

STOP HEYDON GRANGE WIND FARM

A company called Volkswind is proposing to build a large wind power plant just outside Heydon, which will affect villages for miles around.

The 'Stop Heydon Wind Farm Action Group' has mounted a campaign against Volkswind's proposal, and you can find out more about how the campaign is going in this newsletter.

Update: fact file

- The proposal consists of between 6 and 11 turbines built on the outskirts of Heydon.
- These turbines will be some of the largest in the country at 126.5 metres (415ft) high; that is almost as tall as the London Eye, 25 per cent taller than the radio mast at Barkway and twice the height of Ely Cathedral's tower.
- The date the Planning Application could be submitted is still unknown, but it could be in 2011.
- A decision by local planners on the proposal could take place six months after the Planning Application has been submitted.
- The developers have stated that the wind power plant could generate up to 47,000MWh per year; however, some figures show that many of the UK's wind turbines were only working at 15 per cent capacity in 2010, making Volkswind's figure unlikely.
- Go to our website to find out more.

Local history comes to life during slideshow

After the success of the 'Auction of Promises' in November 2010, where just over £7,000 was raised for the campaign, Andrew Drury and Peter Wiseman very kindly presented a fantastic slideshow on the history of our local area on Saturday, 5 March.

The event took place in Great Chishill Village Hall and was attended by around 100 people, raising nearly £1,000. The Action Group would like to thank all those who attended. It was a fantastic evening that demonstrated our rich heritage; which is something we all want to protect.



Did you see the balloon?

The Action Group organised for a balloon to be flown in the areas where the proposed turbines could be built, to coincide with Volkswind's exhibitions in February.

The balloon was the same height that the turbines will be – 126.5-metres – and it did a great job of demonstrating the real height of the turbines, and how intrusive they will be.

Residents from Fowlmere, Thriplow, Foxton, Elmdon and Barley said they could see it clearly from their villages. For a full update on the Volkswind exhibitions, please see overleaf.

Cause a storm. Say NO to the wind farm.

www.stopheydonwindfarm.com
07563 756631

This information has been brought to you by the Stop Heydon Wind Farm Action Group.



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Update: Planning

Application

Volkswind have stated that they need to carry out noise surveys before submitting the Planning Application, which they intend to start in the near future.

We have instructed a Landscape Architect and a consultant who have been involved in similar projects to help us take the fight to the planners once Volkswind submit the application.

The date the Planning Application could be submitted is still unknown, but it could be in 2011. A decision by local planners on the proposal could take place six months later.

We need your help

We are very grateful to all those who have generously supported the campaign so far.

We estimate that to fight these proposals could cost up to £78,000 so any donation, no matter how small, will play a big part in the campaign.

By donating more than £1 in your name you automatically become a paid-up member of the Action Group. There will be a meeting towards the end of April to approve the constitution.

You can donate using the following methods:

Through your bank:

Santander
Sort code: 09 01 27 | Account number: 7533 6994

Please remember to give your name as a reference.

By post:

The Treasurer, Stop Heydon Grange Wind Farm Action Group, Bridgefoot Farmhouse, Heydon, Royston, SG8 7PU.

Please make cheques payable to 'Heydon Grange Action Group'.

Local MP gets behind our cause

In February Andrew Lansley, our local MP, wrote to Volkswind UK Ltd asking them to abandon their plans, which was a great boost to our campaign. The Health Secretary cited lack of resident support and a "disastrous" impact on air shows at the nearby Imperial War Museum Duxford.

Mr Lansley also stated that he believed the proposed location would be extremely inefficient for the purposes of wind-generation. Despite this very clear objection, Volkswind have informed us that they are still pressing ahead with their plans.



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Mock-up of what the wind turbines could look like. This picture, taken from the top of Heydon, gives a good perspective of the scale of the wind turbines.

Update: Volkswind's exhibitions

Volkswind held two public exhibitions at the Heydon Grange Golf Club on 15 and 16 of February 2011, which were extremely well attended. Over 300 residents from all the surrounding villages came to see what Volkswind had to say, and to express their opinion – so a very big thank you to all who managed to come along.

Many attendees found the information provided by Volkswind to be very general, with little information specific to this development. The mocked-up photographs of the turbines also failed to show any true scale.

The Action Group organised a round of publicity on television, radio and in local newspapers to coincide with the exhibitions. The Action Group also ensured that a representative from the group was present at all times, and we spoke to as many attendees as possible. The general feeling was one of anger and disappointment at the generic information on display, and the lack of clear answers from Volkswind staff about the true impacts of the scheme on our community.

Of those attendees that we spoke to at the exhibitions, roughly 80 per cent were against the proposal, 10 per cent were in favour and 10 per cent were still undecided.

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