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Karen Hood
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KK 12/09/13
RYEDALE DM

12 SEP 2013

DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT

Dear Ms Hood,

Application number: 13/00851/FUL Wolds Valley Wind Collective Ltd., Land to north of Main Road Weaverthorpe

This planning application was discussed by Weaverthorpe Parish Council on 9th September 2013, at a meeting attended by over forty members of the public. There are strong feelings in the community on the subject matter contained in this letter. Those present at the meeting voted overwhelmingly to oppose the application.

Previous applications approved for wind turbines within Weaverthorpe have been a total height of 34.2 metres (Manor Farm and Gara Farm). This application is for a turbine with an overall height of 67 metres almost twice the height of the turbines already erected. This is a major source of objection within the community.

This turbine will dominate the sky line and be visible from most parts of the village, as it is situated on one of the highest points on the north of the valley. Views of the valley will be ruined, particularly that of the Grade 1 listed St Andrews Church. The co ordinates given on the planning application put the turbine in a different place to that shown on the map produced by the applicant. We have already stated in previous replies to planning applications for wind turbines that there are too many being built in such a small area of our countryside.

Previous planning applications for wind turbines have been for electricity for farm use, thus reducing the carbon footprint of the valley. 50% of the income from this turbine will go outside of the local community despite the title of the application saying that it is for the benefit of the local community.

Wolds Valley Wind Collective is made up of Landscape Research Centre Ltd, Humberside Co operative Development Agency, Rarey Farm Foundation and Wolds Valley Archaeological Trust. The first two of these organisations have nothing to do with the local community and are based outside of the local area. The last two of these organisations do not exist at present, it is unclear exactly what these organisations will be doing for the local community and it could be argued that the benefit for the local community is for a small proportion of the residents. This is the reason for a strong feeling in the community that they will have to look at huge turbines decimating our landscape for the sake of benefits being gained elsewhere.

Of the public comments on the planning portal web site, many of the supporters live well outside of the local area, many of which come from Hull which is where HCDA is based. We do not feel that the planning authority should consider that support from outside the authority area.

The planning statement in paragraph 2 says that both wind turbines (the other is 13/000850/FUL) have been widely publicised locally in the parishes of Butterwick, Helperthorpe and Weaverthorpe. The first, and we believe only mention of a second turbine was made in the Wolds Valley Warbler, August edition, which informed residents that planning applications had been submitted. There has been no consultation with the community on this turbine and it was a total surprise to the local community. There were statements made by the applicants that the community would be consulted about their plans before anything was formalised, but this did not happen.

Paragraph 52 of the planning statement says that the turbine will be screened from substantial parts of the highway system. This is not true as both this turbine and the turbine for Weaverthorpe Wind at Helperthorpe will be visible from the main valley road and feeder roads into the valley. The height and location will make them a dominant feature of the landscape for miles around.

Many homeowners believe that their property values will be adversely affected by the presence of two large turbines. Further, a few residents who are dependent on the tourism business believe the effect on the landscape will decrease the number of visitors to the Great Wolds Valley.

It is evident from the feedback that the Parish Council received from the public that this is an issue which has deeply divided our communities because of the lack of information, consultation and the size of the turbine.

Two members of the community offered to fund a referendum across the villages of Helperthorpe, Weaverthorpe and Butterwick. We are unsure whether this would be too late for the timing of this application and whether the results would have any effect on the decision made by RDC. We would welcome your views on this.

Based on the foregoing Weaverthorpe Parish Council **OBJECT** to this application.

Yours sincerely

J House
Clerk to Weaverthorpe Parish Council