

Park Spring Wind Farm

Statement of Community Involvement

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**PARSONS
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Statement of Community Involvement

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been produced in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Part 6 of the Localism Act 2011. The document forms part of a planning application made by EDF Energy Renewables (EDF ER) for Park Spring Wind Farm, Little Houghton, Barnsley.
- 1.1.2 Parsons Brinckerhoff has produced this SCI to document the consultation process, explain the outcomes and highlight the response of the developers, EDF ER.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the various communications and consultation activities undertaken has been to give all stakeholders and those with a potential interest in the proposed scheme the opportunity to learn more about the proposals and make their views known to EDF ER.

2 IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

2.1 Government advice

2.1.1 The national planning policy context for England is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), issued by the Government in 2012, in which it is clear that early and effective public consultation should be undertaken both between developers and the determining authority and with the local community. At section 188 of the NPPF it states:

“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.”

2.1.2 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act came into force at the end of September 2004. One of the central purposes of the Act is to improve community involvement in the planning process. The Government made it clear in the guidance accompanying the legislation that developers should be encouraged to undertake public consultation, particularly on major developments.

2.1.3 The Act makes it a legal requirement for local planning authorities to consult on and adopt a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explaining how the local authority intends to engage and consult with communities and stakeholders on planning and development.

2.1.4 The SCI should also outline how the local authority expects applicants to consult with local communities on major development proposals prior to the submission of a planning application.

2.2 Local Planning Authority advice

2.2.1 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) formally adopted its Statement of Community Involvement in September 2006 as part of its Local Development Framework for the Barnsley borough. The aim of the document is to outline how developers should undertake pre-application consultation in relation to major projects.

2.2.2 The BMBC SCI contains a matrix which suggests the following methods to be employed to involve other people prior to submitting a planning application:

- Distribution of newsletters or leaflets in the local area;
- Public meetings and exhibitions;
- Local surgery where the proposal can be discussed;
- Development briefs;
- Consultation with the town or parish council;
- Involvement of the local media (i.e. newspaper or radio station);
- Production of a website; and
- Consultation with Yorkshire Planning Aid.

2.2.3 Based on these guidelines, a public consultation strategy and timeline was discussed with the Planning Officer at BMBC in advance of the public consultation exercise taking place.

2.3 EDF ER Commitment

2.3.1 EDF ER has undertaken pre-application consultation with local communities and relevant consultees in the development of Park Spring Wind Farm, as reported within this document. This has enabled EDF ER to discuss the proposal with interested parties, giving local people in Barnsley an opportunity to view the proposed scheme plans, discuss the proposal with members of the project team, and to contribute their views upon the development.

2.3.2 Within the Scoping Study produced for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, EDF Energy Renewables proposed that:

“Further public consultation will be undertaken in order to obtain the views of the local community and to ensure that those views are considered in the proposals for the development of Park Spring Wind Farm where appropriate.

At present, it is likely that public consultation will include:

- *A Public Exhibition in a local venue where information on proposals for the development of Park Spring Wind Farm will be provided and key project experts will be available to address any queries raised;*
- *An information leaflet / newsletter to be circulated to local residents and interested parties in advance of the Public Exhibition; and*
- *The offering of consultation meetings to key community groups in advance of, during and after the Public Exhibition.*

2.3.3 EDF ER believe that the consultation exercise undertaken has helped improve local understanding of their proposal and has generated useful information and comments that have been fed into the associated Environmental Impact Assessment.

3 METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 In order to ensure that stakeholders and the local community were provided with every opportunity to contribute to the development of the scheme, the public consultation programme adopted a series of fundamental principles. These core values sought to:

- Maximise **local engagement** in the consultation process;
- Maintain **full transparency** of the detail of the proposals;
- Encourage **full and meaningful feedback**; and
- Thoroughly **analyse and respond** to the feedback generated.

3.1.2 To meet the objectives of the consultation exercise, the following key stages were incorporated:

1. **Notification** – agreeing the principles of consultation process with the statutory planning authorities and the key stakeholders;
2. **Information** – information is then provided on the background of the proposed development and also on the events, activities and opportunities to be provided to enable interested and affected groups to provide their views;
3. **Consult** – provide the means and opportunities for members of the public and key stakeholder groups to liaise with the project team and put forward their questions, ideas and aspirations for the development;
4. **Measure and analyse results** – having allowed an acceptable timeframe for everyone with an interest to comment, the results of the consultation are then quantified;
5. **Report back** – feedback is then analysed and the results publicised within the community;
6. **Review and Change** – the feedback should be reviewed and responded to in a positive way where possible. This will not always be possible – often feedback from different stakeholders will be conflicting and it may be that constraints prevent some amendments being taken on board. Where amendments are not possible, the reasons should be explained;
7. **Publish proposals** – at the end of the process, the proposals are published and the community and key stakeholders are informed about how their views have influenced the process.

3.1.3 By involving the local community and other key stakeholders at an early stage, developers are able to find out which issues are important and respond to these when drawing up final proposals for the site.

3.2 Consultation

3.2.1 EDF ER carried out extensive consultation on the Park Spring Wind Farm proposal, including three public exhibitions, liaison with Parish Councils, the distribution of newsletters to local residents, the creation of a dedicated website and engagement with key stakeholders. A summary of the activity undertaken is outlined below.

3.2.2 Key stakeholders for the local area with a likely interest in the development were also identified in agreement with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. These included local MPs, parish councils and other local community and campaign groups.

3.2.3 Full details of the specific key stakeholder groups included in the consultation are listed in Appendix A.

Newsletter

3.2.4 During the consultation process, 6151 local householders in the surrounding area of the site received a newsletter informing them of the proposal and the upcoming public exhibitions. These were delivered by a specialist distribution company employed by EDF ER.

3.2.5 A breakdown of the distribution areas of the newsletter is as follows:

Brierley	8
Cudworth	780
Darfield	2101
Goldthorpe	125
Great Houghton	1113
Grimethorpe	1116
Little Houghton	387
Thurnscoe	521

3.2.6 A follow up exhibition was held in April 2013. A second newsletter informing members of the public about progress with the proposal and the third exhibition was circulated to the same distribution list (6151 properties).

3.2.7 To view copies of the initial and follow up newsletters in full, please see Appendix B.

Public Exhibitions

3.2.8 EDF ER hosted three public exhibitions, the details of which are as follows:

- Friday 1 March 2013, 1pm – 7pm: Sandhill Golf Club, Little Houghton, S72 0HW
- Saturday 2 March 2013, 11am – 3.30pm: Great Houghton Welfare Hall, Rotherham Road, S72 0EG
- Friday 26 April 2013, 11am – 7pm: Welfare Hall, Welfare Park, Clear View, Grimethorpe, S72 7HD

