

## **Woolley Hill, Inaugural Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting**

**In attendance:** Ewan Raynor - Chairman  
Hugh West  
Bruce Chapman  
Cllr Keith Baker  
Cllr Mike Baker  
Tony Massey  
Peter Harrison  
Graham Leach  
Paul Watson  
Jane Baker  
Bob Lumbers and Davis Horsford (Both attended as observers)  
James Townsend – RES  
Phil Briscoe - Bellenden  
Ben Jeffreys - Bellenden

Eleven members of the public

**Venue:** Ellington Village Hall

**Apologies:** No apologies were given

**Date:** Tuesday, 20 July 2010

### **1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **2. Welcome and Introduction**

Phil Briscoe introduced and explained the role of the Liaison Group, emphasising its role in the pre-application phase. He said that the group might exist for several years and is very much the communities' group. He emphasised that involvement in the group in no way suggests that members support the application.

### **3. Election of Chairman**

Phil Briscoe set out the options for the Chairmanship and Ewan Rayner offered to chair the meetings. This was agreed without dissent and from this point forward, Ewan Rayner took the chair.

### **4. Role of Liaison Group & Terms of Reference**

Ewan Rayner asked for comments on, or amendments to, the Draft Terms of Reference. Ewan Rayner said that Ellington Parish Council meetings included a public session of 15 minutes at

the start of the meeting and proposed the same with the Panel. Tony Massey suggested doing this half way through the meeting and this was agreed. Hugh West suggested that this should be at the discretion of the Chairman and this was agreed. Graham Leech said that this strategy was followed at Spaldwick too and generally worked well.

At this point, Cllr Mike Baker asked Phil Briscoe whether he thought this was an appropriate juncture to form this committee. He suggested that the main focus of the group was to be to decide where the community benefit money might go and questioned whether its wider remit was premature. Phil Briscoe explained the role of the Panel inputting views for example on the Exhibitions and literature. Ewan Rayner said that he disagreed with Cllr Mike Baker and thought it was better for information to get out as soon as possible. He felt that, if in time the Panel became a vehicle for deciding how money would be spent locally, the terms of reference may need then to be amended. Paul Watson agreed with this and felt the group gave the local community a good opportunity to shape the project as it developed. Jane Baker supported this view.

Ewan Rayner suggested revising the terms of reference so that the relevant passage included the following: "There will be an Open Session in the middle of the meeting of no longer than 15 minutes where members of the public can ask questions. In addition to this, they can be invited to speak on individual agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman." This was agreed.

#### **5. Membership of Liaison Group**

Ewan Rayner went through the proposed membership. Hugh West pointed out that this proposed application lay between potential wind farms at Kimbolton and Molesworth and suggested having a reciprocal agreement with any comparable group formed around those two proposals. He was particularly concerned about possible additional applications to the west of Woolley Hill. Hugh West suggested inviting a rep from each group to attend and asking if a representative of the WHCLG could attend their meetings. This was agreed. Graham Leech suggested that Spaldwick send only one delegate to the CLG meetings and Hugh West said that Leighton Bromswold would be happy just to send one delegate too. This was agreed.

#### **6. Woolley Hill Site Update**

James Townsend presented an update on the Woolley Hill site and RES proposals. He said that the likely timescale was for the planning application to be submitted at the end of October 2010. He explained that the original plan was for 7 turbines but the revised plan was to reduce this to 4 or 5, based on the ongoing environmental impact assessment work. This was mainly due to reduce visual impact and design the wind farm to sit along a similar contour. With regard to site access, there had been discussion between RES and the Highways Agency. All loads would access via Grove Bridge except turbine loads. The turbine components would come in up to 12 loads each and these would require police escort. These loads would come off the east bound A14 at junction 20 and across a newly built bridge onto site from the slip road.

Bruce Chapman asked why this had changed from the previous plan and James Townsend explained that Highways have suggested this plan would be better for managing vehicles onto the site. Bruce Chapman asked if RES had considered the structure of the Grove Lane bridge and questioned whether it would be strong enough. Bruce Chapman asked where the loads would go after the bridge and James Townsend clarified that RES would not use the whole of Grove Road but only along it until reaching the landowners land, at which point the site entrance would be located.

