

**LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
1 KINGSTON BARNYARD
WINTERBORNE KINGSTON
BLANDFORD FORUM
DT11 9FG**

Tel: 01929 472724

3 September 2014

North Dorset District Council
Development Services Area South
Nordon
Salisbury Road
BLANDFORD FORUM
Dorset DT11 7LL

Dear Sirs

PLANNING APPLICATION REF 2/2014/0768/PAEIA

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 September 2014 the Parish Council objected to this application for the following reasons.

1. The development would have a significant detrimental effect on the landscape in an area very close to the AONB. The height of the proposed turbines will be grossly intrusive not only in the immediate area of Winterborne Whitechurch but within a radius of several miles. We understand that they will be approximately twice the height of the single turbine at Bere Regis.
2. Adverse cumulative impacts are likely to arise as a result of the proximity of other approved or proposed turbines at the Roger's Hill, Alaska, Slyer's Lane and West Dorset wind farms.
3. Social amenity would be adversely affected through reduced enjoyment of the footpath running through the site and others nearby.
4. The settings and visual appreciation of heritage assets would be adversely affected, ie the Winterborne Whitechurch Conservation Area and Grade 1 listed church and the seven other Grade 1 listed buildings within three miles, including several in this parish, notably St Andrew's, Winterborne Tomson.
5. The Dorset branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England has also recently calculated that North Dorset DC has already exceeded its 2020 Renewable Energy target by 14% due to the number of solar farms approved or where a decision is pending, and this does not include other renewables, such as biomass. There is therefore no need for a hugely damaging wind farm to be approved at all.

6. Local experience is that the one turbine at Bere Regis produces an intrusive level of noise when it is working. It was thought that this was measured as 20dBA. The developer has estimated that the noise level of the proposed 4 turbines would be 40 - 42 dBA. Not only will this be a nuisance to residents but we understand that there are studies which suggest that there can be resulting health issues as well.
7. Strong strobe effects can be experienced when the turbines are turning and this could be dangerous for motorists driving on nearby roads.
8. It is estimated that the foundations of each turbine would require some 2000 tonnes of concrete and given recent experience of flooding in Winterborne Kingston in 2013/14 there is concern about the effect that this might have on the flow of the River Winterborne.
9. We have concerns about the effect on property values and difficulty in selling nearby properties.
10. We question the efficiency of such installations but that is, primarily, a matter for the developer and operator. However, we understand that as wind turbines will only produce electricity in favourable wind conditions a back-up system will be required thus reducing the economic benefit further.
11. If it is the case that generally such turbines have an operating life of 15 years or so what guarantee is there that these huge structures will be dismantled after their useful life? It seems more likely that they will remain as a permanent blot on the landscape whilst fulfilling no purpose.

Please note that this letter comes from Lower Winterborne Parish Council. Your office sent 3 sets of correspondence concerning this planning application to Winterborne Kingston, Anderson and Winterborne Zelston Parish Councils. These 3 Parish Councils were grouped together some years ago to form Lower Winterborne Parish Council. We wish to ensure that your system correctly shows LWPC to be the relevant local authority. I have asked our Parish Clerk to write to you separately concerning this.

Yours faithfully

MRS D LEWIS
Parish Council Chairman

cc Hilary Cox, County Councillor
Emma Parker, District Councillor
Jane Somper, District Councillor

