

Burton upon Stather Parish Council

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Parish Clerk

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William Hill
Highways and Planning
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15 July 2008

Dear Mr Hill

2008/0900 Planning permission to site 7 wind turbines and associated hardstandings, tracks, anemometry mast, switchgear house and underground cables

Site Location:

Land adjacent to Flixborough Grange Farmhouse, Burton upon Stather

Over 100 residents attended the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14 July 2008, voicing the following concerns. Burton upon Stather Parish Council recognised the public opposition to the proposals and resolved to **object** to the above proposal on the following grounds:

1. It was felt that this application is premature, since an application for a wind monitoring mast, sent to Flixborough Parish Council, but not Burton upon Stather Parish Council, has only just been submitted. Councillors also believed that this application should be delayed until the full effects of the Bagmoor cluster are known, as there are no wind turbines of this type near to this area. It was generally agreed that the application appears to be being rushed through without adequate time for public consultation. Indeed, many residents who would be directly affected by the turbines complained bitterly that they had not received any notification and had only been alerted by members of an action group (Burton Against Turbines), who delivered notices.

It was alleged that North Lincolnshire Council did not intend to post any objections on the Council Planning website, because of data protection issues, which caused considerable alarm. How will North Lincolnshire Council demonstrate transparency in the planning process, if objectors' letters and emails are not made public?

2. The turbines will be too close to residential property and to Bridleway 304, contrary to Planning Guidance, and will be detrimental to residential amenity. There is significant evidence that the turbines are noisy with annoying "whooshing" and drumming sounds and a hum generated by the turbines during operation. A paper was

submitted to councillors written by Dr Amanda Harry M.B.Ch.B.P.G.Dip.ENT (enclosed) linking the low frequency noise of wind turbines to a complex disease known as vibroacoustic disease.

3. The height of the turbines at 126 metres to the blade tip will dominate the landscape and the structures would have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding open countryside, contrary to the North Lincolnshire Council Special Planning Guidance 13 of November 2004 and Policy RD2 (Development in the Open Countryside) North Lincolnshire Local Plan. The turbines would be too prominent a feature on the surrounding landscape in terms of siting and scale.

4. Residents have calculated that the blades will be in line with Burton village and fear the visual impact of light flickering through the turbine blades, creating a strobe effect. There are also fears that ice could be shed from the blade tips.

5. There is great concern about the environmental impact of the turbines, particularly on birds such as bats, skylarks and marsh harriers. According to Cllr Bernard Regan, a similar project in Ireland resulted in 3000 bird kills in the first year and the site had to be dismantled. The windfarm cluster would be therefore contrary to SPG 13.

6. Local horse riders fear for the safety of horses, concerned that the animals might be spooked by the turbines.

7. Many residents expressed the fear that their properties would be devalued, if the turbines were built, which would have a significant effect on the local economy. There appear to be approximately 112 wind turbines planned in and around this area, resulting in over concentration. It would be fairer if the raft of applications for wind turbines were considered in total so that no single area was saturated.

8. Flixborough Grange flats had been earmarked by the Environment Agency as a possible future site to allow the Trent to flood. Residents question whether or not the proposed wind turbines would compromise possible flood alleviation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P.Denby – Clerk