



D. T. O. G.

community newsletter

The application is in!

Now is the time to object to the wind farm

True to form, Bolsterstone, the developer, submitted the wind farm application to Torrridge District Council (TDC) in the week before Christmas hoping that people would be too busy or distracted to write letters of objection. The company tried the same trick with the first application. It didn't work then and it didn't work this time either as TDC delayed validating the application. Last time the developer was forced to pay two eco-activists to come to Devon to drum up support for the project. One of them was Richard Claxton, a 'Yes2Wind' campaigner from the Hull & East Yorkshire branch of Greenpeace. The two men set up a stall and persuaded passers-by in Torrington, Hatherleigh and Holsworthy (see photo) to sign computer-generated letters of support. Most of the people who signed had no idea where Dunsland Cross is and had to be shown on a map. They were never told how close the very large turbines would be to properties or what the other significant impacts would be.



Despite the best efforts of Claxton, who once pleaded 'guilty' and was fined £295 following a rooftop protest in Westminster, there were still many more letters of objection than there were letters of support for the project. You need to keep your eyes open for similar 'dirty tricks' in the coming weeks.

Such is the contempt the developer has for local opinion. There was no public exhibition this time so no opportunity to view correctly prepared images or discuss the development. The developer definitely does not want you to see the visual impact of the turbines and has held back from putting the completed photomontages on his website. He also deliberately left the turbines off the flier sent to 600 local households in November (see below).

You should aim to get your letter of objection to TDC by 22nd March, 2012. Letters and emails received after this date will still count and will be taken into consideration up to the point when the application is determined (the determination deadline date is 13th April). The reverse of this sheet shows you how to object.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The two left hand photos are from the recent flier sent by the developer to 600 homes in the area. He really does not want you to see how large the turbines will be, so he simply left them out!



How to make sure your objection will make a difference

Golden Rules

1. You must say that you are **OBJECTING** to the application
2. You must include the planning application number, which is **1/1250/2011/FULM**.
3. **Your name and address must be legible.** Print your name next to your signature.
4. Each person in your household should write a **separate letter** of objection. It need not be long. Just two or three points from the ones below. **EVERY LETTER COUNTS!**
5. **KEEP YOUR EMOTIONS OUT OF IT.** The planners are not interested in them.
Object on policy or legal grounds only (see below).

REASONS FOR OBJECTION

1. The application is in conflict with the new TDC Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) because the turbines are either on or too close to ridgelines and will destroy long views to Dartmoor. Tranquillity will also be lost. The new TDC Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA), which the applicant has largely ignored despite being a consultee to it, shows that this Landscape Character Type (LCT 1F) is HIGHLY SENSITIVE to turbines in the upper half of the 76-110m height range. The 3 Dunsland Cross turbines will be 100m tall.
2. The nearest dwellings will still be only 501m and 506m from the turbines, much less than 600 metres advised by the TDC Wind Energy Policy and required by the Devon Strategic Planning Authority. The applicant has stated that all 89 properties within 2km of the site will theoretically be able to see the turbines and that the visual impact on 12 properties (not necessarily the nearest) will be SIGNIFICANT. As a result the application is in conflict with Policies DVT8 and DVT11.
3. The applicant has used an unofficial noise prediction method, calling it 'best practice', which is known to allow higher turbine noise levels at nearby properties. He has also demonstrated that the existing background noise levels are dependent on the future choice of turbine at the site, which is nonsense, as is his conclusion that the background noise at night is higher than during the day at higher wind speeds. In addition, noise IMPACT has not been considered at all, yet this is a requirement of ETSU-R-97. The applicant has also tried to dismiss Amplitude Modulation (AM) and Low Frequency Noise (LFN) as being insignificant and has made no attempt to evaluate these types of noise, which are known to be the most annoying and sleep-disturbing aspects of wind turbine noise in nearby properties. When the noise assessment is re-worked with corrected figures the daytime limits are breached at several properties and the night time noise impact is sufficient to trigger complaints from all local properties when they are downwind of the site. As a result, the noise predictions are neither accurate nor robust and the application is in conflict with Policies DVT11, DVT12, DVT13 and CO16.
4. The applicant admits that the turbines will have a significant effect on wildlife and that bat deaths are 'probable'. The Ecological Management Plan prepared to stop this continuing into the future will not work. As a result 17 policies including ENV1, ENV5, ENV7, ENV10, CO1, CO9, CO10 and CO13 are not satisfied.

Send your objection letters to:

**Mr. Tim Westwell
Planning Department
Torridge District Council
Riverbank House
BIDEFORD
EX39 2QG**

Alternatively, you can object online at <http://www.torridge.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1047> by agreeing to the terms, then performing a 'Simple Search' by typing in the reference number 1/1250/2011/FULM and clicking on "Search". When the application details appear you will need to Login and Register your own personal and email details before you can submit your comments.

Don't Forget! The deadline is 22nd March, 2012.

DTOG, View Farm, Dunsland Cross, Brandis Corner, HOLSWORTHY, EX22 7YH

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Contact DTOG via any of the addresses above. If you would like to support DTOG please send donations to

DTOG, View Farm, Dunsland Cross, Brandis Corner, HOLSWORTHY, EX22 7YH.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Dunsland Turbines Opposition Group'. Thank you.