3.2.9 In addition, a separate public exhibition was held specifically for local ward and parish councillors, on:

- Friday 1 March 2013, 10am – 12pm: Sandhill Golf Club, Little Houghton, S72 OHW
- 3.2.10 The Little Houghton and Great Houghton venues were chosen to ensure residents living close to the site were able to easily attend the exhibitions, and based upon the availability of nearby suitable venues.
- 3.2.11 A third exhibition was held at Grimethorpe in April 2013. This public exhibition followed on from previous events held at Little Houghton and Great Houghton enabling EDF ER to provide an update on the progress of the proposed development. The third exhibition was held at the request of local members of the public and local councillors in Grimethorpe to ensure that views of local residents in Grimethorpe were collected.
- 3.2.12 The times for the exhibitions were chosen to ensure people could attend during the weekday, evening or weekends, depending on their circumstances.
- 3.2.13 The public exhibitions were held to enable local residents and stakeholders to learn more about our proposals and provide feedback before the planning application submission. The project team were on hand to answer any questions, and all visitors to the exhibition were encouraged to complete a comment form to give their feedback on the proposals.
- 3.2.14 The exhibition material included content on:
- The purpose of the exhibition;
 - The need for renewable energy;
 - Climate change and the policy context;
 - The proposal;
 - Turbine layout;
 - Noise levels;
 - Landscape and visual assessment;
 - Ecology and ornithology;
 - Transport and infrastructure; and
 - What happens next?
- 3.2.15 Various photomontages, to help visitors to the exhibition understand what the wind farm would look like from various locations in the locality, were on display.
- 3.2.16 To see the panels displayed during the exhibitions, please see Appendix C.
- 3.2.17 A questionnaire was provided to attendees at the public exhibition, designed to gauge opinion on the proposals and to provide an opportunity for comment. Visitors to the public exhibition were encouraged to complete a questionnaire and were offered the option to complete it at the exhibition or return it at a later date.
- 3.2.18 To view the questionnaire, please see Appendix D.

Publicity/Press

3.2.19 The public exhibition was advertised in the Barnsley Independent, Barnsley Chronicle and Barnsley Gazette in the week running up to the initial public exhibitions on the following dates:

- **Barnsley Independent** – 27th February 2013
- **Barnsley Chronicle** – 22nd February 2013
- **Barnsley Gazette** – 22nd February 2013

3.2.20 A copy of the press advert is shown in Appendix E of this report.

3.2.21 A press release was issued to the Barnsley Independent, Barnsley Chronicle and the Barnsley Gazette.

Website

3.2.22 EDF ER developed a website specific to the Park Spring Wind Farm proposal, available at www.parkspringwindfarm.co.uk. The dedicated website includes details of the proposal and information pertaining to the public consultation events.

3.2.23 The information available at the public events, including the exhibition displays and a selection of photomontages were added to the website following the public exhibitions to enable anyone unable to attend the consultation events to view the information available.

3.2.24 The questionnaire which was circulated during the public exhibitions was also uploaded to the website in order for people unable to attend the events to inform EDF ER of their opinions. EDF ER contact details were also made available on the website in order for the public to provide feedback or request further information.

4 RESULTS FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION**4.1 Public response**

4.1.1 The three public exhibitions held were well attended, with questionnaires completed by many of the attendees. Attendance at the events was noted as follows:

- a. Great Houghton and Little Houghton – 65 attendees, with 56 questionnaire responses; and
- b. Grimethorpe – 29 attendees, with 23 questionnaire responses.

4.1.2 Following the public exhibitions, one further questionnaire response has been received by EDF Energy Renewables, resulting in a total of 80 completed questionnaire responses.

4.1.3 The EDF team at the public exhibition events encouraged every attendee to complete a questionnaire, this is reflected in the high questionnaire response rate (80 out of 94, 85%). It was observed at the exhibitions that various couples attending the exhibition events filled out one form, rather than separate responses.

4.1.4 The following is a summary of the feedback received during the public consultation process.

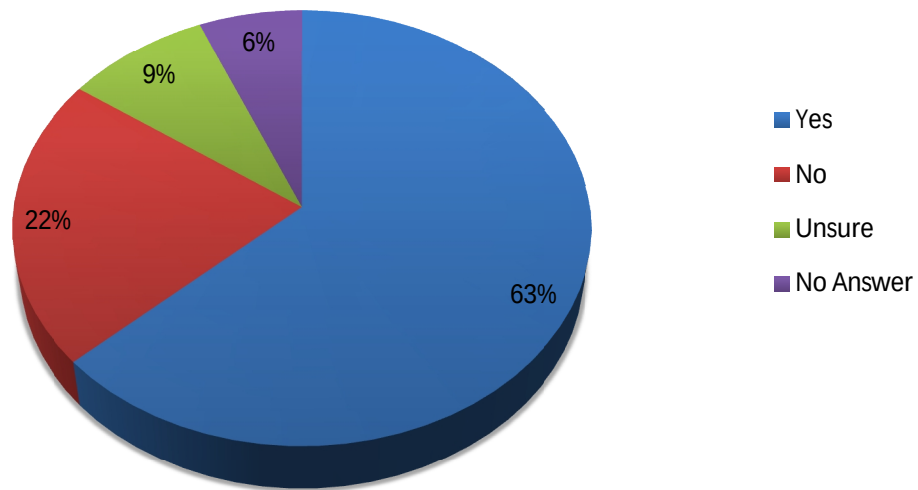
4.2 Questionnaire responses

4.2.1 Questions relating to the proposed wind farm at Park Spring were contained in section 3 of the questionnaire. The preceding two questions asked respondents to comment on how useful they felt the exhibition had been in helping their understanding of the proposals, to provide details about themselves and disclose membership of any group of community organisation. Analysis and graphs relating to these areas are detailed towards the end of this section.

4.2.2 The following analysis will focus on local opinion on the Park Spring Wind Farm proposal.

Local opinion on climate change and renewable energy

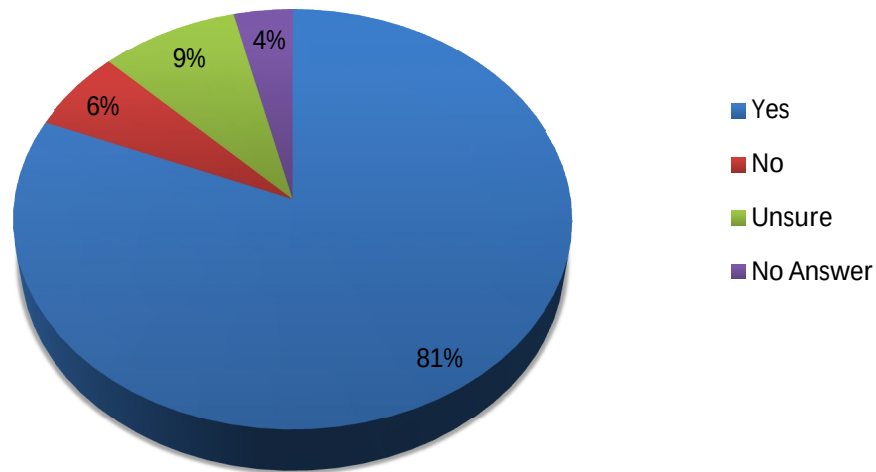
Are you concerned about the potential effects of climate change?



4.2.3 It is clear from the results that the majority of respondents are concerned about climate change.

4.2.4 74 respondents answered this question, with the majority (63%) stating that they were concerned about the potential effects of climate change. 22% replied stating that they were not concerned about this issue and seven people were unsure how they felt about it. Five people (6% of respondents) chose not to answer this question.

Do you support the generation of renewable energy in the UK?

