

Beckingham Parish Council

6 Mill Lane
Brant Broughton
Lincoln
LN5 0RP

2nd April 2011

Nick Feltham
North Kesteven District Council
Kesteven Street
Sleaford
Lincs NG34 7EF

Dear Mr Feltham

Ref 11/0238

I am writing on behalf of Beckingham Parish Council who wish to express their extreme objections to the above application. The application has many flaws and omissions and we would ask NKDC to seek clarification on a number of issues.

The main reasons for objection are;

Visual impact to the surrounding countryside – the map shows that one of the 90m turbines is only 300m from the nearest property. The landscape assessment does not include the visual requested during the public consultation. They are purposely placed to take account of screening and do not pay any relevance to the height of the turbine - so that the turbine and blades are clearly visible above hedges due to a set back which is how most dwellings facing the site are positioned. We would like to ask for more viewpoints locally.

Road Safety – the application site is next to the A17 which has already been recognised as a dangerous stretch of road, as it is designated as a ‘Red Route’ – the addition of three wind turbines can only add to the danger, causing a distraction to passing traffic which will surely lead to further serious accidents. The nearest turbine is barely 100m from the roadside.

Noise - Apparently no dwellings would experience noise nuisance despite the scheme not being assessed against BS4142 and World Health Organisation standards which require that night time noise does not exceed 40dBa. These noise regulations can be used to assess likely impact on dwellings – we would like to request these noise assessments and ask the Environmental Health Officer to assess it against these standards given the proximity of the turbines and likely night time impact when background noise from A17 is minimal.

Wildlife – there are many foraging bats that visit the chicken farm, and also barn owls – the proposed wind turbines will undoubtedly compromise their habitat. The ecological assessment is deficient as does not investigate local wildlife records, County Council and wildlife trust records. There is no mention of birds of prey. We would like to know when and for how long the bat surveys were taken - to gauge bat foraging a period of two nights is not sufficient, especially when 4 different species were identified - also flying high across site. What species were recorded? There is believed to be a roost of 200 bats in Pear Cottage so they would use hedges to forage and to get to chicken sheds which seem to attract insects and therefore bats.

We request more information and more details surveys be held including roost inspections of all farm buildings on site and all trees.

Cultural Heritage – Beckingham is home to many listed buildings, most notably All Saints Church, which is Grade 1 – in the photos there are no examples of how the view of the church from surrounding countryside will be affected. A PPS5 Heritage Assessment needs to be conducted due to proximity of the turbines to listed buildings and impact on setting of Conservation Area. This should have been included in the Design & Access Statement but there is not even a mention of impact on historic setting.

Impact on TV and radio – There is no investigation of impact on TV picture, despite recognition that it will affect over 1,000 homes. The BBC analysis said ‘significant’ but there is no analysis of what this means. It is not appropriate to say that it can be fixed once the turbines are up as there is no surety especially as cable is not available and listed building/conservation area designation prevents satellite dishes. We would request some technical explanation of this before a decision is made.

The Geo-Investigation ground survey has not been done. This is completely unacceptable as had been requested by the Councillors at the committee and needs to be undertaken prior to consent so that foundations and depth/extent of works can be properly envisaged. This must take account of and dismiss clay slippage, otherwise the exact locations identified may not be acceptable and then all the technical assessments will be wrong if the turbines are moved even a fraction.

Confirmation of which turbine is proposed is needed - leaving the type of turbine to be determined post decision is unacceptable. How has the noise impact been accurately assessed if the type of turbine is not confirmed and therefore there is a chance for it to differ?

The Parish Council would like to know what will happen to the chicken farming enterprise during 9 months construction period - will employees be laid off? This not been taken into account in Social Economics.

We would urge the Planning Services seek clarification on all of these points and report back to the Parish Council for their consideration.

Yours sincerely

Judith Lyon

Clerk to Beckingham Parish Council