**Urgent: Last day for letters of support: July 4th**

**West Dorset Wind Farm Project- Planning Application Submission**

**Application Number WD/D/14/000885**

**Online “**Make a comment” on West Dorset District Council Planning website (see bottom of page) <http://webapps.westdorset-dc.gov.uk/PlanningApps/Pages/Planning.aspx?App=WD%2fD%2f14%2f000885>

**Post to:** David Hodges, Case Officer, Planning Department, West Dorset District Council, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, DT1 1UZ

*­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Include your address and the application number*

*Save your letter if you want to lend support to the other planning applications for Blandford Hill and Slyers Lane. We will send details when public is being consulted.*

**Ideas for letters/comments of support**

*­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­*Planners must follow Policy Planning Guidance related to wind turbines on <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/225689/Planning_Practice_Guidance_for_Renewable_and_Low_Carbon_Energy.pdf> Paragraphs 29-49

On many issues, the planners focus on what consultants, like Natural England, the MOD say but comments on certain issues from local people can make a difference.

**Statements related to planning issues**

This wind farm would not affect my enjoyment of the countryside.

I expect to see this wind farm from several locations. This will not detract from my enjoyment of the landscape.

I like the look of wind turbines.

I accept seeing turbines because of the effective way they generate low carbon electricity and are non-polluting.

**I realise I might see West Dorset wind farm from some heritage sites but this would not affect my enjoyment of them.**

I am satisfied that the noise will have little or no impact and am confident that the planning guidelines on noise levels are sufficient to deal with this issue.

I am aware shadow flicker and a possible effect on television signals can be addressed with modern technology and good wind farm layout. I am not concerned that this will be a problem.

The planning application is for 25 years, not forever, and the wind turbines can be easily taken down and the countryside restored to its original appearance unharmed.

**Other points about wider issues**

The UK has a legally binding target to have 15% of total energy consumption (total kilowatt hours of electricity, transport fuels and heating) from renewables by 2020. The current UK renewable supply is 4.8% of total energy consumption. *(People confuse 15% of electricity with total energy consumption and think we have reached the target)*

There is urgency. Without drastic reductions in carbon emissions over the next 10-20 years, the global temperature is expected to exceed 2 degrees C (relative to 1850-1900 average) and potentially exceed 4 degrees by 2100 with catastrophic consequences. (IPCC 2013)

Wind is the low carbon energy ready to deliver at a price we can afford NOW-in next 10-20 years. With only a 0.8 degree rise so far, Dorset has already experienced unpredictable and extreme weather causing flooding, increased coastal erosion and effects on natural world & farming

UK has the best wind resource in Europe; 40% of Europe’s wind resource is in this country.

Onshore wind is cost competitive per megawatt with new gas fired power stations so it is realistic economically in these times of tight budgets. As fossil fuel prices rise, it will be even better value for money.

**It seems the public are positive about onshore wind developments!** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been conducting Public Attitude Tracking Surveys since March 2012. The 9th survey involving a representative sample of 2040 households conducted in late March this year showed that 70% were “in support of the use of onshore wind”(12% against) and 59% were “happy to have a large scale renewable development in their area”(17% against) This is highest percentage in support for Questions 12&13 since the surveys began. [https://www.gov.uk/...data/.../summary\_of\_key\_findings\_**wave\_9**.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/...data/.../summary_of_key_findings_wave_9.pdf)

The subsidy required to support onshore wind turbines (currently 4 pence per kilowatt-hour) is **less than half** the lifetime subsidy required by the proposed new nuclear power station per kilowatt-hour and this excludes nuclear decommissioning costs.

Technology for onshore wind energy generation is well developed.

Wind energy is free, sustainable and safe. It helps improve energy security. It contributes to a diversity of energy resources and decreases dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Tourists are all different people. Thousands visit wind farm visitor centres each year. In an independent 2013 report from Cornwall , 94% of visitors said the wind and solar farms would make no difference to their decision to re-visit, 4% said they would be more likely to visit, while only 2% said they would be less likely.

We are lagging behind other countries. For example, Denmark aims to be 100% renewable by 2050 with 50% coming from wind by 2020. They are already generating 28% of their electricity from wind and this is giving Danish industry an economic edge.

Contrary to common thinking, wind farms do not need significant fossil fuel power stations as back-up. The National Grid Head of Strategy said over 18 month period, wind farms only required 0.1% (a thousandth) of their electricity output as additional back-up when the wind dropped, over and above the large amount of back-up needed to operate the grid without renewables. (Daily Telegraph 1/6/2013)