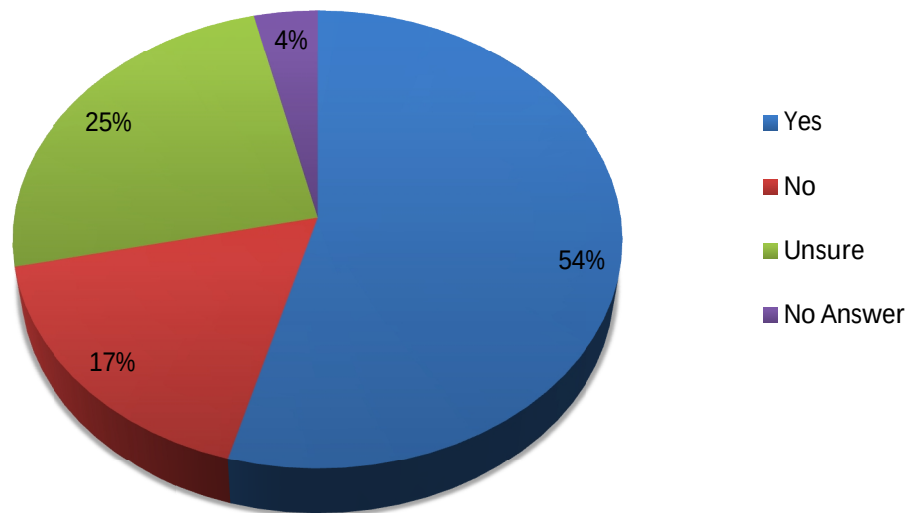


4.2.5

This question received a strong response and high level of support, with 81% of the respondents stating that they do support renewable energy generation in the UK. A small minority (5 people) do not support renewable energy in the UK and 9% were unsure. Three people (4%) chose not to answer this question.

Local opinion about onshore wind farms

Do you support the development of onshore wind farms?



4.2.6

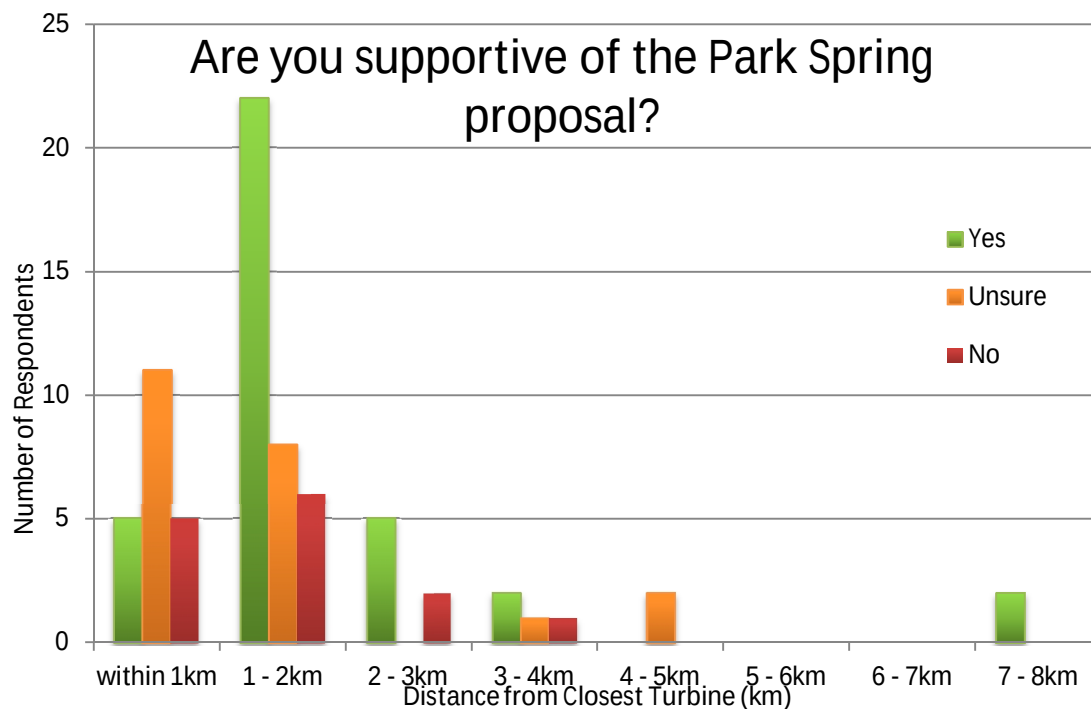
Just over half of respondents (54%) were supportive of onshore wind farm developments, and 25% of people questioned were unsure of their opinion. 14 respondents were opposed to the development of onshore wind farms. Three people (4%) chose to leave this question unanswered.

Local opinion about the proposed site

Are you supportive of the Park Spring proposal?



- 4.2.7 The chart above shows all responses received on this question. Of the responses, the largest category (46%) were supportive of the Park Spring Wind Farm proposal, with the next highest group of people (31%) unsure about the proposal. 14 people who answered were not supportive of the proposal and four people (5%) did not answer the question.
- 4.2.8 If these results are analysed in more detail, it is clear that the results vary depending on where the respondent lives, with residents located within 1-2km of the proposed development being the most supportive.



- 4.2.9 As is to be expected, a large proportion of responses (94%) were from local residents living within 5km of the site and most likely to be impacted by the proposal.
- 4.2.10 Respondents living closest to the proposal are the most unsure about the development, with equal numbers responding yes and no. Residents located within 1-2km from the development were the most supportive (30%), and also the most opposed (8%), to the proposal.
- 4.2.11 Appendix F shows the location of people who attended the public exhibitions and maps their opinions. The map shows that an overwhelming majority of Grimethorpe residents who completed a questionnaire form are supportive of the application, despite living within 3km of the site. Opinion within Great Houghton and Little Houghton remains divided, but proximity to the proposed does not dictate opinion either way.

4.3 Comments on the scheme from the general public

4.3.1 Questionnaire respondents were given an opportunity to comment generally on the proposals, or to suggest any questions that they felt had not been addressed by the public exhibition. Of the 80 questionnaires completed, 41 respondents chose not to add any further comments.

4.3.2 Of those that did provide comments, the main issues raised were as follows:

On Renewable Energy

- “This has been an energy producing area for a long time. From fossil fuels it will now become renewable ‘fuel’ and much cleaner than the past.”
- “I question the effectiveness of wind turbines.”
- “Fully support Energy Renewables and wind energy.”
- “I can see no local benefits (national energy is another issue – but I do not believe wind farms are efficient and think there are other ways to go).”
- “Supportive as long as the development remains at 3 turbines and are well maintained and kept safe.”
- “It is necessary to find sources of energy alternative to traditional means, which eventually will dry up. This is an acceptable alternative in my view.”
- “According to normal public comment, we don’t want power stations using fossil fuels, nuclear, gas or wind generation, but we still want the lights on and use all our electric consuming [items]. Something positive has got to be done and I think wind farms are the least obtrusive and a clean way of generating electricity.”
- “The question here is why can’t the wind farms work at higher wind speed as many turbines generated by gas, water can operated higher speed. Otherwise at up to 30% efficiencies then the rest of the 70% is [a] waste of money as in any organisation that operates at 30% productivity will be deem to failed which is rather sad for the present technology advances that we have now, should be able to sort this out. ...I am happy for wind farm to be use but there must be better ways of getting them right for the future and importantly present time where everybody is afraid of increasing heating bills.” (*sic*)

Ecology and Ornithology

- “I have seen rabbits, birds, foxes and even snakes up there [Park Lane].”
- “Very concerned about the level of bird surveys undertaken. Golden Plover in this area exceed national and international threshold levels. At night and during poor visibility, there could be huge bird strikes here.”
- “Concerned about geese flying over from Grimethorpe Dell to Wath.”

