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SHOWT NEWSLETTER

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

Issue No. 2

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“Wind Farm Noise Is Driving Us Out Of Our House”

This was the headline of an article in Farmers' Weekly, 12 January 2007. Mr and Mrs Davis, a Lincolnshire couple who live 900 metres from 8 turbines have regularly had to spend nights away from home since last September because they cannot sleep through the noise the turbines make. Mrs Davis said, *“It sounds like a train coming towards you that never arrives, or a toy stuck in a tumble drier.”*

On 14 March 2007, a SHOWT representative attended the Ellands Farm Public Enquiry, another of Enertrag's turbine site applications. Mrs Davis was there giving evidence about the noise her family suffer and played a recording to the Inspector. Our representative said the sound level was far higher than he expected and it was obvious why the family couldn't sleep through it.

SHOWT is very concerned about potential noise from Enertrag's proposed site near Hempnall, especially as the closest houses would be some 700mtrs from the blades. SHOWT urges the Hempnall site landowners to stop and think about their neighbours. Would they want to inflict the misery of this Lincolnshire couple on people they've lived alongside for decades? Hempnall's turbines can only be built with the landowners' consent. If they withdraw, Enertrag's proposal disappears.

Property Values

In answer to a query from SHOWT, a leading local Estate Agent has replied summarising his research, *“You can see that there is no question that the threat of the building of a wind turbine has a detrimental effect on the value of property”*.

David Linley, Enertrag's representative, rather “shot himself in the foot” when he said recently in the EDP, *“The only thing that will drive property prices up or down is supply and demand. If your house is on the market, what a wind farm might do is affect the number of people that come and see it, but not the sale price”*. We thank him for confirming basic economics—less demand and prices fall.

A recent study of house prices by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors was used in the EDP to claim wind farms have little effect on house prices. However, the study actually said, *“..there being a significant impact on properties located within a mile of a wind farm..... developers are themselves avoiding the problem by locating their developments in places where the impact on prices is minimised, carefully choosing their sites to avoid any negative impact on the locality”*.

It is a pity that Enertrag and the landowners aren't considering this for Hempnall.

SHOWT Fundraising

Thanks for your support

Our recent Bingo Night was a great success. We raised over £400 and it was great to have so many families there. A big thank you to all who made it such an enjoyable occasion and to those who couldn't make it but sent donations instead.

Pyramid Parties

We are starting a fundraising initiative with "Pyramid Parties". The idea is to host a supper or small BBQ party for 6 guests with each guest contributing £15 and "bring a bottle". Hopefully, those guests will then go on and hold their own similar party. The accent is on simplicity and having fun with a few friends while at the same time raising some funds towards "the cause"! One party will raise £90 and,

if your guests each hold one (as couples), a total of £360 will be raised.

Diary Date—Mid Summer Dance
23 June Hempnall Village - Live band Style

Fundraising Committee

It is very important that we build up funds to fight an effective campaign. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with events, but we also need volunteer fundraisers. Please get in touch if you're interested.

For more details about Pyramid Parties and the Fundraising Committee, please contact:

Rob Johnson:

01508 499487 or email

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CPRE OPPOSES HEMPSTALL TURBINE SITE

The Norfolk branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England has voted to oppose Enertrag's proposal for a 7 turbine wind station near Hempnall.

The CPRE recognises our area as one of the most tranquil parts of rural Norfolk, deserving protection from large industrial structures.

We are truly delighted that an organisation of such national standing as the CPRE is prepared to state publicly that our corner of South Norfolk is not appropriate for a turbine station. We know a vital part of our rural heritage would be lost forever should Enertrag succeed.

CORRECTION

In our last Newsletter we stated that Enertrag had applied for two further turbines at North Pickenham. This is incorrect. There is an application for two more turbines, but this has been made by another company which has no connection with Enertrag

Help Wanted

We need help with the campaign from anyone who is technical, scientific or research minded.

We also need someone to take responsibility for the ongoing updating of SHOWT's website.

If you feel you could help in either capacity, please call 01508 482467