



This newsletter is written for residents of Kirkby Lonsdale and surrounding villages by a team of volunteers coordinating opposition to EON's proposed wind farm (Longfield Tarn) near Kirkby Lonsdale.

## LATEST NEWS (5<sup>th</sup> October):

### *EON's planning application will come by end of this year; threat in Lune Valley growing*



We expected the full planning application in September but EON released a statement in August confirming it will be submitted at the end of 2010.

Herewith an overview of developments over the Summer:

#### **GOOD NEWS**

- At EON's exhibition in Kirkby Lonsdale (6th July) people of Kirkby Lonsdale turned out in force and left the EON representatives with no doubt as to the strength of opposition in the town.

-At Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council meeting (10th August) local residents expressed their opposition to the wind farm urging councillors to represent their views when they respond to the application (there is still a lot of work to do here)

-Kirkby Lonsdale Chamber of Trade voted unanimously to oppose the wind farm. According to Robin Sadler, chairman (who wrote to the Town Council confirming their position) *'We're very concerned about the potential of a wind farm so close to Kirkby Lonsdale. Many businesses here depend on tourism'*

-Residents in some local villages have been meeting with their Parish Councillors

-Local MPs Tim Farron and David Morris have committed to work together to help stop this scheme.

#### **BAD NEWS**

- We understand that one of the local landowners has been paying students in Lancaster to get shoppers to sign a petition in favour of wind energy (which they will use to show the strength of support for this particular scheme when the application is submitted). We're told that this tactic is used elsewhere and with the prospect of £20,000 per turbine per annum it's worth the landowner doing it.

- There is no sign that the coalition government will stop the subsidy scheme for onshore wind farms so developers are working even harder to capitalise on this market whilst it still exists. There is clear evidence of this in the Lune Valley:

##### *Claughton Moor – Public Inquiry*

Despite the fact that Lancaster City Planning Committee unanimously refused their first scheme in March this year Community Windpower Ltd have appealed and this will be decided by public inquiry

##### *Cragg Lot - New scheme being developed*

The site between Over Kellet and Arkholme is being developed by Cornwall Light & Power and access rights have apparently now been obtained which puts them one step closer.

## How YOU can help

When the planning application arrives it's important that we all write a letter of objection.

(When the time comes, we'll let you know).

Meanwhile there are 3 valuable things you can do:

### 1. *WRITE TO YOUR PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL*

Please write to the parish clerk, let them know how you feel and ask them to represent your views when they respond to the application. Make sure you ask for written response.

### 2. *DISPLAY A STICKER*

Put this in your car or house window (available at Kirkby Motors)

### 3. *HAVE YOUR OWN 'No Wind Farm' SIGN*

We want people travelling towards Kirkby Lonsdale from any direction to be aware of the strength of local opposition. We're asking people to display a 'No Wind farm' sign in their garden. We'll deliver the sign and the post, all you have to do is ring us.

(If you're happy to make a small contribution to cover the cost of the sign (£6) that would be good but if not we'd still be delighted to deliver one to you !).



**ORDER YOUR 'NO WIND FARM' SIGN NOW!**

**Call Annette on 015242 71697**

## OUR PLANNING OBJECTIONS:

*We are not opposed to wind power in general. We agree with the need for renewable energy. What worries us is the choice of location - an area of outstanding beauty - and the proximity to a much loved town and villages.*

### Landscape

These turbines would seriously damage an important landscape which needs preserving. The turbines would dominate the skyline above Kirkby Lonsdale and surrounding villages. They would be clearly visible and obtrusive over a large area of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks

### Proximity

These turbines will damage local communities: The impact on a very large number of local residents who would live within 1,500 metres of the turbines could be disastrous. A combination of noise, visual impact, economic impact (not least on house prices), may well make life intolerable.

### Economic

Kirkby Lonsdale is largely dependent on tourist income which predicated on its setting in the beautiful Lune Valley.

### Other Specifics

There are a number of specific concerns about the proposed site itself - threat to wildlife, ecology, archaeology amongst others.

## FACTS ABOUT ONSHORE WIND FARMS

### THEY ARE INEFFICIENT

*Figures from OFGEM over the last 5 years, confirm that onshore wind farms operate at an average of 27% efficiency (often less). Typically, a wind farm will stand idle for 110 days per annum. Due to the intermittent nature of wind they rely on back up sources of power (eg coal, nuclear).*

### THEY ARE DRIVEN BY SUBSIDY WHICH WE PAY FOR

*Developers receive huge subsidies. In this case, even working at 25% efficiency, EON will receive £250,000 per annum, per turbine. We pay for this through our electricity bills which are inflated to cover these subsidies.*

### THEY HAVE NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT ON REDUCING CO2

*International studies confirm that when we take into account manufacture, transport, excavation/building, back up power sources, onshore wind makes a negligible contribution to reducing CO2 emissions.*

### THEY DAMAGE HOUSE PRICES

*Developers will tell you there is no impact here; common sense and evidence confirms otherwise. People living near wind farms in other parts of the UK have successfully claimed reductions in Council Tax based on demonstrable loss of house values.*



### "Power to the Nimby activist!"

In an article in the last National Trust Magazine Griff Rhys Jones argues that we should not back off from protecting our backyards when developers, local government and central government are pushing through schemes that are insensitive and harm communities. In this era of 'Big Society', if more decisions are to be devolved to local communities it does require us all to become engaged in the process for we can make a difference.

## NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

**.....we'll update you on progress with EON's plans**

**.....we'll be sharing practical ways in which we can all reduce energy consumption, increase renewable energy production and save money (without wrecking the landscape or lining the pockets of developers and land owners)**

## IS IT WORTH FIGHTING THIS ??

**Yes.....**Public Inquiries across the UK are ruling against developers where the impact on important landscape and local residents outweighs the benefit that these schemes bring. Without local opposition they do go ahead....developers rely on ignorance and apathy.

**♥ LOVE IT OR LOSE IT ♥ !**