Cumulative Impacts

- “We already have several [turbines] in view at Penistone and new ones at Marr. I think that is more than enough for one area.”

Landscape and Visual Impact

- “Concerned that from my home the wind turbines look unsightly – spoil my view.”
- “I am concerned about the visual impact on the landscape. I am concerned about the possible proliferation of wind turbines on our landscape.”
- “I would like further details of...the visibility of the masts as if I was stood on Park Lane looking towards them.”
- “There were no view points, photos or diagrams explaining view from Little Houghton or Middlecliffe.”
- “Concerned over visual impairment.”
- “You have my total support, taking care not to install in close proximity of residents homes.”

Proximity to property and local impact

- “I am concerned about the effects on property prices.”
- “If communities benefit financially from it then it's fine.”
- “If built this wind farm will be too close to Great Houghton. It will be too loud and too high from the village, it should not go ahead.”
- “Concerns about...effect on property values.”
- “My suggestion is some financial incentive for the residents within ‘?’ distance of the wind turbines if they have EDF as their energy supplier. Also money fed back to the Council should be to local Councils and put into environmental projects for conservation etc.”
- “My only concerns are the views from my property and whether it will impact on house prices in the area.”
- “I would like to understand what will be ‘given’ to the area in exchange for the turbines being sited here.”

Noise

- “Concerned that under certain weather conditions I will hear the noise.”
- “Main concern is the generation of noise when the wind blows in the direction of the Crabtree Grange housing estate.”
- “I am concerned about the noise of these turbines as I live at the top end of Little Houghton and my house looks out over the fields where they will be built.”
- “We have had the noise from open cast mining over the years and are to be subjected to more noise from these.”
- “Concerns about noise levels.”
- “I would like further details of wind noise...”
- “I am going to stand 800 metres for the wind farm at Marr to hear the noise generated as this is approximately the distance from the front of my house.”
- “Concerned over noise pollution.”

- “I am also concerned about noise levels.”

Traffic and Access

- “Access road unsuitable for many reasons.”
- “Using Park Lane as access to work site is my big objection. Traffic would be a big risk as I have children who play on Park Lane, so this has to be re-addressed.”
- “Unsure about access via Park Lane.”
- “Access road unsuitable off Park Lane.”
- “I would not like Park Lane to be used as access road for planned work.”
- “...I object to using Park Lane as access...it is not wide enough for lorries...I am totally against Park Lane, it would be too dangerous.”
- “Access through Great Houghton is not a good idea. Park Lane is totally unsuitable – very narrow and access to cemetery for funerals is required. Part of Park Lane is a bridleway not a road. Speed humps etc would cause great problems.”
- “T1 seems to be overlapping a pathway round the staks.” (*sic*)

Health

- “Concerns about...health.”

General

- “Given my further info on potential impact which has actually strengthened my opposition to the proposals.”
- “Positive – clear information. Informed staff. Interest [*sic*] talking to others in Community.”
- “As I understand we will only have 3 so as far as this goes, I have no objections.”
- “I would prefer that the windmills had a larger output.”
- “Not happy. I have read many articles, not convinced”.
- “...I also question the obvious benefits to the landowner.”
- “Information provided for site location, topography, constraints, images.”
- “Clarified noise, environment issues and visual.”
- “Unsure.”
- “I’m a resident of Grimethorpe since 1956. In the days of two coal mines, power station, gas station. When it was difficult to breathe fresh air, during damp conditions i.e. rain/fog, you only had to stand with your arm out wide to catch handfuls of soot from the atmosphere. Long life was not an experience enjoyed by many.”

4.4 Analysis of the questionnaire respondents

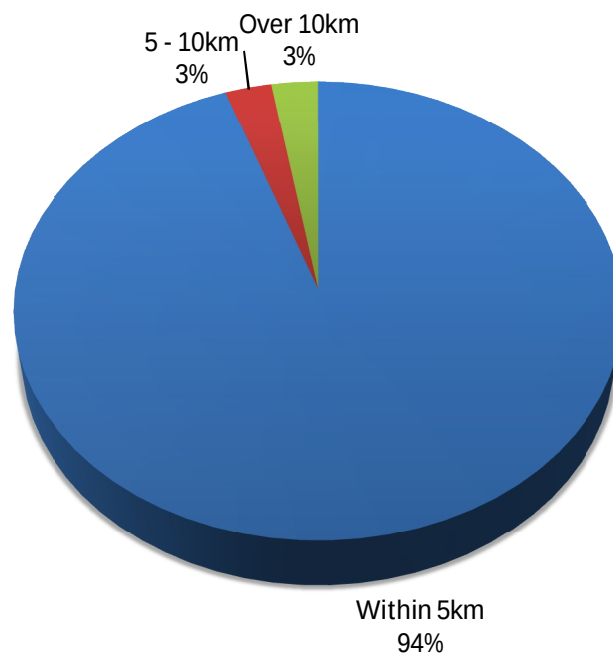
4.4.1 The questionnaire asked for a range of personal details to enable a picture of the population of questionnaire respondents to be built up, enabling more in depth analysis of the results.

Location

4.4.2 For the purposes of the public consultation, postcodes provided in completed questionnaires were used to group respondents into the following categories:

- Those that may be immediately affected by the proposal and live within 5km of the site;
- Local residents that live within 10km of the site but more than 5km away; and
- Local residents that live more than 10km from the site.

Chart showing location of respondents in relation to site



4.4.3 It is clear from the graph above that the majority of questionnaires (94%) returned were from local residents within 5km of the site. This would be expected as these are the people who would be most impacted by the proposals and are therefore likely to be most interested in engaging in the consultation process.

Age of respondents

4.4.4 A large proportion of respondents (84%) were over the age of 50, which includes 65% over the age of 60. Only 9% of respondents were age 40 – 49 and a further 2.5% were age 30-39. No questionnaire respondents were under the age of 20 and 4% of those asked did not answer the question.

4.4.5 This age spread of the questionnaire respondents is not representative of the local population, with a large skew occurring towards the over 60s in particular.

