

Question Number:	Question/Comment Submitted:	Response:	Contact Details:
1.	What control (does Harborough District Council have to enforce the prevention) of interference of local (Radio, TV, etc.) signals by wind turbines operation?	This must be detailed in the planning application submitted, including how these effects will be mitigated.	Unable to read...
2.	You have mentioned that external advice has been taken on landscape and visual impact, is this available for public viewing?	If reports were produced by external consultants for the Planning Committee, then these would of course be available to the public.	R Astbury,
3.	How many turbines on a planning application make it mandatory for the applicant to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (<i>I think the author means Assessment</i>) or Environmental Statement?	Harborough District Council applies the principles set out in Government Circular 92, published in 2002. The more the likely impact, the more detailed the Environmental Impact Assessment needs to be. There is no government policy in place.	R Astbury,
4.	What is the trigger point for an Environmental Impact Assessment and does wind turbines trigger or fall into this assessment?	Please see Harborough District Councils response to question 3.	Councillor Charlish.
5.	If HDC (Harborough District Council) is unable to challenge developments on technical grounds, what safeguards exist to prevent development of sites because of the subsidy that can be obtained rather than because of their technical suitability in generating a large amount of energy and	The developers of any proposed wind farms would have to ensure they are economically viable, Harborough District Council cannot determine applications on these grounds.	J Mears.

	actually be effective in reducing CO2 emissions?		
6.	Having signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, can HDC (Harborough District Council) confirm that it acknowledges that climate change is happening and requires tackling urgently and that wind farms are part of the solution to this urgent problem?	Yes, Harborough District Council does acknowledge the climate change agenda.	H Eppel.
7.	It does seem as though the council have little movement under government guidelines. What grounds are available for refusal?	Harborough District Council is unable to comment on this. All applications will be considered on their own merits.	Simms FA,
8.	Regarding Representation. Does a local letter of opposition carry the same weight as a letter in support from a non-resident of the borough (district) – such as potential investors, shareholders who have different vested interests?	It is up to the Planning Committee to determine the weight given to each representation made. Only material considerations will be considered.	M Hill.
9.	There is to be an SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) on developer contributions included within the Local Development Scheme – why no SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) on wind farms to give general clarity?	This information will be included within the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework in the next year, after consultation and government approval.	Councillor Roeber.

10.	Are you aware of any quota for turbines/turbine capacity that the region has set (or in mind) for Harborough District between now and 2020.	This information is available on the handouts provided.	M Switzer,
11.	What distance do HDC (Harborough District Council) regard as (the) minimum distance between turbines and (the) nearest dwelling? 400 metres or 800 metres as I believe recommended on the E.U.	The industry standard, as set out by the wind farm operators is 400m between the proposed turbine and nearest property. There is no national, statutory, guidance available though.	F Thompson,
12.	Is there a time limit that a wind farm can be sited or will they be temporary structures?	Planning permission is granted for a period of 25 years.	Councillor M. D. Smith.
13.	What degree of coordination exists within the region for determining the number of wind farms within a local planning area? For instance Lincolnshire is a large and sparsely populated county with a coastline and would seem to be a much more suitable area for wind farms than a relatively heavily populated and scenically attractive area such as South East Leicestershire. Will such arguments be taken into account by Harborough District Council?	Harborough District Council are unable to dictate areas for developments such as wind farms, especially if these areas are outside of this district. Targets are set out in Regional Plans.	M Thompson,
14.	How relevant are the views of English Heritage and would you override them or	Harborough District Council can overrule any of these consultees if it is felt there are firm grounds to	H. Underhill,

