

Chris Thorpe – Objection Address to  
York East Planning Committee 8<sup>th</sup>  
November 2012

To Planning Application for  
Small Scale 50kw Wind Turbine  
Nr Wheldrake

## ***Landscape Sensitivity***

Planning for Renewable Energy Targets in Yorkshire and Humber final report<sup>6</sup> states that:

***“Wind turbines are tall structures, which can bring about major changes in a landscape due to the often-complex visual interplay between different lighting conditions and the scale and form of groups of turbines. The rotation of the rotor blades attracts the eye and in certain lighting conditions moving turbines can be highly visible from a long distance. The acceptability of wind turbines within a landscape is generally an emotive subject and one where compromise is needed. Whilst it is generally acknowledged that the most valued aspects of the natural heritage should not be compromised, those landscapes of lesser value can normally integrate some wind energy development albeit in a controlled way to minimise the impact”.***

# Safety to Road Users on Wheldrake Lane

## THE EXISTING DANGERS

- You all visited the site yesterday so will have seen how very dangerous this section of road already is!
- Traffic travels at High Speeds
- 1 1/2 mile long straight section before you hit the bends at the exact site of this application.
- Three bad bends as you pass the planned location.
- No Footpaths and the rough verges are very undulating to allow water drain off the road.
- Road at planned location very prone to localised flooding
- Public Connection route between Wheldrake ,Wheldrake Woods, Swallow Hall Caravan Park and Golf Course for tourists and locals.
- Signed and known Deer Run between Wheldrake Woods and other Woods to the South. Most villages will have nearly hit one!
- Lorries turning in and out of Low Well Farm haulage yard.

# Public Safety at this location

- Road used by Joggers, Horses Riders(BHS concern), Cyclists, Walkers and Ramblers many with Children who have no option but to use the road!
- Tourists often walk in and out of the village to/from the Caravan Sites.
- No footpath and very rough verges make it so dangerous.. We sadly lost a young lad from this village 18 years ago when he was run down on the road near to Escrick.
- We have had two motorcyclist fatalities on the bad bends around Wheldrake in the last 5 years.
- Cars crashing regularly into the ditches and hedges around the actual planned site on a regular basis.
- **THIS 60mph ROAD CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER DISTRACTION**
- **THE NATURAL DESIRE TO LOOK AT A TURNING TURBINE – YOU CANNOT HELP BUT LOOK!**
- **THIS APPLICATION IS MADNESS AND MORE LIVES COULD BE LOST IF IT IS APPROVED!**

*conditions and the scale and form of groups of turbines. The rotation of the rotor blades attracts the eye and in certain lighting conditions moving turbines can be highly visible from a long distance. The acceptability of wind turbines*

# A Poor Quality and Misleading Planning Submission

- Can we trust what is obviously a complacent what I refer to as a “Copy and paste” application
- Leading to incorrect address, Lancashire landscape not Yorkshire and Humberside and misleading road names, locations and pictures.
- I argue that the Visual Impact pictures out of perspective
- The Planning Title States a Small Scale Turbine (25m Hub Height) when its actually a reduced mast height Medium Wind Turbine. This was confirmed by C and F Energy the turbine manufacturer from Ireland.
- The overall height which is the important height is 35.5m not the hub height of 25m. I would argue that the planning title is designed to confuse everyone so they think its smaller than it actually is? One objecting local resident fell for that as the smaller incorrect height was mentioned in their objection letter. It is 115ft and not 82ft so a lot higher then they feared!
- The Rota diameter is over 20.9m which is unusually large for a small scale turbine and there is a large query on the actual output rating as the application suggests, loss of power output due to the change in mast height cannot be easily calculated. If it is less than 50mw then it needs special CSE certification.
- The CF 50 Wind Turbine is NEW to the market with at best 2 “very recent” installations in Scotland. This Information was supplied to me by C and F Energy themselves. No reference data exists for the planned site other than theoretical data.