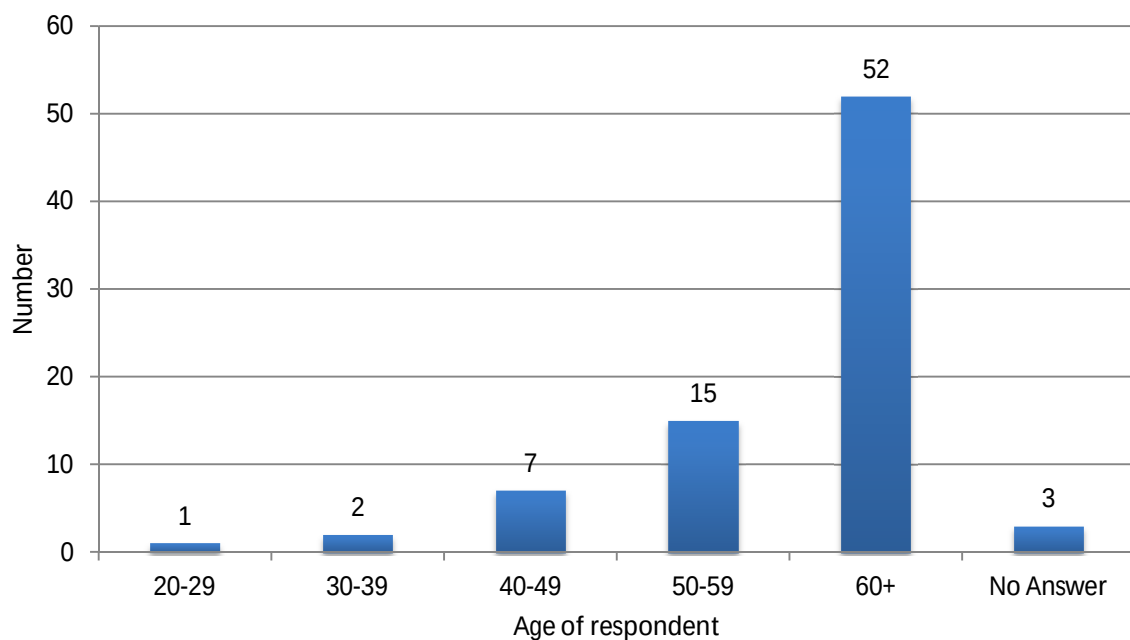
4.4.6 The actual population age statistics for Barnsley are as follows:

Age	Percentage of population
0-4	6.0
5-15	12.5
16-24	10.8
25-44	26.0
45-59	20.9
60-74	16.0
75+	7.8

(Source: 2011 Census, www.barnsley.gov.uk)

4.4.7 The low response from younger members of the population is a problem often experienced during public consultation exercises, due to the fact that younger people tend to be less engaged in local community issues.

How old are you?



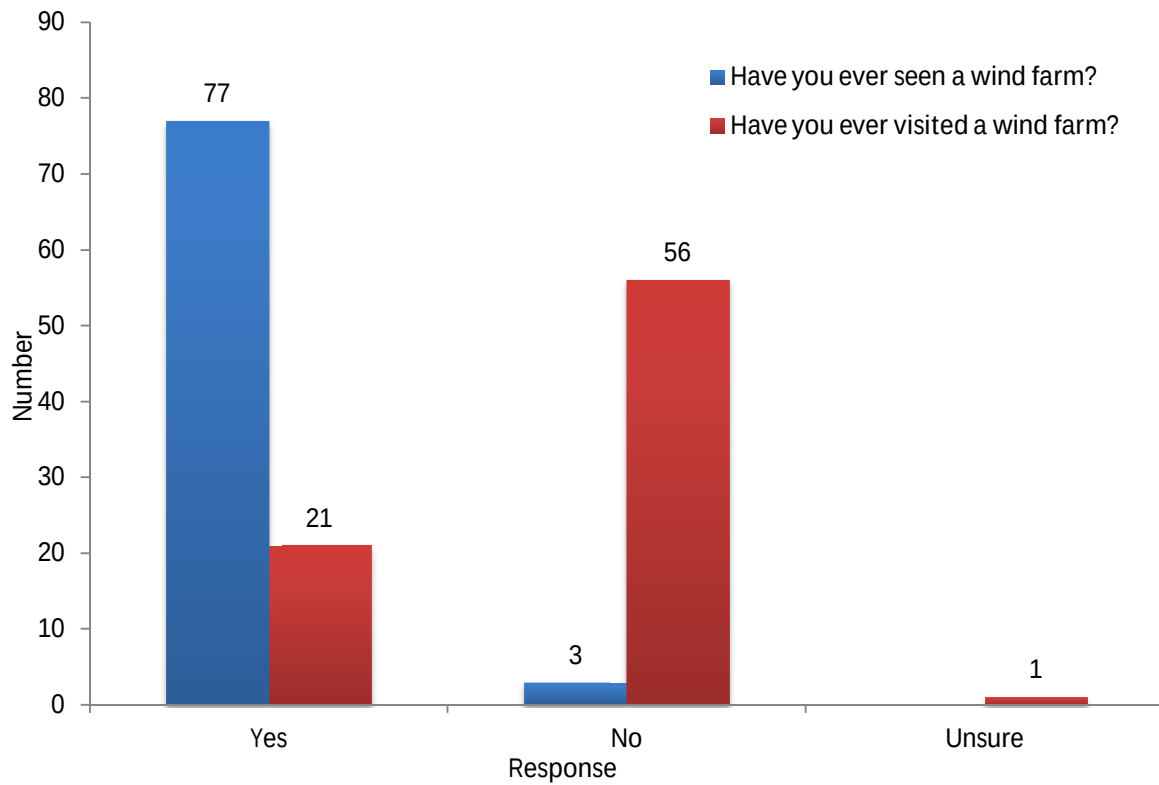
Awareness of wind farms

3e. Have you ever seen a wind farm?

3f. Have you ever visited a wind farm?

4.4.8

Question 3e was answered by 80 respondents, and question 3f by 78. The results show that the vast majority of people at the public exhibition are aware of how wind turbines look and have seen a fully operational wind farm, so are able to base their opinions on the proposal on their past experience of wind farms.

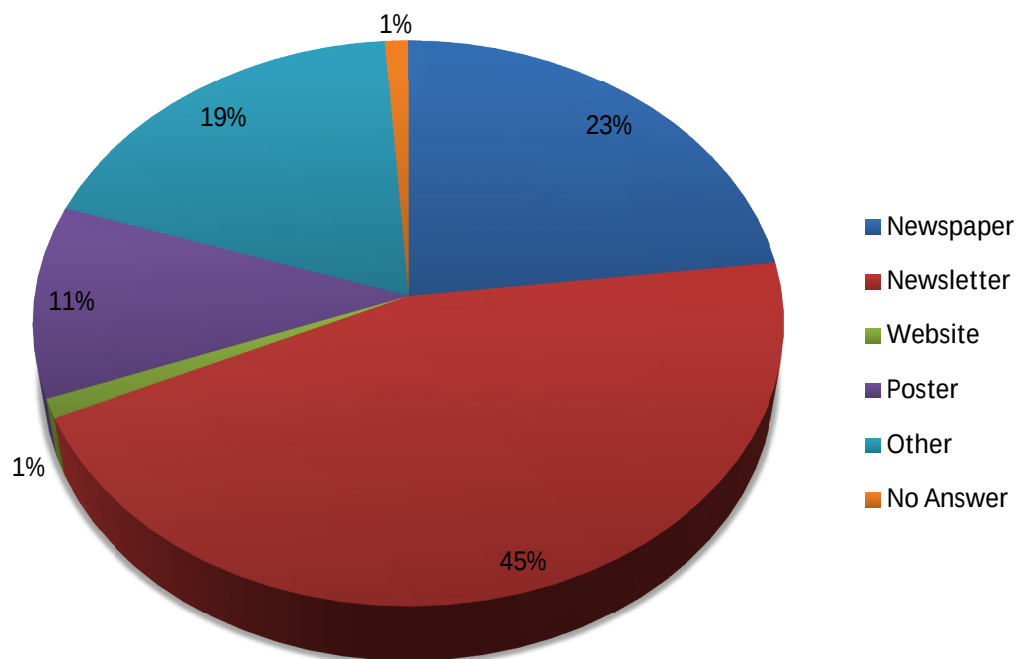


4.5 Analysis of the public consultation process

4.5.1 The questionnaire contained a number of questions in relation to the public consultation process to measure the success of the process and to highlight anyway the process could be improved.

