the municipality for recreational and landscape purposes

The fight on local level for local acceptance:Involvement and money

- Dialogue and communication between project developer, local politicians, citizens and neighbors

- More owner shares on advantageous conditions to those neighbors living closest to the wind turbine

- Profit sharing for general purposes in the local context

So: How to define local acceptance?

- The local politicians: "Please give me decisions, where there is not too many conflicts – then I'll be satisfied"

- The citizens: "No doubt wind turbines are the future, so go on! Do we have some quarreling in our municipality about it? I haven't heard".

- The neighbors: We are very much in favor of wind turbines – offshore!

So: How to *shape* local acceptance of wind turbines?

- We can try…. it depends…it's not easy…
- Tell "the big story": sustainability/climate changes, the environment, Public Health, security of supply of home-grown renewable energy
- Early information based on factual knowledge
- Open and honest dialogue
- Local ambassadors/owners
- Maybe it works, maybe not….it's politics

How does Knowledge of Wind try to make a difference to local acceptance?

- Support to the project developer with informations/videos/analyses/opinion polls
- Participating in local meetings with neigbors and public meetings arranged by the the municipality or others
- Participating in meetings with members of the City Council or other local politicians
- Engaging in the press debate on a generel level