# A Poor Quality and Misleading Planning Submission

- There is no evidence of a MCS (Microgeneration Installation Standard Certificate) for the CF50 Small Scale Wind Turbine is available although they do currently exist for the CF20 and other smaller turbines.
- C and F may try and argue that as its 50kw this falls outside this standard. However it is suggested by Green Energy that even for 50kw and above Wind Turbines many companies still get a CSE certificate to have an independent traceable audit of quality assurance of the manufacture and accuracy of all the output and operational data which can then be supplied to customers and planners. It is therefore alarming to me one doesn't exist for the CF50! As SUGGESTED PREVIOUSLY THIS CF50 HAS A REDUCED HEIGHT SO COULD WELL FALL INTO THE SMALL CATEGORY WIND TURBINE STANDARD ANYWAY I IT GENERATING UNDER 50mw!
- ALL NOISE DATA IS BASED ON TEST DATA FROM C AND F ENERGY'S TEST SITE IN GALWAY IRELAND. HOWEVER IT IS ALL THEORITICAL AND BASED ON A DIFFERENT LANDSCAPE AND ONLY TESTED FOR ONE WEEK. TO CORRECTLY MEASURE WIND SPEED AND THERFORE CARRY OUT AN ACCURATE NOISE ASSESSMENT REQUIRES 1 YEARS WIND DATA AT THE ACTUAL SITE LOCATION TO BE ACCURATE!
- Internet Green Building Company forums have raised alarm at the lack of accuracy of C and F data when no CSE data is available recently

# A Poor Quality and Misleading Planning Submission

ONE REPORTED CASE INVOLVING C F ENERGY WAS ALLEDGED TO HAVE INVOLVED TRADING STANDARDS AND COURT ACTION.

- For the record Internet Green Farming Forums allege that C and F Energy have a poor after sales service and alarmingly quality issues including blade breakages, full removal of full Wind turbines.

**CAN WE TRUST ANY DATA USED IN THIS SUBMISSION? NO**

**REMEMBER THE WIND TURBINES LIFE SPAN IS 30 YEARS**

**I THEREFORE APPEAL TO THE COMITEE  
“YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO GET THIS WRONG”.**



# Visual Impact Local for Local Receptors

- The visual impact of this Wind Turbine would destroy any visual amenities for Local Receptors
- **PLEASE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VISUAL PICTURES ARE OUT OF PERSPECTIVE!**
- Low Well Farm has FULL view which you will have seen on your site visit. **MAXIMUM IMPACT! IMAGINE IF THAT WAS OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE?**
- Benjy Lane residents will see 75% of Mast and all off the turbine. **MAXIMUM IMPACT!**
- Wheldrake residents to the West of the village will suffer loss of amenity and their beautiful views to the west will be blighted by this proposal. **HIGH IMPACT!**
- Valley View would need renaming to Wind Turbine View!

# Visible effects for Road Users

- This area is very beautiful and a 35m wind turbine “in an open field with little natural cover” no more than 200m from the road **WILL** spoil the views for motorists , tourists and local people when travelling along Wheldrake Lane.
- It could adversely effect the trade of the two Caravan Sites close to the site.
- It would also be in clear view from the Glacial Ridge on the Wheldrake to Escrick Road and looking North towards York. ( See picture)

# VIEW FROM WHELDRAKE RIDGE NEAR EDGE OF WHELDRAKE VILLAGE



# Objection Conclusion

- This planning application should be rejected due to all the factors I have raised namely Road Safety, Incomplete, Misleading and Inaccurate Data and HIGH IMPACT visual assessment along I Support others suggested by the Parish Council, Our Councillor , our MP and the many objectors to this proposal including I understand the CYC Planning Team.
- It is my view that “Financial Gain” for the applicant should be LESS important than the safety and amenities of the people and visitors who value deeply why they live in the Wheldrake area.
- YOU REALLY CANNOT TRUST THE NOISE OR VISUAL IMPACT DATA !
- Why doesn't the applicant apply for it to be sited near to his “Own Home 4 or more miles away”. I SUGGEST THE FARMER WANTS A CHEAP CONNECTION TO THE GRID! He doesn't care about Wheldrake residents!
- Do not believe inference by the only 2 supporters of this application that the majority of the village approve. This is just an attempt to cloud the true views of the village and promote their own personal views “which I accept they have every right to have” on sustainable energy sources.

# Objection Conclusion

- Remember the Objectors total 93% of all planning responses
- That's 25 against and only 2 for!
- THIS WOULD BE THE BY FAR THE LARGEST TURBINE IN THE CITY OF YORK AREA AND WOULD OPEN THE FLOODGATES!
- I THEREFORE ASK THE COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE TO REJECT THIS RIDICULOUS AND IN MY VIEW THOUGHTLESS APPLICATION