



BLOT press release 3/11/2015

- BLOT are delighted the Whirlwind application for 6 x 110 metre wind turbines in the Vale of Belvoir has been refused planning permission under delegated officer powers by South Kesteven District Council.
- The 6 turbines "Sewstern Lane" scheme was to be on exactly the same site as a previous wind farm application (Thacksons Well), which was dismissed at appeal in 2008. In 2010 another wind farm (Palmer's Hollow) was also dismissed at appeal in the neighbouring fields.
- It was clear from the outset the Sewstern Lane application had little hope of being granted planning permission and we are thrilled the Council agreed and have written an excellent report which plainly lays out strong reasons for refusal.
- BLOT are pleased this was a delegated refusal, rather than going to full planning committee, because it has saved ratepayers and Council money.
- Over a dozen Parish Councils objected along with many local people.
- The neighbouring authorities of Newark and Sherwood District Council plus Rushcliffe Borough Council highlighted serious concerns over the Sewstern Lane proposal. While Melton Borough Council, with turbines being within fall-over of their boundary, objected.
- BLOT submitted new evidence on heritage and landscape which has strengthened this refusal.
- Independent noise experts commissioned by SKDC stated; *"It is considered that the development of the wind farm will result in adverse effect, particularly at night time, and that this specifically relates to loss of respite in terms of protected amenity spaces and freedom from noise."*
- Since the two previous dismissed appeals Government policy has strengthened protection for heritage, landscape character and now local communities have the final say.
- The SKDC Officer's report concludes: *"The proposal would result in considerable and extensive harm to the landscape character, visual amenity, and the setting of numerous heritage assets in the area." "Furthermore, it is considered that the planning concerns of local people have not been addressed and therefore, the proposal does not have the public backing contrary to the NPPG and Written Ministerial Statement (18 June 2015)".*
- BLOT highlighted additional concerns and inadequacies with the application not included, however the overall SKDC report is still very strong. We believe it would be unreasonable if Whirlwind were to appeal this decision.
- If an appeal were to be lodged, BLOT would register to be a Rule 6 party and encourage the Council to apply for costs against the developer. Further to this we would lobby our MPs for the appeal to be called in by Secretary of State.
- This is the third attempt by three different developers, in two neighbouring Local Authorities, to impose a wind farm in this part of the Vale of Belvoir. Both previous applications have been dismissed at appeal.

- ‘Three strikes and you are out.’ BLOT believes once similar major planning applications have been refused three times or more, this should waiver an applicant’s ability to appeal the decision.
- BLOT call on Whirlwind to do the decent thing and inform the local communities, their harassment will not continue, by confirming they will not challenge SKDC’s exceptionally strong refusal.

End

Belvoir Locals Oppose Turbines (BLOT) Background

2007

BLOT was formed to fight the 10 wind turbine Thackson’s Well wind farm (TW) planning application proposed by the developer Infinergy

Residents of neighbouring Villages in three Counties (Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire) surrounding the site formed the initial support.

2008

BLOT lobbied and won the refusal of the TW scheme by the local authority South Kesteven District Council SKDC.

The refusal was appealed by Infinergy and BLOT represented locals at the TW Public Inquiry as a “Rule 6 party”

Following the Inquiry, Inspector Lavender dismissed the TW appeal by Infinergy

Thackson’s Well wind farm reference APP/E2530/A/08/2073384

Shortly after the TW appeal was dismissed a second application was put in to Melton Borough Council MBC only a field away.

This was known as the “Palmer’s Hollow” wind farm (PH) with 8 turbines proposed by the developer Ridgewind.

2009

For a second time BLOT lobbied and won a refusal of the PH scheme from the local authority Melton Borough Council MBC.

2010

The refusal was appealed by Ridgewind and a second Public Inquiry for the PH appeal was held with BLOT representing locals as a “Rule 6 party”

Following the Inquiry, Inspector Frost dismissed the PH appeal by Ridgewind. Palmers Hollow wind farm reference APP/Y2430/A/09/2108595

2012 to 2015

Single turbine planning applications

Following the two major appeals above; BLOT campaigned against individual turbine applications in Marston and Foston in Lincolnshire as well as Easthorpe (Bottesford) in Leicestershire.

The Lincolnshire turbine proposals were both refused by the local planning authority, South Kesteven district Council.

The Leicestershire turbine proposal (Melton Borough Council) was first called in by the Secretary of State and then a second application subsequently withdrawn, following the completion of the "Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Sensitivity Study: Wind Energy Development".

Of these individual turbine applications, only the turbine near Marston was consented by a Planning Inspector following a written appeal.

2015

BLOT collated and submitted a detailed objection to the Whirlwind Renewables proposal for six 110 m wind turbines on the original Thacksons Well site.