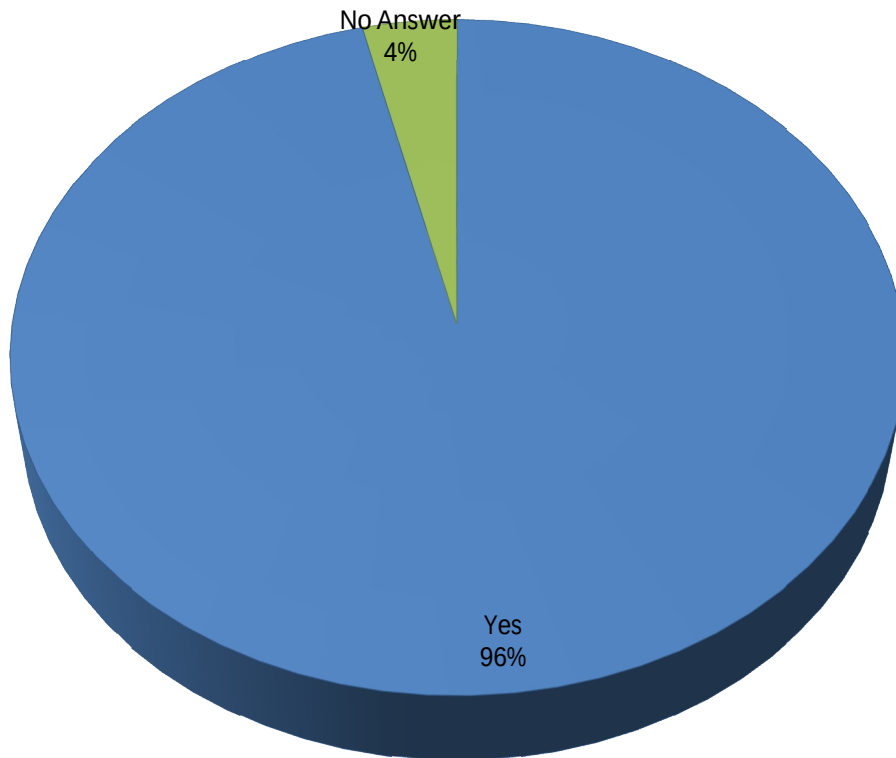
Question 1: The exhibition

a. Where did you find out about the wind farm exhibition?



4.5.2 The results of this question show that most respondents learnt about the public exhibition through the newsletters delivered to local residents. A similar number of respondents learnt about the exhibition from local newspapers and by other means, such as word of mouth.

b. Has the exhibition been useful and informative?



4.5.3 All 77 people that answered this question believed the exhibition to be useful and informative. Three people left the question blank and no-one said they did not find the exhibition useful.

4.5.4 Overall, the results demonstrate that the mix of advertising methods used for the public exhibition including the newspaper adverts and newsletter sent to local houses were successful in generating awareness within the local population of the wind farm proposals, and a very high percentage of people who chose to attend the public exhibition found it helpful and informative.

5 RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

5.1.1 During the initial public exhibitions held at Little Houghton and Great Houghton it was apparent that the proposed access route as displayed was not liked by local residents. The initial access route was A1(M) – A636 – A6195 – B6273 (Rotherham Road) – Park Lane. This access route went through a residential area, Great Houghton. Following the initial public exhibitions, consultation was undertaken with BMBC highways department and an EDF ER site visit was carried out to investigate alternative access routes. Following the investigation into alternative access routes, the access route as proposed in the Environmental Statement was developed. This amended access route was discussed in the second follow up newsletter, and was presented at the third public exhibition held in Grimethorpe.

5.1.2 Throughout the consultation process, a number of key issues were raised. The following summary focuses on EDF ER's response to these concerns, as well as a number of general questions in relation to wind farm developments. Where possible, these and other relevant issues are addressed in the formal Environmental Statement which is also available for public viewing.

Key Issues	Developer's Response
Number of turbines: Can the number of turbines be decreased?	The objective is to maximise the generation from the land available after taking into account the constraints, including overhead lines, public rights of way, microwave links, visual impact and residential properties etc, have been investigated. EDF ER's studies conclude that the site is of a suitable size for three wind turbines and have purposefully not overcrowded the site.
Design: Can the height of the turbines be reduced? Could there be more, smaller turbines?	The objective of the wind farm is to optimise the electricity generation from the land area available. The feedback we receive with regards to our existing wind farms is that fewer taller turbines are preferred to many smaller ones which require a greater site footprint to produce the same amount of electricity.

Location:

Have EDF ER considered other local sites?

We, like any renewable energy developer, are constantly looking at potential sites across the country. We currently consider the Park Spring site to be an optimum location for a wind farm.

Can the turbines be built offshore?

The Government's strategy for renewable generation is not confined to onshore projects – the plan is to utilise all resources including offshore wind, solar, wave, tidal and biomass. EDF ER has recently constructed a 27 turbine offshore wind farm at Teesside and are currently jointly developing a large wind farm in the English Channel.

Concerns about cumulative impact with Penistone and Marr.

A cumulative impact assessment of the Penistone and Marr developments has been undertaken, which also takes into consideration all developments within 20km of the Park Spring proposal. This assessment forms part of the information provided within the planning application.

Local impact: Will the wind turbines cause local health problems (sleep deprivation, etc.)?	All implications and effects are considered and assessed in arriving at the optimum layout of the wind farm and covered in the planning application. There is no irrefutable scientific evidence of any adverse health effect caused by wind turbines.
Will local residents be negatively affected by shadow flicker?	The potential impact of shadow flicker is assessed in the Environmental Statement, and mitigation is available if shadow flicker is found to be an issue. Shadow flicker is the impact experienced during daylight hours when the sun is in certain positions which results in moving shadows cast by the rotating blades of the turbines. Properties over 920m away should be unaffected and, because of the ability to predict the sun's position at anytime, there is well developed computer controlled mitigation which can be used to stop the turbines should it be necessary.
Could the energy produced be used locally to maximise efficiency?	The output will go into the UK grid system because this is the most efficient way of balancing national supply and demand. It is however anticipated that the electricity generated would be fed into a local substation which would supply local energy demands.
How and where will the turbines be connected to the national grid?	EDF ER has undertaken consultation with the local grid operator to determine a likely connection point, which has been identified as Houghton Main substation.
Will the wind farm devalue people's properties and will EDF Energy Renewables provide any compensation for this?	There are differing views on the impacts of a wind farm development upon house prices. Surveys show that there may be a difference in house prices between when proposal are first made publicly available and after a wind farm is built.. As with most types of development there are no provisions in the planning system for the payment of compensation for any impacts of wind energy development.
Will the turbines interfere with TV and mobile phone reception?	The impact of the development upon TV and mobile phone reception has been assessed in the Environmental Statement, with results showing that there will be no significant effects. EDF ER will be required through a Planning Condition to rectify any TV interference caused by the wind farm. Mobile phones do not receive signals from the same sources and therefore would not be affected

