



Press release

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Residents fly 126.5-metre high balloon to highlight wind farm proposals

15/02/2011 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).

The balloon was the same height as the wind turbines would be if the proposals were to go ahead. It is being flown until 1 March 2011 by the Stop Heydon Wind Farm Action Group to coincide with exhibitions that the scheme's developers had organised to consult with local residents, and to bring the magnitude of the proposed development to the community's attention.

The developers, Volkswind, organised the exhibitions to discuss plans for the wind power plant with local residents. Members of the Stop Heydon Grange Wind Farm Action Group flew the balloon to show the level of opposition to the proposals in the local community.

Residents felt that the exhibitions were badly organised and that the developers did not give residents enough time to attend and discuss their concerns. Residents also felt that the exhibitions were not properly promoted, with very few people in the area receiving notification that the exhibitions were taking place.

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.

To help advise residents on the scheme, and what it will actually mean for people living in the area, the action group has produced a newsletter, which they are widely distributing in the area. To receive your copy, go to www.stopheydonwindfarm.com or call 07563 756631.

Jason Cross, Chairman of the Stop Heydon Wind Farm Action Group, said: "We wanted to show the developers and the local council how opposed everyone is to these proposals, and to show to local residents how big these turbines actually are. If people can see our balloon they will see the wind turbines that are proposed. We want people to bear in mind that the balloon is roughly only about 6-metres wide – the turbines are much wider than this, and they will be moving, so the visual impact will be enormous."

"Volkswind organised their exhibitions to consult with the local community, but we all feel they did not give us enough time. Only one exhibition was outside office hours, and as most people have to work, it really only gave local residents a couple of hours to attend. The venue was inaccessible as well, as it is a long way away from any of the villages affected, meaning many of our elderly residents, and residents without a car, found it really difficult to get down there. The developer's representatives were also unable to answer the most basic of questions and did not seem to be aware of some fundamental details of the project.

"We firmly support the principal of sustainable energy, but we believe that these proposals are in completely the wrong place and will destroy a lovely part of our countryside."

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 Government subsidies.

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:

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:- Tuesday, 15 February 2011 at 4pm in Heydon, by the balloon. Please email media@stopheydonwindfarm.com for further information.

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