

**7. PLANNING APPLICATION 13/01102/FUL BERRY FEN, DAM BANK DROVE, HADDENHAM**

An application had been received for the erection of one anemometer mast up to 61.5m in height, supported by guy wires and complete with instrumentation for a temporary period of 24 months.

Several residents voiced their concerns regarding the proposed structure and these are encapsulated below in the Council's response to the Planning Officer.

Cllr P Wilson spoke in favour of the application but agreed to "call it in" to ensure the final determination is made by the ECDC Planning Committee and not the Planning Officer.

Cllr Hugo proposed and Cllr Parr seconded that the Council should recommend outright refusal on the following grounds:-

- The safety and impact the construction of this mast would have on the residents in the parish, particularly Aldreth, given that the construction traffic would potentially come through the villages to access the proposed site.
- The Planning Officer has stated that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required but we would request that a full EIA is carried out to also include the following:
  - The impact the structure would have on the safety of the local bird/bat and protected species population, e.g. swan flight path; this has clearly not been investigated due to the answer "No" at Section 13 of the application form.
  - The unique and historical beauty of the visual amenity, which also attracts visitors to the parish, would be greatly compromised by the installation of this structure, thereby having an impact on the tourism business for the parish.
  - The impact and safety of low flying aircraft and balloon landings in that area of the countryside has not been considered.
- There are inaccuracies on the application relating to who is actually the tenant of the land as the Council believes it is Mr Rodney Darby not Mrs Margot and Mr John Darby.
- Section 24 states that the site cannot be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridleway or other public land and this is totally untrue as the site is situated in an area where public footpaths and bridleways are used by many ramblers, dog walkers and horse riders and can also be seen from other aspects such as Grangers Drove/Dam Bank Drove, etc..
- Consultation with neighbours has been inadequate and although public exhibitions were held in Aldreth on 6<sup>th</sup> December and Haddenham on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 there was no mention that an application for a temporary mast had already been submitted on 6<sup>th</sup> December. It is also felt that East Cambs District Council has been remiss due to the lack of consultation with neighbours in Aldreth.
- Within the Design and Access Statement there is an assertion that the area has already been deemed appropriate and we would ask by whom?
- The size of the proposed mast is completely out of context with other structures in the parish being close to the height of Ely Cathedral.

However, if the Planning Committee is of a mind to grant permission the following conditions must be included:-

- The fen road must be used for construction traffic to reach the site, rather than the village roads.
- Permission is limited to a period of 24 months from the date of planning approval and removed within one month of expiry and the land restored to its former condition during this period. The mast must be removed within one month of an unsuccessful wind turbine planning application.