Noise: How noisy will the turbines be? Can you guarantee local residents will not be adversely impacted by noise from the turbines?	The site layout and design takes into account factors such as noise in order that the turbines do not exceed the levels permitted if the application is successful. As part of the development process, EDF ER needs to satisfy BMBC that the wind farm would comply with noise guidelines known as ETSU R 97. Formal noise surveys have been carried out. This includes monitoring in nearby residential properties and at other representative site locations as agreed with the Environmental Health Officer at Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The background noise monitoring was used in noise modelling within the Environmental Statement to ensure that the proposed turbines will not create a noise nuisance.
Community benefits: Will local residents be compensated in any way if the wind farm gets the go ahead?	In keeping with Government advice and EDF ER's standard practice, a community fund will be set up for the Park Spring wind farm which will commence once the wind farm is operational
Renewable energy: Could a different type of renewable energy scheme be considered, such as a solar farm? Could a more reliable and constant form of energy generation technology be used?	EDF ER is interested in diversity of supply and photovoltaic is one such technology. This site has been selected as a suitable one for a wind farm because of the site characteristics such as the wind speed and terrain. Diversity of supply from all sources is essential and wind power generation has been identified as one of the best uses of this site.

Environment: Will the wind farm adversely affect local wildlife, particularly birds and bats? I have seen rabbits, birds, foxes and even snakes on Park Lane. Concerns about the level of bird surveys undertaken, especially relating to Golden Plover and geese. Will the wind farm leave lasting environmental damage when it has been decommissioned?	The Environmental Statement includes the result of work undertaken by EDF ER specialist consultants. The report details potential impacts the wind farm could have on wildlife and the appropriate mitigation measures being implemented by EDF ER Full ecology surveys have been undertaken at the site to assess wildlife activity in the area. The results of these surveys and any mitigation measures necessary to protect such wildlife to be implemented are detailed within the Environmental Statement which is submitted alongside the planning application. Full ornithology surveys, including surveys to assess Golden Plover and geese activity have been undertaken at, and around, the site. The results of these surveys are contained within the Environmental Statement and provide a comprehensive study on bird species in the area. The turbines will be removed and restoration work will be carried out so the impact is minimised.
Access: Park Lane is unsuitable for access to the site.	Access to the site was the most commonly questioned item during public consultation. EDF ER has reviewed the access as a result of the comments received and access to the site will no longer be through the use of Park Lane. Instead, access to the site will be from Park Spring Road and specific details about the access arrangements are detailed within the Environmental Statement.
Landscape and Visual: What will the visibility of the turbines be from Park Lane? There were no photographs at the consultation showing the view from Little Houghton or Middlecliffe.	Photomontages have been produced showing the visibility of the turbines from Park Lane. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is included within the Environmental Statement. EDF ER has produced a range of photomontages from a number of representative viewpoints agreed with the LPA prior to the Public Exhibition. These are included in the Environmental Statement.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 EDF ER has undertaken considerable pre-application public consultation in line with Central Government and Local Authority guidance.
- 6.1.2 The public consultation campaign engaged with the local community to give stakeholders every opportunity to contribute to the plans for the development of the proposed wind farm.
- 6.1.3 It is clear from the questionnaire responses that local concern does exist about the proposal, although it was found that there is a large amount of support for the scheme, particularly from residents within 2km of the site.
- 6.1.4 The over 60s represented the largest proportion of respondents. The low response from younger member of the population is often a feature of public consultation exercises, reflecting the difficulty in engaging this age group in local community issues. For these reasons, the age spread of attendance at the public exhibitions is not representative of the local population, with a large skew towards older generations.
- 6.1.5 Where concerns have been raised over specific aspects of the scheme, the proposal has been reviewed. EDF ER has sought to respond positively to feedback wherever possible.
- 6.1.6 As mentioned in Section 5 of this report, EDF ER has responded to the main concerns by the local community and these matters are more fully addressed in the Environmental Statement.
- 6.1.7 Concerns were raised during the public consultation process relating to the proposed access to the site along Park Lane, Great Houghton. Following receipt of these concerns, EDF ER has redesigned the access to the site, in consultation with BMBC, and this will now be from Park Spring Road.
- 6.1.8 EDF believe the final proposal offers a balance between the concerns of those residents living closest to the site who will be most affected by the plans and the widely recognised need for new low carbon energy sources to help meet the challenge of climate change, diminishing fossil fuel reserves and other future energy supply problems.
- 6.1.9 EDF ER will continue to engage with the local community as the application progresses and, if appropriate, will consult with local stakeholders on the provision of future community benefits.

APPENDIX A: KEY STAKEHOLDERS

APPENDIX A

Key stakeholder groups included in the consultation

WARD	COUNCILLORS
Ward Councillors - Barnsley	
Darfield	Brian Key
	Pauline Markham
	Caroline Saunders
Wombwell	Denise Wilde
	Richard Wraith
	Margaret Morgan
Stairfoot	Brian Mathers
	Wayne Johnson
	Karen Dyson
Monk Bretton	Margaret Sheard
	Steve Green
	Ken Richardson
Cudworth	Stephen Houghton
	Charlie Wraith
	Joe Hayward
North East	Jeff Ennis
	Dave North
	Dorothy Higginbottom
Dearne North	Janice Hancock
	Jennifer Worton
	Alan Gardiner
Dearne South	May Noble
	Sharron Brook
	Ralph Sixsmith

Ward Councillors - Rotherham	
Hoover	Jane Hamilton
	David Roche
	Brian Steele
Wath	Alan Atkin
	Alan Gosling
	Alex Sangster
Ward Councillors – Doncaster	
Sprotbrough	Cynthia Ransome
	Jonathan Wood
	Doreen Woodhouse
Ward Councillors - Wakefield	
South Elmsall and South Kirkby	Michelle Collins
	Laurie Harrison
	Steve Tulley

CIVIL PARISH	CLERK
Parish Councillors - Barnsley	
Little Houghton	Mrs J James
Great Houghton	Mr B Housley
Billingley	Angela Fawcett
Brierley	Mike Gibbs

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC EXHIBITION NEWSLETTERS

Some questions answered:

What are the benefits to the local community?

The wind farm would generate low carbon electricity which would be fed into the local electricity network and provide enough electricity to supply approximately 3,000 homes annually.*

EDF Energy Renewables always tries where practical to use local contractors to assist in the construction of our wind farms to ensure that there are local employment opportunities during the construction period. This could mean valuable local contracts being placed.

Once the wind farm is operational, a dedicated community fund based on an agreed annual contribution from EDF Energy Renewables will be set up to support a range of local activities and community projects.

How can we make our views known on the proposals?

Questionnaires will be available at the public consultation events for your completion. An online version of the questionnaire is also available at www.parkspringwindfarm.co.uk. Your views will help to inform our proposals.

When the planning application has been submitted, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council will also be holding its own consultation. Copies of the planning application will be available for public viewing and any comments you make will be taken into account by the Council when the application is determined.

