

Proposal for three wind turbines at Grove Farm, University of Nottingham

Broxtowe - 11/00484/FUL

Nottingham City - 11/02419/PFUL3

Response from Nottingham Pro-Wind Alliance

We would like to support the three turbines proposed by Nottingham University.

- (1) Onshore turbines are responsible for less carbon emissions per kWh over their lifetime than almost any other form of electricity generation. (According to House of Commons Postnote 268, onshore wind is responsible for only 4.64g CO₂eq per kWh (mainly due to manufacture and construction), compared to around 500g CO₂eq per kWh for gas-powered generation and double that for coal.)
- (2) Wind turbines over their 20 - 25 year lifetimes will produce far more energy than is consumed in manufacturing a turbine. Turbine manufacturers typically calculate 'energy payback' times in the range of 3 to 9 months (Centre for Sustainable Energy report 'Common concerns about wind power', May 2011, section 1, p5 www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1535).
- (3) Energy from renewable sources provides much greater energy security than from imported fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal (or from imported uranium for nuclear power). Also, the price of windpower is already similar to fossil fuels. But the cost of electricity from wind is likely to fall over the next few years while the cost of fossil fuels is likely to rise (CSE report, section 2, pp7-8).
- (4) Universities are required to cut their carbon emissions, as part of the national commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. As well as pursuing other measures (such as energy efficiency and solar power), Nottingham University is quite rightly proposing to put large wind turbines on its own farmland and playing fields, close to the main campus where electricity is needed. The University estimates that three 2.5MW turbines will generate around 14,700MWh per year, equivalent to the electricity consumed by 3,127 households, saving around 6,203 tonnes CO₂ p.a. It will also avoid substantial emissions of acid gases from power stations such as Ratcliffe-on-Soar.
- (5) Wind turbines don't compromise the openness of green belt (and will help deter the sort of development which might compromise the purpose of greenbelt).
- (6) There is popular support for use of renewable energy, including wind energy. A Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) report on attitudes to renewable energy published in November 2009 shows around 80% support for wind power (page 7):
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/energy%20mix/renewable%20energy/planning/perception/1_20091105094703_e_@@_renewableresearchmgmtsummary.pdf

- (7) Although wind farm proposals may provoke opposition from a minority of local people, experience suggests that once wind turbines are operating there is usually very little problem. Within Nottinghamshire, wind turbines operating without significant problems include:
- Sustainable Hockerton (1 medium 225kW turbine, community owned), near Southwell
 - Lindhurst wind farm (5 large 2MW turbines), near Rainworth
 - B&Q, Manton Wood (1 large 2MW turbine), near Worksop
- (8) We do recognise that detailed planning conditions are necessary to ensure that turbines do not cause nuisance in operation or construction. Concerns relating to noise, flicker, TV interference, aviations, impact on wildlife, etc can be dealt with through planning conditions. These should not normally be reasons for rejecting an application.
- (9) Although some people have expressed fears about reduction in house prices (and some have used these fears to whip up NIMBY opposition), objective evidence does not support claims of price reduction once wind farms are operating. (See for example the Centre for Sustainable Energy report quoted above, which draws on a number of relevant research studies: section 8, page 25. Also DECC's questions and answers on onshore wind: www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/wind/onshore/onshore.aspx.)
- (10) It should be noted that the landscape around Grove Farm is heavily industrialised – with the large Boots complex, British American Tobacco, two power lines, and the A52 and A453 embankments.
- (11) It should be clear that the benefit of this renewable energy will outweigh the perceived impact of visual intrusion. Other benefits include 'green jobs' in construction and maintenance of wind turbines.

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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