



BATTLE

Bradwell And Tillingham Tackling Lost Environment



BATTLE Newsletter

Issue 5 - November 2005



How will our roads cope?



Just one of the four sections...



Blades for a 70 metre turbine. Ours are 110 metres...



Coming our way soon???

Stop Press - hear what the developer thinks!

When asked by a BATTLE member in July what impact the wind farm would have on the Chapel at St Peters on the Wall, Vicky Portwain, npower's renewables Development Manager, said "the chapel has been there for thousands of years and 25 years is a mere blip in its history" She obviously recognises therefore that there will be a detrimental effect on the Chapel and its ambience.

The average life expectancy in the UK is 80 years and 25 years for the residents of Bradwell is more than a mere blip!

Not only will this "blip" be detrimental to our beautiful countryside but quoting that 25 years is the life of a turbine is totally misleading, they are usually re-furbished and put back into operation.

You may have seen in the press that npower renewables have been given permission by the DTI, with approval by Malcolm Wicks, the energy minister, to build 26 360ft tall wind turbines on Romney Marsh, near the Kent-Sussex border, in marshland and close to nature reserves. This application was initially rejected but won approval on appeal in spite of strong opposition from county and district councils, RSPB and English Nature!

BATTLE has learnt that npower's planning application for the Bradwell site is now scheduled for the Autumn but as far as we know they are still awaiting wind monitoring test results to determine if the area has enough wind for the reduced proposal of 10 turbines to be viable. See below for an explanation about the Planning process, which we will soon to be engaging in:

The Planning process:

1. Developers apply for planning permission to local planning authorities, which will be Maldon District Council.
2. A planning consultation takes place that enables people and organisations to make representations. In addition a list of statutory bodies also need to be consulted by the authority.
3. The Planning Officer prepares a report and recommends approval or refusal of the application
4. Councillors on the Planning Committee then take a decision. If the decision is refused the developer has 6 months to take the matter to Appeal and they can ask for a Public Enquiry. Beware - even if the local planning authority refuse permission a substantial number of refused applications have been reversed on Appeal. Objections to Planning have to be valid planning reasons.

A study by D Toke from the University of Birminham, has shown that when the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of

Rural England) objects to a proposal then the Planning application is almost certain to be refused at a Council level, however some have been later lost after Appeal. CPRE tend to make objections in areas regarded as "sensitive". BATTLE considers St Peters on the Wall as one sensitive area, and we aim to get CPRE support with our planning objections.

When Planning Officers recommend approval then it is probable that the application will be approved at least after Appeal. One Planning officer stated that the power of lobbying on issues like landscape and noise had a powerful impact on his decision, so writing to the Planning Officers at the appropriate time will be crucial.

It is now time to step up the Campaign, firstly to be prepared to resist the application and secondly to raise funds - if we are not successful and it goes to Appeal it can cost many thousands of pounds in legal and consultants fees.

BATTLE need Action and we need Funds

BATTLE Action Plan - STAGE 1 - THE FIGHT

1. BATTLE and SEIGE have jointly engaged a planning consultant with extensive experience in fighting wind farms. We will also be engaging a noise consultant and one or more ornithological experts.

2. We are going to need everyone to write letters again but please wait until we ask you to do so.

Stage 1 - Fund raising - BATTLE LOTTERY

Would you like to have a chance to win several hundred pounds every month for an outlay of just £2 per month?

Battle have obtained a gaming licence to run our own Lottery to raise much needed funds to pay for consultants to assist in the Planning Process, and to provide money to fight the application if it has to go to Appeal.

Your participation would be assisting Battle to raise a regular income whilst giving members a chance of winning prize money every month.

The draw is to start on December 1st 2005 and full details of how to enter are enclosed with this newsletter.

You can play as many £2.00 entries as you wish, so a standing order for £6.00 would give you three chances of winning as each £2.00 entry will have a unique number. Because the lottery will pay 20% of the proceeds in prize money every month, the higher number of entries increases the value of the prize money and increases BATTLE funds.

Example

If just 500 of our 900 Battle members were to set up a Standing Order for £2 per month the BATTLE lottery would raise £800 in BATTLE funds and pay £200 in prize money. However, if 500 BATTLE members played 3 entries at a cost of £6.00, then BATTLE would raise £2,400 in funds and the prize money would increase to £600 every month.

The more BATTLE members who play the greater the return and the odds of winning are greater than the National lottery as it is only open to BATTLE members.

Please Note:

Any surplus money at the end of the BATTLE campaign will be shared between the two village schools and the two Parish churches.

Other information

1. Whilst standing at St Peters on the Wall you may have seen wind turbines over in Kent. These are approximately 23 miles away

2. The Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) gave its support to the Public Accounts Report in September which stated that "the existing renewables subsidy system for on-shore wind turbines is both wasteful and unjustifiably expensive, costing the consumer an extra £1billion a year in electricity prices by 2010". Public monies are being wasted over-subsidising on-shore wind at the expense of subsidising other renewable sources such as biomass, marine energy generation, tidal and off-shore wind.

Noel Edmonds, Chairman of REF, said "the subsidy system over supports onshore wind by a high margin this has

encouraged developers to go in far too close to vulnerable villages and ecologically sensitive areas"

3. Planning regulations will have to be suspended in order to permit this proposal to proceed

4. Squeezing 10 turbines in a space originally designed for 5, increases potential for synchronous group operating which has been shown to enhance noise levels.

5. Did you know the area of the circle that will be described by each of these rotating machines will be greater than one and a half acres. Imagine ten grass paddocks spinning around in the middle of our beautiful skies.

Thanks to all the Volunteers who have helped in the past delivering newsletters etc. If anyone wishes to offer assistance please contact kathy.fox@salts.co.uk or telephone 07881 500529