

# Stop Linton Wind Farm



Dear Supporters

Last week the Public Inquiry heard the views and concerns of local residents. On Tuesday, over 35 people stood up and told the Inspectors why they object to the application. Only one person thought it should go ahead. The topics covered were the adverse effects of the turbines on landscape, cultural heritage, the peace and tranquillity of the area, the use of the PRoW and wildlife. Many people spoke passionately of their concerns for the children at the local schools, particularly the Granta, and their worries about the possible implications of sleep deprivation due to noise, as well as the potential for yet more tragedies on the A1307. Linton PC requested the opportunity to bring further information on statistics of accident rates on the A1307 to the Inquiry. The Inspectors agreed and, if necessary, an expert witness could appear in September to present this information.

The rest of the week was devoted to taking expert evidence on Ecology and Planning. Three expert witnesses from SCDC and Pampisford Estate informed the Inquiry that the turbines would be likely to harm protected species, bats in particular. Enertrag gave details of their methodology for monitoring bats and their movement but were heavily criticised for an inadequate assessment, which was said not to comply with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines.

Mike Barnard gave planning evidence for SLWF on Thursday and pointed out that the turbine spacing distances were smaller than the industry guidelines. Our assertion is that the turbines are spaced too close together, and this is likely to result in increased noise because they will be operating in a turbulent airstream. Who supports our view? None other than Enertrag! They wrote to object to a wind farm development adjacent to their site at N Pickenham because Amplitude Modulation is made more likely if the turbine separation distance is less than 6 to 7 turbine diameters. Another Enertrag own goal!

We learned late on Friday that the Cambridge Airport/MoD had withdrawn their objection, but NATS (UK Airspace Radar) maintain their aviation objection and evidence will be heard this week (Week 4) at Abington Hall. The session will start at 10.00 am on Wednesday 24 February. SLWF supports NATS in their objection, but this is a topic best left to the Experts. We will continue to have a presence and will give you a further update at the end of next week, the last session before the Inquiry adjourns. The Inquiry, which will resume in September to hear the impact of noise on the local people, will be held at the UDC offices in Saffron Walden.

The Inspectors will be carrying out an unaccompanied site inspection on Tuesday 23 February and accompanied site visits on Tuesday 2 March and Wednesday 3 March. Many of the places they will be visiting will be the viewpoints, and houses where noise recordings were taken. Weather permitting; SLWF will fly a blimp on both of the accompanied days.

We would like to thank everyone who has given their support at the Inquiry. The Inspectors cannot fail to have been impressed by the strength of feeling against the wind turbines expressed by the local people.

Regards

Dr Phil Harrison  
Chairman SLWF  
22 February 2010