

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

**In attendance:** Ewan Raynor - Chairman  
Hugh West  
Bruce Chapman  
Cllr Keith Baker  
Cllr Mike Baker  
James Townsend – RES  
Ben Jeffreys - Bellenden

Eleven members of the public

**Venue:** Ellington Village Hall

**Apologies:** Tony Massey  
Graham Leach  
Paul Watson  
Jane Baker

**Date:** Tuesday, 21 September 2010

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

Apologies were received from Tony Massey, Graham Leach, Paul Watson and Jane Baker.

### **2. Welcome and introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Bob Lumbers said that the agenda that got circulated had a time limit to submit questions, and this was not agreed upon. ER said that the idea was that RES (if they needed to) could research the answers to difficult questions if they needed to.

### **4. Woolley Hill Project Update**

James Townsend gave a project update on behalf of RES. He explained that the layout of the turbines had now been finalized and the application would be for 4 turbines. A newsletter had been issued to 6,000 local households, 2 Public Exhibitions had been held (in Ellington and Alconbury) and questionnaires had been completed at these exhibitions. Responses to these questionnaires had been received from 27 people against the proposals, 16 in favour of them and 6 who were undecided. Further returns were received from the questionnaire in the newsletter. These were received from 91 residents in favour of the proposals and from 76 who were against. At the public exhibition, a number of Ellington residents had expressed concern about access along Maltings Lane North/Grove Lane and over Grove Bridge, and the

implications for dog walkers and pedestrians. RES will therefore be applying for a temporary footpath as part of the application to avoid this problem. James Townsend said that he had been asked to attend a public meeting in Ellington in October and had agreed to do this. He can also address then any questions raised at the CLG meeting and exhibitions. James Townsend also explained that RES would also be submitting a planning application in the next couple of weeks for an 80m metrological mast.

#### **5. Public Questions (15 minutes)**

At this point the Chairman invited questions from the public. Hugh West clarified that members of the public could, in this session, ask questions without notice.

Chrissie Short asked how much notice was needed for questions and raised the issue of a letter that she had sent to RES. She said that she had contacted someone in London who was informed on wind farms. She asked if these turbines would be the highest in the country. James Townsend explained that other wind farms had been developed with comparably sized turbines but none had been built of this size. Mrs Short asked where these could be seen and there was some discussion about potential visits to Wind Farms. Mrs Short then asked about health and wellbeing. She suggested that there was a restriction on turbines in Scotland of 1.6 kilometres from houses and said that her own house was within one kilometer of the site. She also raised the story of a resident who had taken health concern issues to the High Court. James Townsend explained that distance restrictions were not related to health and that scientific study suggested no adverse health effects from turbines. Mrs Short asked if this was old medical data and Mr Townsend said that it was up to date. He offered to expand further in his response to Mrs Short's letter. The Chairman asked that this letter be issued prior to the public meeting.

Bob Rice said that Ellington had been forced to put up with the A14 and a smelly plant and asked why RES was putting the turbines so close to the village. He said that he was not against wind farms but felt that these were close to the village. James Townsend explained that there were a number of constraints such as environmental issues and proximity to houses that restricted the location of turbines. For example, an 800metre buffer around every house restricts development due to many isolated properties in the country. Mr Townsend offered to bring a visual diagram to the next meeting illustrating those constraints. Mr Rice said that he felt it unfair that 250 people had to see them to protect one remote house.

The Chairman summarized the points and said that he understood an action group was being set up.

Cllr Mike Baker said that he found it difficult to visualize what these would look like. He asked if RES intended to organize a visit to a comparable wind farm, and when this would take place. James Townsend confirmed that at least 20 people had expressed an interest in such a visit and that RES would like to organize one in October. He identified a number of possible destinations,

including Burton Wold, Whittlesea and North Pickenham. He felt that North Pickenham was likely to be the best option.

Hugh West asked if any of these were on top of a hill, as the proposed Woolley Hill turbines would be. Mr Townsend said that he could not control where previous turbines had been located and he was trying to give people an opportunity for people to visit wind farms.

The Chairman said that the North Pickenham turbines appeared to be the tallest in reasonable reach and agreed that a visit there would be the best option. He asked James Townsend to circulate a proposed date to members of the CLG via email.

#### **6. Planning Timetable Update**

James Townsend confirmed that the Exhibition had illustrated the final proposals for the turbines. He said that planning would be submitted before the end of October and then the internal process at HDC would operate. The Chairman said that the environmental impact document was likely to be lengthy and that local parish councils would like more than 3 weeks in which to study it and respond. Mrs Wolfe intervened from the floor, saying that she had spoken to HDC and that parish councils would have up to 16 weeks. Mr Townsend reminded the CLG of his previous offer to display photo montages and a copy of the report in local libraries. After discussion, it was agreed that RES would provide the Council with 9 copies (one for each Parish represented on the CLG) and a further 5 spare copies. Bob Lumbers asked if Ellington Village (and other parishes) could have a second copy and Mr Townsend agreed to investigate.

#### **7. Wind Farm Visits**

This matter had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

#### **8. Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in Ellington Village Hall.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

Bob Lumbers asked from the floor for further clarification on the met mast application. He said that there had been a met mast in place for two and a half years. James Townsend explained that RES would find it useful to have more wind data because, although the existing wind data was sufficient for the purposes of the application, further wind data would help RES with constructing and sourcing the turbines.

Roger Short suggested from the floor that RES should put up a 131.5 metre met mast.

Ros Wolfe asked from the floor if RES will redo its noise monitoring. James Townsend explained again that the new met mast would be to gather data and that the previous met mast had collected enough data over its 2.5 year lifespan to support the application and the data collected for the noise monitoring was sufficient.

Hugh West asked if RES had actually bought the land. James Townsend explained that this was leased from a farmer.

**The meeting closed at 8.55pm.**