Tony Massey asked if the turbine locations would change in response to the reduction. James Townsend explained that the two northernmost turbines would go but that the others would remain in the same place. Paul Watson asked if the turbine height would change. James Townsend confirmed that the loss of two turbines had no impact on height of 130.5m previously discussed. However James Townsend noted that although the scoping documents stated 126.5m the turbines would be up to 130.5m. Ewan Rayner clarified that the nearest turbine to Ellington would remain. James Townsend confirmed that this was true but that turbines would not be moved any closer than the current plans. Hugh West asked that plans and layout designs be sent through to members of the group. James Townsend agreed to provide Hugh West with the previous seven turbine plan that was circulated in the pre CLG meetings.

## **7. Planning Timetable**

James Townsend confirmed that he had received a response to his scoping request from HDC. He said that the Public Exhibitions would take place in Ellington on 8<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 8pm and in Alconbury on 9<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 4pm. Cllr Mike Baker asked that this information be provided to the whole local community. James Townsend confirmed that RES would do this and would deliver a newsletter to all residents in the Parishes represented. James Townsend confirmed this but questioned whether Brampton village would be included in this, as there had been a suggestion that Brampton felt less affected by the proposals which is why they chose not to attend the CLG. Hugh West emphasised that there are some local residents in remote locations who sometimes do not get local literature – he felt that these residents should receive this literature.

Ewan Rayner suggested that the parish magazines could be used in addition as a forum for publicity about the proposals and the exhibitions. He said that Ellington produced one such periodical and that the next deadline for copy was 12 August. James Townsend agreed with this and agreed to place a full hard copy of the application in each village, in addition to its location online.

Tony Massey asked about the level of material that would be included – would it be just the bare bones? Would there be technical and engineering details? James Townsend confirmed that there would be enough information, but could forward links to information to Tony Massey.

Tony Massey asked whether local high voltage pylons would be used and James Townsend predicted grid connection by an underground route to Salome wood. Ewan Rayner asked if the scoping report was complete and James Townsend confirmed the process and confirmed that HDC had responded. This had led to some changes – for example, the number of published viewpoints had now increased from 10 to 25.

#### **8. Liaison Group Work Plan**

Phil Briscoe explained that the Work Programme item was to enable the group to identify further areas that they wanted to see covered in more depth. Paul Watson said that some local residents were interested in the efficiency of the turbines and asked if RES could provide more information on this, which James Townsend agreed to do. James Townsend explained that all the energy used in developing the project was typically repaid by a windfarm over the first 6 to 12 months of its life.

Hugh West asked if the MOD were involved. James Townsend explained that RES had approached MOD who had previously objected on issues surrounding radar. RES were now working with MOD to address these issues and were confident that their objection could be resolved. It was for this reason that we were now seeking to produce a planning application.

#### **9. Wind Farm Visit**

James Townsend suggested that a visit to a wind farm might help address some local concerns. At the exhibition members of the community could sign up to for a visit, however James Townsend offered to arrange a visit for members of the group and other representatives in advance if they so wished. Ewan Rayner said that he had already attended one such visit and asked if he would learn anything new from a formal visit. James Townsend said that this depended on what the visit might be intended to achieve. It was agreed that a visit to a windfarm might be arranged in due course, and Parishes are to contact James Townsend to request this.

#### **10. Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting was provisionally set for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 8pm in Ellington Village Hall.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

Under AOB, Tony Massey suggested that there was a potential issue surrounding television coverage for Woolley. He asked what was being done to sort out potential interference. James Townsend said that RES would look carefully at this and remedy any problems. Ewan Rayner questioned how easy this would be to redress. James Townsend said that this issue had cropped up before and that RES would provide mitigation such as new aerials, or in more extreme cases satellite or cable alternative where necessary. Tony Massey agreed that Woolley

was particularly bad. Hugh West said that Leighton Bromswold and Woolley were currently receiving TV signal from Sandy Heath and that the wind farm was right in the way.

Bob Lumbers asked how meetings would be publicised for the public. There was agreement that each parish could do much of this locally and James Townsend added that the Exhibitions and meetings could be publicised in the newsletter. Bob Lumbers asked if there could be a published point of contact and James Townsend agreed with this. It was agreed that minutes and necessary documents would be sent to all members of the Panel and also to Parish Clerks. The parishes agreed that they had a responsibility to ensure RES had full contact details and a list of contact details was passed around.

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm.**