	other statutory consultees views.	do so.	
15.	Given to understand that the deferral of hearing (the application) by the Planning Committee is due to the necessity to consult and review representation from Stakeholders, can the Council please confirm who (the) Stakeholders actually are?	It is extremely unlikely that any decision would be deferred as these applications will be decided at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Planning Committee, which would not be convened until all the details needed are in place. Stakeholders are anyone who may be interested by the application, or has made representations about it.	K Ratcliffe,
16.	As per one of the first slides (in the presentation given by Brett Culpin); if by implication you are being asked to tackle Climate Change, then: a) Do you know what it is, and b) Can you explain what it is?	The benefits to the climate must be proven to outweigh any disadvantages in any wind farm application submitted.	R Elkington,
17.	What external training or advice has been given to the Planning Committee when viewing photo montages? Is this available for public consultation?	If it is ascertained that the Planning Committee is having difficulty interpreting any images, training can be given or further work commissioned by Harborough District Council.	R Astbury,
18.	Is it true that the Central Midlands has the lowest average wind speeds in the UK – below the Government guide lines, if so: 1) Why are wind farms being considered in these areas, and 2) Why not concentrate the wind farms at Burton Wold?	Please see Harborough District Councils response to question 5.	Le Sueur,

19.	Is it likely that now LDF/SPG (Local Development Framework/Supplementary Planning Guidance) policies will provide for areas identified as suitable for wind turbine development.	Both of these documents are currently be worked. All applications are determined on their own merits using any guidance available.	R Basten,
20.	What independent advice has been taken by the Council about wind turbines and is this available to the public?	Harborough District Council will only bring in external consultants where no in-house knowledge exists. If reports were produced by external consultants for the Planning Committee, then these would of course be available to the public.	N Astbury,
21.	What are the criteria used by the Council when approving applications with respect to: i) The distances between wind turbines and habitations? ii) The height of wind turbines at particular distances from habitations?	There are no set criteria for either of the examples given as each application is, and will be, dealt with on its own merits. If noises disturbances are evident then an Environmental Health Officer will investigate.	P Shelton,
22.	Are you taking account of the cumulative effect? This is an area of outstanding natural beauty is not that taken into effect (<i>I think the author means account</i>)?	There are no national designated areas within the district.	S Staples,
23.	Given the requirement (by Europe) for the government to meet a certain level of	There is no pressure from Central Government, only Policy Guidelines, which Harborough District	None given.

	renewable energy, do they put pressure, in any form, on local Councils to grant planning permission for wind farms?	Council must abide by.	
24.	Does a planning application for a group of turbines require a change of use classes order, e.g. from agricultural to industrial, and if so does the change of use apply forever even if the wind farm ceases to be?	The land on which the turbines physically stand would be subject to material change of use, but the remaining agricultural surrounding them would not.	R Hames,
25.	The scale of the proposed turbines and their environmental impact suit(s) the offshore and isolated on shore locations. They are totally inappropriate in rural, highly populated South Leics. Why are HDC (Harborough District Council) considering such proposals?	Harborough District Council is legally obliged to consider every planning application submitted.	G. Shangrave,
The following questions were answered after the meeting due to time constraints:			
26.	What measures are to be put in place to ensure that the Planning Committee base their views on fact and not the misinformation being distributed by the objector groups?	The Planning Committee bases all of its planning application decisions on the officer's report, observations from any site visit and the submissions hereby at the Planning Committee meeting (e.g. the officers' presentation / advice, comments of public speakers and debate amongst the Members of the Committee). Members of the Committee have received training on planning decision making and this will be supplemented by additional training planned for later this year and in January 2009.	None given.

27.	Is it now too late to apply for some of this area, say the Welland Valley, to be designated an area of outstanding natural beauty?	National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are the two top tier landscape designations in England and Wales. Their designation/definition is not a function of local planning authorities, but of Government Agency. The responsible Government body in England is now Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency). As such this is a matter for Natural England rather than the Local Planning Authorities concerned.	P Mace,
28.	Are you (Harborough District Council) giving equal consideration to all forms of renewable energy (not just wind farms) that are more suitable for our environment?	So far as development proposals are concerned, the Council as Local Planning Authority will consider all planning applications for renewable energy on their individual merits having regard to the prevailing policy context which is generally positive regarding the principle of all forms of renewable energy.	L Sheppard.
29.	We understand the developer has to pay compensation to the local community. How is this done? Is there a formula for working out how much and at what stage is it paid or put in trust for the community?	There is no such obligation through the land use-planning process.	R Hames,
30.	Does the Council stand to benefit from having wind farms in its area?	If a Wind farm is run for commercial purposes (i.e they are generating electricity which is than usually sold on to the National Grid), then they will be liable to Business Rates. If a wind turbine is for a particular property landowners own personal usage, it is not rateable as it is not being sold on. The rates for each site would be assessed separately	Councillor Rook.

