

Planning Application 14/00728/ESF Berry Fen, Dam Bank Drove, Haddenham (Amendment)

Response from Haddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council has reviewed the additional information (LUC - 'Consultation Responses' document - May 2015) and would recommend outright refusal of this planning application. Please note our original objections still stand and those noted in our letter of the 2nd June 2015 as noted below, however from point 15 onwards are detailed the additional reasons for refusal:

1. Non compliance with East Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Policies, with particular reference to:
 - **Policy CS6 – Environment:** Relating to conservation and enhancement of historically important landscapes.
 - **Policy EC5 – Farm diversification:** Farm diversification proposals should not detract from the character and appearance of the area.
 - **Policy EN1 – Landscape and settlement character:** Proposals should demonstrate that their location and scale should protect visually sensitive skylines, geological features, tranquillity of the area and nocturnal character.
 - **Policy EN4 – Renewable energy:** Proposals should not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and amenity, key views and protected species.
 - **Policy EN8 – Pollution:** Proposals should minimise all emissions and other forms of pollution including noise pollution.
2. The effect on social mobility caused by the impact on house saleability as a consequence of the development.
3. Significant adverse effects on protected species and bird life, in particular the Hobby, whose habitat is the fen edge.
4. Impact of low frequency noise pollution and flicker on the health and well being of local residents. This is of particular concern if the mode of operation is to run at night.
5. Concerns regarding connection to the grid, particularly if this leads to further disruptive construction activity in the community.
6. Concerns regarding proposals for access to the site, due to the number of projected vehicle movements likely, the tonnage of materials to be brought to site and the impact on Long Drove, the A1123 and the village of Earith. None of these routes are considered suitable for such activity. There is particular concern regarding arrangements for access to and from the Pumping Station for the residents who live at that site.
7. No plans or funds are in place for the removal of the turbines and associated infrastructure at the end of their operational life. There are concerns regarding ultimate ownership of the development and what financial and legal safeguards would be put in place to ensure its removal.
8. Concerns that there is no cost benefit analysis to prove the value of this development to the community at large.

Additional Note:

If despite all of our concerns the planning authority grants planning permission for this development the Parish Council would ask that a condition be applied in respect of excess amplitude modulation in the form of the Revised Den Brook Condition. A suggested format is appended.

9. Impact on ecology - Trees

The Senior Trees Officer (STO), has advised that there is no need to remove the healthy oak trees to gain access to the Berry Fen site and has placed a TPO order on these oaks and clearly we strongly object to these oak trees possibly being removed without permission.