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Issue 184: November 26, 2010
Fortnightly - 25p

University begins wind farm talks

REPRESENTATIVES from the University of Nottingham attended a meeting in Beeston Rylands this week to talk to local residents about their plans to build a wind farm along the Trent valley.

The university recently announced its intention to submit a planning application in February 2011, seeking permission to install three 125-metre high wind turbines on land they own alongside the River Trent between Clifton Bridge and the Rylands.

The university is legally required by the government to reduce its carbon emissions and has been considering a series of solutions, one of which is a wind farm running along the Trent valley.

If granted planning permission, the three turbines of the wind farm, known as the Grove Farm Wind Energy Project, will be up and running by 2012. The wind farm is expected to deliver a third of the university's energy requirements and reduce its carbon emissions by 7,000 tonnes per annum, which equates to 40 per cent of the target

reductions required by 2015.

Engineering consultants AECOM were commissioned to run feasibility and environmental studies. The results indicate that a wind farm would be the best solution for the university's requirements, and that the riverside strip of land owned by the university would be the best place to build it.

Residents' concerns

This week's meeting was called to provide more information about the scheme and to allow Rylands residents to ask questions and air their concerns.

AECOM's Paul McQuillan answered questions, along with university Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Dodson, Chief Estates Officer Chris Jagger and Estates Project Manager Richard Wigginton. The two Rylands borough councillors were also at the meeting.

After listening to the AECOM presentation, residents refuted the

claim that there would be very little noise from the turbines, demanding direct answers to their specific queries about noise generated by the turbines at night rather than during the day, when other background noise is always present.

Residents were also concerned about the effect that the imposing turbines would have on the landscape (at 125 metres, they would be taller than Nottingham's Victoria Centre, as one resident noted). Other worries were the effect on the property prices of those closest to the turbines and the visual aspect when viewed from their homes: the nearest property is 450 metres away from the turbine closest to the Rylands weir field.

Mr McQuillan said: "We've looked at the environment, noise, access, birds that use the valley as a migration route, and the health and safety aspects. We will be continuing to carry out studies – including more detailed noise studies – and we will need to consult with bodies such as Natural England and the Environment

Agency."

Professor Dodson expounded: "Wind energy is a clean and renewable source of energy, which produces no greenhouse gas emissions or waste products. This proposal will help the University of Nottingham play its part in reducing the carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. By generating a proportion of our electricity through renewable methods such as wind power, we can make a significant step towards our carbon reduction target."

The cost of the scheme is estimated at between £8 million and £10 million and will save the university £1million per annum on its energy bill.

The energy created will be fed directly from the turbines to the main Highfields campus by cable.

Beeston resident Drika Smith commented: "I hate the idea of even more noise pollution, but otherwise I think this is an exciting project."

Local people honoured

EIGHT local people have been honoured at a special ceremony to install Honorary Freemen and Alderman to the Borough of Broxtowe.

The ceremony took place at Beeston Town Hall on Thursday, November 25. All the recipients, who come from a variety of backgrounds, have contributed to their communities over many years, in very different ways.

Those honoured include dance teacher Peggy Wainwright (née Payne), who has raised thousands of pounds for charity over the years through her Peggy Payne School of Dance. Peggy has been made a Freeman of the Borough.

William (Bill) Wheatley MBE has also been made a Freeman. Bill is a retired electrical engineer who has worked tirelessly with the Methodist church and the Rylands community throughout his life, as well as devoting time to his lifelong passion for wildlife and the Attenborough nature reserve.

Another individual who has worked selflessly for the local community is Colin Slater MBE, ex-journalist and well-known BBC Radio Nottingham match commentator at Notts County. Colin served as churchwarden at Christ Church, Chilwell for 38 years and acted as a Justice of the Peace for 27 years before being appointed to chairman of the Nottingham Courts Board in 2005. Colin has also been awarded Freeman status.

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 **Make a note!** 

The next Beeston Express, December 10, will be the last one before Christmas.

If you would like to place any Christmas advertising in that issue, please contact us using the details on page 2.



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