

4<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Mr Gareth Elliot  
Case Officer  
Development Control Department  
Gedling Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Arnot Hill Park  
Arnold  
Nottingham  
NG5 6LU

Dear Mr Elliot,

**Planning Application Ref: 2011/0523**  
**Wind Turbine, Woodborough Park Farm, Woodborough, Nottinghamshire**

I write on behalf of Nottingham Pro-Wind Alliance. We are a newly formed group aiming to support renewable energy projects within the Greater Nottingham area, as part of a wider existing Pro-Wind Alliance.

We have examined the proposal by the farmers, John and Cathy Charles-Jones, and we strongly support this proposal.

Our reasons for support of the proposal are based upon the following:

- i) The need for the UK to develop renewable energy, including wind power, in order to meet our national commitments of 15% of energy supply from renewables by 2020;
- ii) The value that small – scale wind power installations such as this proposal can make in achieving this goal;
- iii) The need for farmers to diversify, in the face of extremely tight profit margins and globalised competition;
- iv) The requirements for farmers to cut their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. This is an agricultural industry commitment to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 3 million tonnes P.A. each year from 2018-2022 (the action plan encourages the use of renewable energy). Moreover, further along the food chain, the grain buyers are putting pressure on their suppliers (farmers) to reduce the carbon footprint of the products they sell;
- v) It has already been accepted in the planning permission granted for the two turbines at Woodborough Park Farm (2010/0244) that although wind turbines are 'inappropriate' development in the green belt the benefit in terms of reducing

carbon emissions can outweigh the limited visual impact, which has also been accepted in precedents set elsewhere.

I would like to expand on this final point concerning the issue of development in the green belt. We have re-examined the findings of the planning application submitted last year by the same farmers for two wind turbines, for which planning permission was granted. The assessments that were made for Application No. 2010/0244 (described in the Recommendation Sheet) for the impacts made to the green belt by these two turbines gave what was in our view a sensible due consideration to the environmental benefits gained by the provision of renewable energy balanced with the comparatively low visual impact of the turbines. The conclusion was that the proposal complied with PPS22 and policy ENV5.

We strongly believe that this new planning application is effectively a variation of existing permission. Yes, this turbine is higher - but compliance with the requirements of PPS22 and ENV5 will be maintained and unchanged, for the following reasons:

- (i) Careful attention to detail has been made: the location, turbine design, hub height and rotor diameter has been specified to minimise the impact to the appearance of the surrounding area, and to minimise the number of receptor points from where it may be seen. (The photomontages illustrate the farmers' efforts to minimise the visual impact);
- (ii) The single turbine will rotate at much slower speed, so it could be less visually intrusive than the smaller design turbines (specified under the previous planning application), that would rotate much faster;
- (iii) The advantages in terms of the amount of power developed are considerable. The single turbine will develop 15 times the power (thus saving considerably more carbon emissions) than the two turbine proposal. This surely demonstrates the merits of this planning application with respect to meeting the requirements of PPS22 (again, a factor that was considered in the Recommendation Sheet for two smaller turbines).

Planning approval has been given elsewhere in the country for wind turbine erection in the green belt. For example, at Scouts Moor, 26 wind turbines on the Boroughs of Rochdale and Rossendale (the Rochdale turbines being located in the green belt). The Secretary of State agreed with the Inspector that the development would retain a sense of openness as the turbines were visible but will not obstruct views. They said that visual permeability is relevant when considering openness; and that wind turbines are slim by design, and help retain the openness and character of the landscape setting.

Finally, we agree with the farmers that there will be social, environmental and economic benefits that this turbine would bring. The power generated per year, 867MWh, would be sufficient to supply electricity to 185 houses, 28% of Woodborough. This is truly significant, and if brought into context with other renewables projects, including similar small scale wind turbine developments, can give a vision of a local carbon energy for the future. The consequences of inaction and continued rises in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has been in the news recently. If Gedling Borough Council is to play its part in meeting national, regional and local targets to achieve reductions in climate change emissions and to increase generation of electricity from renewable sources, then this is the sort of proposal which it should be supporting.

Coupled to this, questions over the long term financial viability of farming have pressed the need for farmers across the country to diversify and seek additional means of income. The consequences of farms closing does not benefit the environment – the resulting impacts upon wildlife habitat, increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from more 'food miles' are to name

but two. Adoption of small-scale renewable projects such as the Woodborough wind turbine are a worthy and justifiable means of diversification.

Accordingly, Nottingham Pro-Wind Alliance urge you to approve the Woodborough Farm proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Steele

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The Pro Wind Alliance (ProWA) is an association of local individuals and groups who are convinced that renewables are vital for the future and who are therefore in favour of developing properly designed local renewable generating capability. ProWA aims to provide objective information, backed by sound research and references. Nottingham ProWA is a local branch active within the area around Greater Nottingham.

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