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SHOWT NEWSLETTER

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

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Visit to North Pickenham

The SHOWT committee visited North Pickenham en masse recently and had a very good look around the site and surrounding area.

We were immediately struck by the enormous shadows created by the blades, even though the sun was reasonably high (6pm on 29th April). We found the effect to be very disturbing and considerably worse than we expected.

The site is sign posted "*The Industrial Area*", with a turkey farm, water treatment works, go cart track, etc. all close to the turbines. It is visually remote from any houses. In fact, close to the site it is virtually impossible to see any houses from it. Furthermore, we couldn't locate many houses that were close by or that had a dominant view of the turbines. The area is more undulating than Hempnall and the turbines become hidden, or their impact is significantly reduced. From most of the surrounding roads you can only see the turbines for a limited period. The clearest view of them is on the Swaffam to Watton Road where you get a real sense of their enormity and can picture the huge effect they would have on the Hempnall landscape.

Despite some claiming the turbines are not noisy - they are! We could hear swishing noises and "booms" for considerable distances and we are convinced that at night this could be disturbing to some homes. The intermittent nature of the noise is particularly irritating and disturbing.

The turbines are 125mtrs tall and have an output of 1.8MW. The ones proposed for Hempnall are a maximum of 130mtrs tall with an output of 3.0MW. Therefore it is possible the ones for Hempnall will have even more detrimental effects than we witnessed.

How Hempnall is Different

**** Due to differences in the lie of the land, Hempnall's visual impact would be much greater***

**** Hempnall has considerably more homes close to the proposed turbines and in full view***

**** North Pickenham's turbines are located within an existing industrial area***

**** Noise is likely to be a greater issue for Hempnall***

**** Flicker and movement is more significant and disturbing than expected***

**** The size and power of the turbines are proposed to be greater for Hempnall***

If you visit the North Pickenham site, be sure to drive all around it. Try to picture the turbines in the Hempnall setting and spare a thought for the residents of Old Market Way, The Street, Silver Green, Bungay Road, Saxlingham Green and others whose view would be dominated by gigantic turbines!

SHOWT Fundraising News and Diary Dates

Pyramid Parties

The Pyramid Parties have got off to an excellent start with several more in the pipeline. We've had reports back about how much people have enjoyed themselves. If you're interested in starting a pyramid, do contact Rob.

We've lots more events planned for the summer, so please note these dates in your diary:

Sunday, 3 June

Walking Family Treasure Hunt, start Hempnall Village Hall. Clue sheets £3, available 11 to 1. BBQ from 12 to 4 with face painting and children's and adults' tombola.

Saturday, 23 June

Midsummer Dance, live band Style, Hempnall Village Hall

Friday, 29 June

Wine Tasting, Hempnall Village Hall

Donations for prizes for these and other events are always very welcome.

For more details about SHOWT fundraising, please contact:

Rob Johnson:

01508 499487 or Email: RobJohnson.com

Enertrag to Earn Over £4m per annum - 60% in Indirect Subsidies

Using Enertrag's own yearly output figures, the 7 turbines proposed for Hempnall would produce revenue of roughly £1,655,640 from electricity, and a whopping **£2,483,460** from indirect subsidy - a total of **£4,139,100** per annum!

Where does the subsidy come from? It is derived from the Renewables Obligation mechanism. The government has put an obligation on suppliers of electricity to purchase a certain amount of their electricity from renewable sources. The target is gradually increasing from the current 6.7% to 15.4% by 2015/16.

The subsidy is currently costing the consumer **£1bn** a year, and the whole program is estimated by Ofgem, the regulator, to cost over **£32bn** - again paid for by the consumer.

To prove the purchase of renewable electricity, a supplier has to buy Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) from a renewable electricity generator such as Enertrag. Historically ROCs have been worth about £45 each per MWh, with a MWh of electricity worth about £30, though this is ris-

ing. Therefore the subsidy is around **60%** of the income of a renewable generator like a "wind farm".

In January Ofgem called for the Renewables Obligation to be abolished because they consider it is wasteful, it kills off investment in other technologies and is providing small and expensive CO2 savings. The DTI is now in the process of changing the subsidy, but the effects won't be seen until 2009/10

Unfortunately, the RO subsidy system makes no distinction between high quality generators, who can deliver power on demand, and others, such as wind, who are at the mercy of the weather. Therefore onshore wind power has understandably become very popular with electricity generators who, for comparatively low capital cost, can make high returns at the expense of the consumer, with minimal overall benefits to reducing CO2 levels.

No wonder there are a massive number of onshore proposals flooding the UK!

Energy Saving Tips

Many of us use the remote to switch off the TV or stereo, leaving the appliance running on standby which is very wasteful. By switching off at the main power button, or even the socket, we could save both energy and money.

*Items left on standby use up to **85%** of the energy they would use if fully switched on. The government-funded Energy Saving Trust reckons this wastes **£740 million** of electricity. Translate that into unnecessary turbines.....*

Thanks for Your Help

A big thank you to everyone who displayed SHOWT posters for Enertrag's recent visit. Please keep them up and please keep up the good work!

Many of you have contacted SHOWT letting us know you've written to Enertrag with your objections. Thank you all very much.

Contact SHOWT at The Old Forge, Hempnall, or on 01508 482467