Public consultation

We are keen to understand the opinions and concerns of the local community, and would like to invite local residents or anyone else who might have an interest in these plans to attend our Community Consultation Days:

Friday March 1st , 1.00pm – 7.00pm

Sandhill Golf Club

Saturday March 2nd, 11.00am – 3.30pm

Great Houghton Welfare Hall

Further information:

www.edf-er.com

www.parkspringwindfarm.co.uk

Freephone 0800 0566650

* based upon information sourced from Digest of UK Energy Statistics and Department of Energy and Climate Change



Park Spring Wind Farm Proposal

Public consultation events

Friday 1st March

Sandhill Golf Club,
Little Houghton

1.00pm – 7.00pm

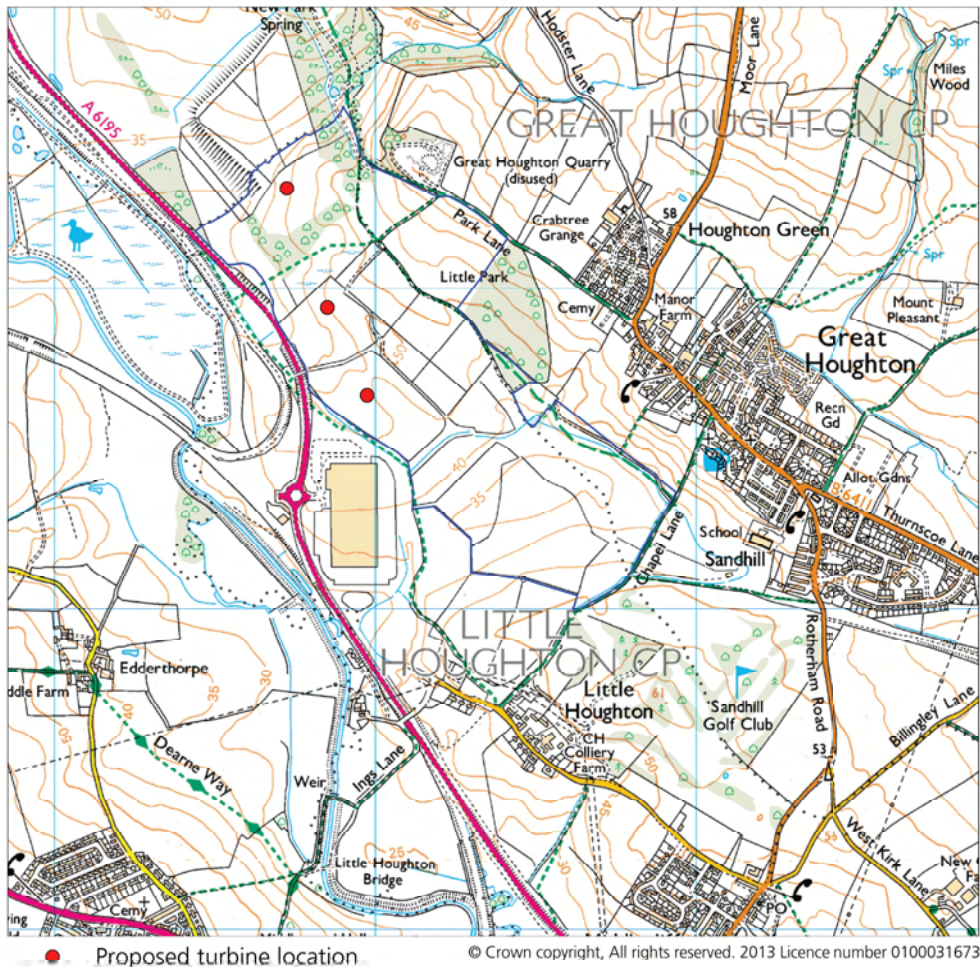
Saturday 2nd March

Great Houghton Welfare Hall,
Barnsley

11.00am – 3.30pm

Your chance to find out more about EDF Energy Renewables' proposal to establish a wind farm on a site located north west of Great Houghton in Barnsley.





The proposal

EDF Energy Renewables is investigating the potential for three turbines on a site to the north of Little Houghton, between the villages of Great Houghton and Grimethorpe, in Barnsley.

The location of the proposed turbines falls within the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council jurisdiction.

The scheme incorporating 3 turbines with a maximum height of 126.5m would have an installed capacity of circa 6MW and would supply the annual electricity requirements of approximately 3,000 homes.*

*based upon information sourced from Digest of UK Energy Statistics and Department of Energy and Climate Change

Your chance to find out more

As part of its consultation with the local community, EDF Energy Renewables is hosting these events to give everyone the opportunity to learn more about the proposals and provide feedback.

These events will give you the chance to see details of the proposal and discuss it with members of the development team. Your views are important to us and will help to inform our proposals.

EDF Energy Renewables and wind energy

A diverse energy mix is crucial to addressing climate change, ensuring security of supply and providing affordable electricity. EDF Energy Renewables is a key UK generator of renewable energy and during 2013 will have 25 wind farms in operation with a capacity of 525MW.

Wind power is a sustainable low carbon source of energy. The Government recognises the many benefits of green energy and is supporting the growth of renewable generation. Onshore wind is making a significant contribution towards the aspiration to deliver 30% of our electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2020.

What happens next?

The forthcoming public consultation process will enable local residents and stakeholders to provide feedback on our plans before they are submitted to the council.

EDF ER have submitted an initial scoping document, which is a way of agreeing the contents of our planning application, to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. We will then compile our Environmental Impact Assessment which will accompany the planning application for the wind farm. When this is complete we should be in a position to submit our planning application sometime later this year. If the local council grants planning permission, then it is expected that the wind farm would be constructed in 2015.

Some questions answered:

What are the benefits to the local community?

The wind farm would generate low carbon electricity which would be fed into the local electricity network and provide enough electricity to supply approximately 3,000 homes annually.*

EDF Energy Renewables always tries where practical to use local contractors to assist in the construction of our wind farms to ensure that there are local employment opportunities during the construction period. This could mean valuable local contracts being placed.

Once the wind farm is operational, a dedicated community fund based on an agreed annual contribution from EDF Energy Renewables will be set up to support a range of local activities and community projects.

How can we make our views known on the proposals?

Questionnaires will be available at the public consultation events for your completion. An online version of the questionnaire is also available at www.parkspringwindfarm.co.uk. Your views will help to inform our proposals.

When the planning application has been submitted, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council will also be holding its own consultation. Copies of the planning application will be available for public viewing and any comments you make will be taken into account by the Council when the application is determined.

Public consultation

We are keen to understand the opinions and concerns of the local community, and would like to invite local residents or anyone else who might have an interest in these plans to attend the third Community Consultation Day:

Friday April 26th , 11.00am – 7.00pm
Welfare Hall, Grimethorpe

Further information:

www.edf-er.com

www.parkspringwindfarm.co.uk

Freephone 0800 0566650

* based upon information sourced from Digest of UK Energy Statistics and Department of Energy and Climate Change



Park Spring Wind Farm Proposal

Public consultation event and project update

Friday 26th April

Welfare Hall,
Welfare Park,
Off Clear View,
Grimethorpe,
Barnsley.
S72 7HD
11.00am – 7.00pm

Your chance to find out more about
EDF Energy Renewables' proposal to
establish a wind farm on a site located
north west of Great Houghton in Barnsley.

