



Thomas Chappell <thomas@theenergyworkshop.co.uk>

Spring Brook Wind Turbine Proposal

Woodward , Matthew (Planning) <MatthewWoodward@barnsley.gov.uk>

8 August 2012 11:58

To: Thomas Chappell <thomas@theenergyworkshop.co.uk>

Cc: Dan Grierson <dan@theenergyworkshop.co.uk>, John Darwin <darwin539@btinternet.com>

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your e-mail and your Screening Request dated 27th July 2012. In response, I attach a copy of the Council's Screening Opinion.

As you will note from the previous refusal (2008/0838), this is a sensitive site and scheme both in terms of planning constraints and public opinion.

Whilst I appreciate the substantial difference in terms of output between the two schemes put forward (4MW as opposed to 1.6MW), the former application for 5 turbines (2008/0838) was refused mainly on the basis of the perceived very significant visual harm to the Green Belt and the landscape. There were also considered to be very significant impacts on the Peak District National Park and the Midhopstones Conservation Area. Whilst reducing the scheme to 101m and reducing the prominence by siting the turbines further down slope; I think some of the underlying objections and concerns would still exist.

The smaller turbines (79m to tip) appear (based on the submitted wire lines) substantially less obtrusive and visually prominent than the larger turbines. However, as you will be aware, this is a very sensitive site in so far as it comprises a steep sloping hillside which has a delicate appearance and in my opinion, the character of the area could be compromised by a scheme which appeared out of proportion with its surroundings. In particular, concerns were previously expressed with the scheme (2008/0838) when viewed from Midhopstones Conservation Area and the Peak District National Park. Therefore, in any new submission you would need to demonstrate that there was no significant harm to the Peak District National Park or the local heritage assets and demonstrate that landscape and visual impacts were acceptable. In addition you would need to demonstrate very special circumstances which clearly outweighed visual harm given that the site lies within the Green Belt.

You should also be aware that the council are currently working on a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which aims to elaborate on policy CSP6 of the Core Strategy. It is intended that the SPD will ensure that renewable energy schemes are only acceptable in appropriate locations. The SPD will include information about the types of scheme that the council will likely support at planning application stage. It is intended to adopt the document by March 2013 and there will be a consultation exercise carried out in the autumn.

Finally, I should point out that the advice contained in this e-mail is provided based on the very limited information submitted in the form of selected wire-lines and photomontages. As such, the advice is given without prejudice. I would expect any new submission to include photomontages taken from similar locations to those submitted with planning application 2008/0838. However, should you be in agreement, I will provide you with a scoping opinion within 5 weeks of the date of this e-mail.

Kind regards

Matt Woodward

Planning Officer

Development Management

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From: Thomas Chappell [<mailto:thomas@theenergyworkshop.co.uk>]**Sent:** 20 July 2012 11:03**To:** Woodward , Matthew (Planning)**Cc:** Dan Grierson; John Darwin**Subject:** Spring Brook Wind Turbine Proposal

Dear Matthew,

[Quoted text hidden]

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