



Press release

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Residents take 126.5-metre high balloon for a walk to oppose wind farm

01/03/2011 South Cambridgeshire, England – Local residents in south Cambridgeshire demonstrated their opposition to proposals to build a wind power plant in their area by flying a balloon at 126.5-metres (415ft) and organising a community walk to see where the turbines will be located.

The walk was organised by the Stop Heydon Wind Farm Action Group for local residents to walk with the balloon to the spots where the proposed wind turbines will be built, to give people an idea of how tall they are, and how much impact they will have on the surrounding countryside.

The balloon, at 126.5-metres (415ft), is the same height as the proposed wind turbines, and was flown in the area by members of the Stop Heydon Grange Wind Farm Action Group to show the level of opposition to the proposals in the local community.

The developers Volkswind are proposing to build a huge wind power plant consisting of between 8 and 11 massive wind turbines just outside the picturesque and unspoilt South Cambridgeshire village of Heydon. The proposed turbines will be some of the largest in the country at 126.5 metres (415ft) high; almost as tall as the London Eye, 25 per cent taller than the radio mast at RAF Barkway and twice the height of Ely Cathedral's tower.

Jason Cross, Chairman of the Stop Heydon Wind Farm Action Group, said: "We wanted to show the local community how much of an impact these turbines will really have on the surrounding countryside. The turbines that Volkswind are proposing are some of the largest in the country and they will have a devastating effect on this area.

"Flying the balloon at the same height as the turbines has really given everyone an idea of

how big they will be, and I think it has helped a lot of people understand the scope of the proposals. This is not just one or two unobtrusive wind turbines; these are massive pieces of industrial infrastructure that will ruin the countryside. Many people on the walk were really shocked by the height of the balloon and I think it has really helped communicate to people the true impact the proposals could have.”

Peter Jones from the Action Group said: “You can see the balloon from all the surrounding villages; Elmdon, Melbourn and even Royston, so imagine what it will be like if the proposals go ahead. If they do go ahead, this will affect everyone for miles around and we want to urge everyone, not just people from Heydon, to get involved in supporting the Action Group.”

The timescales for the project are not known, but a Planning Application could be submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council sometime in 2011, with a decision following four months after that submission. The Stop Heydon Grange Wind Farm Action Group was established early this year to fight the proposals from Volkswind. Local residents believe that the wind power plant proposal is not eco-conscious, but simply a project to make huge amounts of money from the subsidies available.

To make a donation to the Action Group to help fight the proposals, or to find out more about the wind power plant, go to www.stopheydonwindfarm.com

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Notes to Editors:

For further information, please contact Hannah Gregory on 07968 954113, or email media@stopeheydonwindfarm.com

About the Stop Heydon Grange Wind Farm action group

The Heydon Grange Action Group is made up of residents from Heydon and many of its surrounding villages. They are pro sustainable energy, but believe that infrastructure on such a large and industrial scale needs to be sited appropriately if the unique character of the local countryside is to be preserved.

Their purpose as an action group is to provide information to other local residents about the proposals, and to ensure that the local environment and heritage of the area are protected.

The aims of the group are to:

- maintain the natural beauty of the area;
- protect the quality of life for residents;
- protect several famous and unique views in Cambridgeshire;

- protect the unique heritage of the area, and;
- oppose this development, the scale of which are unsuitable to the surrounding area.

Members all volunteer their time to try and ensure that the area they live in, some for many years, is protected.

To find out more, go to www.stopheydonwindfarm.com