

Press Release from BATTLE

Reference: Wind Farm Development at Bradwell on Sea

Date: April 2010

Title: Battle Seeks Judicial Review in High Court

Lawyers acting on behalf of BATTLE (Bradwell & Tillingham Tackling Lost Environment) have served the attached papers requesting a Judicial Review of the Government Inspectors Decision to grant permission for RWE npower to construct 10 wind turbines on farm land close to Bradwell on Sea and Tillingham in Essex, close to the 7th century Church of St Peters on the Wall.



BATTLE has been fighting planning for this wind farm for over 5 years. Strong support and the generosity of the community and local individuals has meant that the might of RWE npower has been successfully challenged on more than one occasion already.

The Inspectors decision acknowledged that the development would result in a 'significant change in the landscape character' and the 'identified harm would be keenly felt by those affected' but the end goal of meeting renewable energy targets set by the current government still takes priority over the lives of local people being forced to live in its shadow and daily suffer the effects. BATTLE believes that developments such as this are driven by the greed of the power companies and landowners hiding behind a green smoke screen of an unpredictable renewable energy source and that the quality of life for affected communities has no value at all.

As you will see from the attached legal documents, the decision reached following the latest Public Inquiry, which was held at great cost to BATTLE and the local council, was so flawed that there are numerous ways to challenge it. Why do the Government insist in spending more and more of our money on a policy that is unsustainable and against the wishes of a large proportion of the population.

A major concern facing BATTLE is that if this development is allowed to go ahead there will be little to stop the two additional wind farms currently proposed for the Dengie Peninsular and it leaves the door wide open for other further developments

Many in favour of wind power will shout 'Nimby' but this is not a label that can be attached to us. Bradwell on Sea has been the home of a nuclear power station for over

40 years and is one of the designated sites by the government for a new power station should the decision go ahead to build them in the future.

We are also the home of St Peter on the Wall, the oldest ordained church in England, which is still in use today. Visitors from all over the world come to this wonderful church and a pilgrimage is held there every year. Many visitors leave comments about the peace and tranquillity of this unspoilt area. This was totally disregarded by the Government Inspector, as was the quality of our lives and value of our properties, both of which will be affected.

We also dispute that there is sufficient wind in this part of the world, our coastal trees grow tall and straight which shows there are never strong prevailing winds. We are concerned about the long term effects of these turbines which have not been addressed by either the power companies or the Government. What happens if local people suffer health problems in the future, or who is responsible in 20 years time when the turbines start falling apart, the concrete bases start to crumble and they become economically unviable to maintain? Where will RWE npower be then or will poetic justice prevail and it will be the hapless landowner who sold his community down the drain who has to pick up the pieces? These are questions that will not be addressed until it is too late.

For the last 5 years this fight has cost the community and committee dearly, both in time and money. To date we have had to raise and to spend over £80,000 to cover the professional costs of two public enquiries and a High Court challenge. Our latest challenge may well mean we have to raise a similar amount again but with so many people, both locally and farther a field, who love and cherish our unique corner of England we are confident, that if it is needed, the money will be forthcoming again and again and again.

RWE npower have got huge financial resources and it is the way of these large conglomerates to take advantage of our flawed Planning System to keep upping the anti in an effort to wear down local resolve. Whilst the current Government rub salt in the wound by spending our tax money supporting them and at the same time ignoring Local Government, Local Democracy and the hard facts that wind is not even a small part of the answer towards sorting out this countries forthcoming energy crisis.

Further information can be found on the BATTLE website www.bradwell.info including how to donate money to the fighting fund.