

BARTON - UPON - HUMBER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of a PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING held in the
THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, QUEEN STREET, BARTON-UPON-HUMBER on
MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2011, COMMENCING at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs W Witter (Chairman)
Councillors Mr J Oxley, P Shearer and Ms C Sansam.

Also Present: Councillors F Coulsey and S Dear and Ms S Richards (Town Clerk).

259. **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Mrs A Clark (personal commitments).

260. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

261. **Planning Matters**

(a) **Planning Applications**

Resolved that the comments as stated be made to North Lincolnshire Council on the following Planning Applications:

- (1) **2011/1426 Mrs Cheryl Gossop** – Planning permission to erect an extension to existing barn conversion at Barn 1, White Hart Farm, Brigg Road, Barton (No comment or objection).
- (2) **2011/1434 Mr M Pettitt** – Planning permission to retain a brick outbuilding at 26 Chapel Lane, Barton (No comment or objection).
- (3) **2011/1473 Weir Pumps** - Planning permission to erect extension to provide changing rooms at Weir Pumps, Humber Road, Barton (No comment or objection).
- (4) **2011/1469 Mr P Tasou** – Notice of intention to carry out works to four yew trees, one sycamore tree, one beech tree and to remove hedge in a conservation area at East Acridge House, East Acridge, Barton (Objection: the town council do not think it is necessary for the amount of trees to be removed as stated in the planning application. It is thought prudent that as many trees ought to be retained at the front of the property as possible, as removal will dramatically affect the street scene and area character in this conservation area. Also, the loss of yet more trees in the town. It is considered that an appropriate pruning programme ought to be undertaken for these mature trees, as opposed to removal of them).

262. **Update of Planning Application 2011/0734 – RWE Npower Renewables Ltd** (Min Ref: 102(d)(ii)/39 – BTC 3/08/11)

Discussion took place regarding the re-submitted planning application WF/2011/0734, showing amended plans to the previous application made by the applicant. It was agreed and

Resolved that an objection be raised to planning application WF/2011/0734, on the following grounds:

- The non-technical summary of the application has statements open to mis-interpretation. The visual aspect states that there is impact on a minority of the landscape character area. As this exercise has been undertaken by computer-generated visualisations, this is distortion of what can be seen with the naked eye. At the point of mast 4 for instance, you can see Lincoln Cathedral in one direction and York Minster in the other. At Horkstow Road you can see the Bagmoor Wind Farm quite easily.

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- There has been no consultation exercise for this re-submitted planning application. There was one for the previous application 2009/0657.
- Who pays to de-commission the site ?
- Land restoration issues – what if the company goes bankrupt ?
- The hedgerows mentioned are for agricultural purposes and are of great importance to the local area, heritage and farming – two being designated conservation sites.
- It is stated “the LVIA considers that many locations within the 9km of the turbines would offer limited visibility or no views of the wind farm”. The turbines would in actual fact be higher than the surrounding Humber Bridge and be extremely visual.
- Ornithology – it is stated that quail are part of the local breeding bird community – quail are not an indigenous species to this area. Pink-footed geese are also mentioned. However, there are several different species of geese that have habitat in the local area. There is no mention of the endangered species Skylarks, which are prevalent to this specific area.
- The re-submission of this planning application does not address the original grounds for concern, from the one previously submitted - 2009/0657. It was predominantly refused because the proposed development would introduce very substantial industrial structures into an area of significant natural beauty, largely unspoilt. Also the proposals would lead to significant disruption to users of the Viking Way, a nationally important network of footpaths and bridleways. These factors remain, contravening policies LC7 and ENV10. This seriously affects the local environmental impact, nature conservation, area character and appearance.
- The local area relies heavily upon farming, tourism, wildlife and nature. These are all important aspects regarding the employment and heritage issues. The local economy cannot support a downward spiral of these factors, for sustainability reasons of the area.
- There are prevailing south-westerly winds in the town, not ideal considering the intermittent noise levels to be emitted from the turbines. The town currently suffers from tv interference and “ghosting” of the Humber Bridge towers on some screens. Additional structures and noise levels are not in the best interests of the area, additional to the existing ones.
- The town council do not oppose wind farms, but, it is felt they should be sited in appropriate locations, particularly off-shore. It is noted that only 4% of wind farms have this location.
- There appears to be no material or significant changes to the re-submitted planning application WF/2011/0734 from the previous 2011/0734 or 2009/0657 applications. Therefore, the town council strongly opposes the application.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs W Witter, closed the meeting at 7.25 p.m.

..... Chairman

4 January 2012