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# SHOWT NEWSLETTER

Covering Hempnall, Saxlingham, Shotesham, Topcroft, Bedingham, Woodton, Fritton, Morningthorpe and surrounding areas.

Issue No. 5

December 2007

## Huge anti-turbine vote at Hempnall Public Meeting

### SHOWT attend Public Meeting

SHOWT was pleased to accept the invitation to give a presentation at the public meeting called by Hempnall Parish Council to gauge the opinions of residents and facilitate a discussion of the wind turbine proposal between all parties.

### Enertrag's absence

Over 200 members of the public packed into the Village Hall, and there was widespread dismay that Enertrag UK had refused to attend, voiced by our local MP Richard Bacon, who gave up his Friday evening to speak in opposition to Enertrag's proposal.

### Public money squandered

Our presentation highlighted the massive visual intrusion to Hempnall and the surrounding villages and countryside which would be caused by this proposal, and showed why we believe it to be entirely a capital driven project, cynically masquerading as a green initiative to save the planet. The government continues to pour money into the pockets of opportunistic wind developers and landowners, even as the case for onshore wind farms is being disproved.

### Alternative renewables

The tragedy is that this money could and should be better invested in the development of alternative renewable energy schemes to succeed where wind is failing and to be the viable alternatives to fossil fuels which we so urgently need.

### Driven from home by turbine noise

We were delighted to introduce as guest speakers Mr & Mrs Davis whose lives have been blighted by wind turbines erected close to their house in Lincolnshire. They chronicled vividly some of the problems which have forced them to abandon their home, especially the intolerable noise. Villagers were appalled to hear a recording Mrs Davis made inside her own home of the nearby turbines. Noise problems from wind turbines are impossible to predict, but East Anglia is thought to be particularly susceptible due to the stable atmospheric conditions which prevail.

### Vote against Hempnall turbines

There was good participation from the public with many pertinent comments against the proposal. The Parish Council repeatedly invited views from anyone in favour of the wind turbine proposal. Neither Enertrag nor the landowners were present to put their case. A show of hands confirmed nobody in favour, and virtually everyone voting against.

### Strong opposition

Mrs Davis bitterly regrets not having objected to her local wind turbine development and warned that wind companies rely on people being naïve, gullible and apathetic. Had they come to the meeting, Enertrag would have seen that that is not the case in Hempnall!

SHOWT is an Associate Member of the Renewable Energy Foundation



## SHOWT Fundraising

### Dates for your diary

We have a new season of fundraising events planned, with something for all the family.

Fundraising is crucial for our campaign and we depend heavily on your support to keep us afloat financially. We will need to dig deep for the expert consultants so vital for effective opposition.

That said, many of you have commented on the fun and community spirit that have characterised SHOWT events. This is such a positive spin-off in the otherwise unwelcome fight to save our landscape.

### 19 January 2008 Cheese and Wine

Trevor Shurmer and his team are organising another of these very popular evenings at Hempnall Village Hall. Buy your tickets early as we sold out last time— contact Debbie Ashford. Ticket details will also be on the posters.

### 10 February 2008

#### Bangers, Spuds and Beans Sunday Lunch

Join us at Hempnall Village Hall for a family Sunday Lunch. There's no better way to spend a dull February day!

### 15 March 2008

#### Easter Family Bingo

A favourite family event.

### 10 May 2008

#### May Ball

Dance to the ever-popular band "Style" at Hempnall Village Hall. More details in the next newsletter, but save the date now!

#### **Helpers required**

More helpers are needed for our social events.

If you are interested, please contact Debbie Ashford, 01508 498242

Email: [debbieashford925@btinternet.com](mailto:debbieashford925@btinternet.com)

#### **Raffle prizes**

Are always very welcome at our events – please let us have any unwanted Christmas presents and we'll find them grateful owners!

## Quotes from SHOWT's presentation at the Hempnall Meeting

"The visual impact of these giant industrial structures on the local rural landscape would be quite unacceptable."

*"South Norfolk Council's own policy and planning guidance acknowledges that, in terms of visual intrusion, such an area would be highly sensitive to wind turbines of this size."*

"There are five conservation areas within five kilometres of the designated site. In addition, close to where the turbines would stand are two sites of special scientific interest (SSI)."

*"The wind turbines will be seen clearly from each of the surrounding villages of Hempnall, Fritton, Saxlingham, Shotesham and Woodton."*

"Unlike Enertag's only operational site at North Pickenham there is no infrastructure or access road already in place. The construction work alone would cause massive environmental damage to the country lanes, public footpaths and bridleways."

#### **Green Car Tips**

Under-inflated tyres mean that your engine has to work hard. More fuel is used and more CO2 emissions are produced

Staying within the speed limit increases driver safety. It also reduces CO2 emissions and saves money on your petrol costs. At 70mph you could be using up to 15 per cent more fuel than at 50mph.

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