

WEST ANCROFT COMMUNITY ACTION NEWSLETTER 30 APRIL 2009

From Ian Corsie,
WACA Chairman
(wacamail@gmail.com)

WEST ANCROFT WIND FARM APPLICATION IS NOW IN

E.ON submitted their application to Berwick Borough Council one week before its demise (!). They then withdrew it for amendment, and it was re-submitted to the new Northumberland County Council on 9 Apr. The new Central Planning Office in Morpeth has now registered the application and the consultation period has begun. You may have already received a notification letter from the Council.

HAVE THE PLANS CHANGED?

E.ON have reduced the size of the 8 turbines in the West Ancroft scheme by 10 metres (115m instead of 125m – so that they are now ‘only’ 377 feet tall). They’ve also moved the two turbines closest to Allerdean Grange – nearly 100m closer at 570m.

Otherwise the scheme is very much as we saw at their public exhibition in November. There are 229 dwellings within 3km of one of these turbines!

CONSULTATION PERIOD

We are now in a 6 week consultation period (i.e. to 10 Jun) during which it is essential that as many letters as possible are sent in to the Council about this scheme. (See below for advice about how to go about this.)

Are YOU going to make your views known? Don’t forget that this application will affect all our lives, whether you can actually see the turbines from your window or not; and whether or not you own your own property. There are already plans for 27 monster turbines in our immediate area; and don’t think that’s the last of it as there is another scheme in the pipeline (at Murton, behind Longridge Towers), and developers will seize every other opportunity in north Northumberland if any of the current schemes is given the go-ahead.

HOW AND WHEN WILL THIS APPLICATION BE DETERMINED?

Were it not for the forthcoming inquiry into the other 3 wind farms, West Ancroft might come before the Planning Committee (which comprises 15 Councillors from all

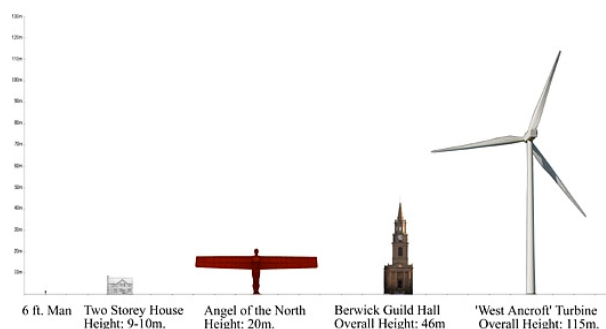
over the county – the only one from the old Berwick Borough being Dougie Watkin) shortly after the expiry of the 6 week consultation period.

It might seem unlikely that this determination will be held before the result of the forthcoming inquiry is known. But it doesn’t really make any difference when it is to be held: the key thing is that we should all do everything in our power to ensure that the application is rejected at that stage. Of course, if it is rejected, the likelihood is that E.ON would appeal and another public inquiry would follow.

SEEING THE APPLICATION

All the submitted documentation is available for viewing at the Planning Office (next to the Council Offices in Wallace Green, Berwick) from 9 till 5 Mon-Fri (ring 01289 301841 if you want to make an appointment). I recommend that you go in and look at this, particularly to see the photomontages and ‘wireframe’ diagrams showing how the turbines might actually look in our landscape.

‘WEST ANCROFT’ WIND TURBINES, SIZE COMPARISON



Scale: 1cm = 10metres

© Dan Brownlow Photography - Tel. 01289 382702

SEEING THE DOCUMENTATION ONLINE

If you have a computer (or access to one) it's all so much easier as you can download the application and view it at home at your leisure (and print off your own copy if you are really keen!). If you would like a disc with all the information, ring me on 01289 387257. Or you can follow these links:

http://planning.northumberland.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx

Click on 'Application Search'.

Key in the application reference number: 09/00063/CCMEIA.

Click on 'Associated Documents' to find the list and you can download PDFs.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

You can submit comments either in writing or online.

The address to write to is:

Robin Wood
Central Development Team
Place Directorate
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

To submit comments online, follow the links given above but at the end click on 'Submit Comments'. You will be sent an email recording the comments you have submitted.



NAME(S):

I/we would like to join WACA and enclose a cheque for £10 (or more if you would like to make a donation)

ADDRESS:

TEL:

EMAIL:

WHAT TO SAY

The key thing is to be honest and speak from the heart, stating very clearly at the beginning your response to this application. (If you don't know, let me encourage you to find out more so you can come to a decision one way or the other.)

The key issues are: the effect of this major intrusion into our landscape; the cumulative effect of 4 wind farms (and possibly more to follow); the impact on local residents; noise; and the disruption to our lives in the course of construction (work to take place 7am to 7pm 7 days a week for a year) and the damage to our roads caused by 4010 HGV movements.

There's lots of other issues to consider too: tourism, ecology, ornithology, shadow flicker, cultural heritage, etc.

WACA WEBSITE

You can find out more information about WACA online at www.waca.uk.net

Or you can ring me on 01289 387257, or contact other Committee members: Colin Wakeling, Martha McCowan or Howard Culley.

WACA MEMBERSHIP

If you are not already a member of WACA and would like to join us, please complete the tear-off slip below and send it, with your £10

per household membership fee, to the address shown.

PUBLIC INQUIRY IN MAY

The Inquiry dealing with the Barmoor, Moorsyde and Toft Hill Wind Farm applications begins in the Maltings on Weds 6 May, lasting until 5 June. It is open to the public, so please try to go along at some stage to support the local groups putting over their case to the Inspector. Normal hours are 9.30 to 5.00 Tues to Fri – but there are days when the Inquiry will not be sitting, so check before you go.

SUPPORTING THE OTHER GROUPS

SOUL, MAG and ISORES, the other local groups, are still in great need of finances to fight their cases and are holding fund-raising events. Please give them maximum support. We cannot say too often that the outcome of their inquiry will have a huge effect on the progress of the West Ancroft application; and the costs these groups are facing are simply huge.

SOUL have a Grand Auction and Party at Bowsden Hall this Saturday evening 2 May.

MAG is holding a Giant Sale in the Old Chapel, Ancroft Northmoor this Sunday 3 May 10 till 3; and there's a Quality Fashion Sale in Old Shoreswood Hall the same day 10 till 6.

Please send completed slip and cheque to:
Howard Culley, Orchard House, Bowsden, TD15 2TW