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<http://www.pwag.co.uk>

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**Latest News!**

**Half a million people could be pushed into fuel poverty by the UK's drive for wind power, the government's former chief scientific adviser has said.**

Sir David King said: "If we overdo wind we are going to put up the price of electricity and that means more people will fall into the fuel poverty trap."

**Disclaimer**  
This newsletter is for general information purposes only. P.W.A.G. has taken all reasonable measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. However, P.W.A.G. gives no warranty and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the material.

**Local MP Yvette Cooper shares residents concerns about the proposed Wind Farm.**

Yvette Cooper has written to concerned local residents about her fears that the proposed Wind Farm is too close to Darrington. In her letter below Yvette says that she remains committed to the government's policy on climate change, renewables and nuclear energy but that she has been pressing the Council to find an alternative site prior to the proposals going before the planning committee. In addition Yvette is proposing to meet with Banks the developers in a 'last attempt to urge them to find an alternative location'

P.W.A.G. welcomes Yvette's support at a crucial time in the campaign. Yvette stands alongside local ward councillors in opposing this development. Many people know that this development would not only be too close to people's homes but also a health and safety risk as well as a blot on the landscape.

**Letter from Yvette Cooper MP.**



**"As you know I have been pressing the council on seeking an alternative location for the wind farm before the proposal goes before the planning committee because there are strong concerns about how close the turbines would be to**

**Government is right to promote a serious expansion in on and off-shore wind power, and also to look at nuclear energy, but it is important it is done in the right way. I have been to visit the test mast and I remain very concerned that the turbines are going to be too close to the village and, like you I think this would cause all kinds of problems for local residents. I am therefore proposing now to meet with Banks, the developers, in a last attempt to urge them to find an alternative location and I will keep you informed of developments."**

**Yvette Cooper MP**

**Darrington.**

**I was hoping that the council would be able to identify an alternative location, but unfortunately I have now had a formal response back and they tell me they have been unable to find alternative sites with the developer. As you will know, I support increasing renewable energy in this country to meet the challenge from climate change, and I think the**

**P.W.A.G. letter to W.M.D.C. slams lack of action.**

Dear Mrs. Eades,

It is now almost four months since I wrote to you summarising some of the serious concerns that the Group had raised in their Objection Document and supplementary Addendum which had not been addressed by the various specialists which we believed that you were to consult. In the absence of a reply I once again ask for a response to those issues.

In order to progress and pursue its case PWAG needs to know which person/department is to carry out the 'assessment of balance of benefit versus harm' required by PPS22, the 'Health and Safety Risk Assessment' needed to determine the issue of public safety because of the proximity of the proposed turbines to Westfield Lane and housing and the need to 'take into account the health effects of low frequency noise' which emanates from wind farms. These outstanding areas of concern must be addressed are detailed in the attachment.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Hames, Chairman, Pontefract Wind Farm Action Group**

**THE FIGHT GOES ON!**

## We are looking for volunteers.

Can you help distribute leaflets in your local area? If you can please ring your local representative as we still need help in many areas.

## Your local PWAG representative is:

East Hardwick  
Pontefract  
Wentbridge  
Tony Hames  
tel: 01977 620361

Carleton  
John Craven  
tel: 01977 599685

Darrington  
Ron Watson  
tel: 01977 791104

### Quote:

The larger the share of wind power in a particular grid, the more standby power will have to be available in that grid.

The World Wind Energy Association.

## How to object to this wind farm.

For more information on how to object visit our website [www.pwag.co.uk](http://www.pwag.co.uk) select "How to object to the wind farm" and "Standard letters" from the main menu. Or write quoting **Application No: 07/01338/FUL** to: The Service Director for Planning, Wakefield M.D.C., Planning Services, Newton Bar, Wakefield. WF1 2TX.



## Is W.M.D.C. ignoring problems for local residents?

W.M.D.C's scrutiny of the proposal to build a wind farm at Westfield Lane has been superficial and thus far has not addressed P.W.A.G's concerns. W.M.D.C. appear to be blindly adopting Government guidance, which, according to the guidance itself, should be adjusted in light of local circumstances. If the turbines are given the go ahead they will be the tallest and closest yet to such a large number of houses and this would set a dangerous precedent. There is a high probability that the quality of life in the villages surrounding the proposed Westfield Lane site would be irreparably damaged. P.W.A.G. is therefore pressing W.M.D.C. to give their case detailed scrutiny and to take the following actions:

- To address all the issues raised by P.W.A.G. in its Objection Document and its Addendum.
- To discharge its statutory duty as a Planning Authority by carrying out a suitable and sufficient health and safety risk assessment concerning public safety on Westfield Lane.
- To discharge the requirement in the Planning Policy of assessing the balance of harm locally versus the benefit to the environment of the proposal and to make that assessment publicly available.
- To consider the implications of the close proximity of other wind farm proposals in determining the most appropriate site in the district (proposals for Knottingley, Birkin, and Ferrybridge are all in the pipeline and a site at Hemsworth has not been ruled out).
- That all major public health issues are considered not just the bare bones of atmospheric noise including emerging concerns over excessive noise through the air and low frequency noise pulsations through the ground.
- To address the potential for much greater wind farm noise in Darrington and West Park when the A1 is re-aligned to the east.
- To avoid falling into the trap of requiring developers to 'adjust the turbines accordingly if a complaint is justified' since this doesn't work in practice and is impracticable and naïve to be even considered.

## Decision on wind farm may be imminent!

Come and find out at an informal drop in evening at:

**Carleton Community Centre**

**6.00pm - 9.30pm Tuesday 21st October 2008.**

Refreshments will be available.