		on their own merits by the Valuation Office and rated by them (they will set a Rateable Value on the premises which the LPA then calculate the rates payable on) once it is up and running.	
31.	Do you (Harborough District Council) consider the distance from dwellings that are in construction, so are not yet lived (in), but will be by the time a wind farm, if granted, is built?	Yes, such dwellings are taken into consideration on a similar basis to completed / occupied dwellings.	J Allonby.
32.	Medical experts in the USA advise a minimum distance of 1.5 miles from houses, the Academy of Medicine in Paris and the UK Noise Association both advise at least 1 mile. Some proposed wind turbines are nearer.	<p>From a land-use planning perspective there is no set figure for a minimum separation distance between properties and wind turbines.</p> <p>The Companion Guide to PPS22 states that The minimum desirable distance between wind turbines and occupied buildings calculated on the basis of expected noise levels and visual impact will often be greater than that necessary to meet safety requirements.</p>	M Richards,
33.	If you (the Regional Plan) only need 75 wind turbines in (the) East Midlands to meet government regional targets – why is there such a concentration suggested along the Welland Valley?	Renewable energy targets are set out in the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8). This document is only subdivided into County, not District targets. The minimum target for production through on shore wind for Leicestershire is 22mW by 2010. The RSS has recently been through an examination in public, and	J Marriott,

		<p>these targets have been altered. The targets are now regional targets for minimum output of 122mW by 2010 and 175mW by 2020, the current level of production within the east Midlands being 54mW. It should be stressed that these are minimum targets.</p> <p>Concentrations of proposed wind farms are a result of commercial / technical assessments and decisions made by the prospective developers concerned.</p>	
34.	I appreciate that without E.U. subsidies the wind farm applications would not be happening.	<p>Planning applications for wind farms must be determined on their individual merits. The government's companion guide to PPS22 Renewable Energy advises that LPA's should not require applicants to demonstrate the need for renewable energy nor to question the energy justification for why a particular proposal must be sited in a particular location. It also states that <i>developments in the technology and the electricity market over recent years now mean that wind power is found to be viable across the UK. As such wind farm developments can reasonably be expected to be proposed in all regions of the country.</i></p>	J Marriott,
35.	What is the legal status of noise abatement areas and what happens if a local flying club regularly crosses such an area to avoid a wind turbine?	<p>There are no statutory noise abatement areas / zones in Harborough District. Councils do not have any powers to control noise from aircraft, this is the remit of the Civil Aviation Authority.</p>	N. Astbury,

36.	Is HDC (Harborough District Council) considering any other form of renewable energy?	So far as development proposals are concerned, the Council as Local Planning Authority will consider all planning applications for renewable energy on their individual merits having regard to the prevailing policy context which is generally positive regarding the principle of all forms of renewable energy. Currently there are no applications for large scale renewable development other than for wind farms.	S Cowen,
37.	A resident has asked me to raise the fact that residents in Wales suffer considerable noise and that their homes are now virtually unsalable.	Noted. Noise and its impact will be one a range of factors that will be taken into consideration when any application for wind farm development is considered and determined.	Councillor Mrs. Roeber, on behalf of G Papadatos
38.	Does the high volume of potential/proposed sites have any connection with the proposed Eco-town? Their website says it will be fed by a cluster of wind turbines, so does this explain the interest in our rural district?	The planning applications and pre-application proposals for wind farm development which the Council is aware of do not have any relationship to the Pennbury Eco-town proposal.	L Sheppard.
39.	How do you min(-imise the) effect (on) our landscape by landscaping? When turbines are 125m.	Landscape and visual impact are both amongst a range of factors that will be taken into consideration when any application for wind farm development is considered and determined. Applicants are required to provide a comprehensive assessment of both landscape and visual impact and are encouraged to incorporate appropriate mitigation, albeit that it is	M Wright,

		impractical to attempt to screen development of this scale.	
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