

SEVEN PARISHES ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER - JULY 2013

Please find below, what we expect to be SPAG's final Newsletter. The committee now feel we have achieved as much as we possibly can after over 5 years of effort.

Newbiggin (South of Bishopton) At a planning committee hearing on the 24 October 2012, an application for three turbines each of 110m tall, was rejected unanimously, in line with the recommendation from planning officer Adrian Hobbs.

We believe that this was also due, in no small measure, to the excellent presentations made by the various parish councils, SPAG and local residents. The potential appeal period has now expired and this development will not now proceed.

Foxton (South of Sedgefield) This application for three turbines was not determined by Durham CC but this was appealed by the developers. Ultimately it was dismissed following a Public Enquiry.

Moorhouse (West of Little Stainton) Following a failed application for 10 turbines, Banks lodged an amended planning application for 6 larger ones at 125m tall. In October 2011 the planning permission was granted by the narrowest of margins using a chairman's casting vote.

A noise control planning condition was imposed at that meeting to give residents very important protection against excess amplitude modulation (EAM). Banks submitted another application to completely remove this condition. This was successfully rebutted and a more detailed, extensive condition was re-imposed giving residents as much protection against noise as we could possibly have hoped for.

Lambs Hill (West of Stillington) Stockton BC approved an application for 4 turbines, subject to similar planning conditions covering EAM as in the Moorhouse application. Banks have similarly applied to have this condition removed and residents continue to vigorously oppose this.

A1/The Isles (North West of Great Stainton) An original application for 10 turbines was withdrawn and replaced with a larger one generating more than 50mw, however, recent announcements from Eon indicate that they have revised this slightly downwards to 48mw, representing approximately 24 turbines.

This now means that when a full planning application is lodged in Spring 2014, it will be heard by Durham CC and not by the Secretary of State as would have been the case had production levels remained above 50mw.

We are aware that the residents of Mordon, Bradbury and the councils of Sedgefield, Chilton and Newton Aycliffe are vigorously objecting to these proposals. Public consultations are ongoing. (more information on www.theislescommunities.com)

Finance - SPAG currently still holds some funds which were earmarked by residents for fighting the Newbiggin wind farm. We attach an extract of our final receipts and payments account, together with a cheque payable to those particular residents refunding the surplus. The refunds are at the rate of approximately 29p in the pound.

Contacts - If you would like to get in touch with SPAG please either write to the address below or email lk.Tostevin1@btinternet.com or peter@benisonwood.co.uk.

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