

Jayne Darley

From: Sheila Sharman
Sent: 12 January 2015 23:26
To: LDF
Subject: Proposed Local Development Plan

Dear Sir /Madam

We have recently looked at the Local Development Plan and not unduly surprised to see that wind turbines continue to be considered. Following all the objections made by local residents over the past few years, we feel that SDC should realise that these monstrosities serve no real purpose and are not the best use of tax payers money. The generating companies, ie Pro-wind, have frequently failed to attend Appeal Meetings of the

The target at SP17 should not be revised because it is irrelevant. Ideally it would be removed from SP17 and replaced by a policy that is designed to maximise renewable/low carbon energy in such a way that it minimises the adverse impact on the district. If we could generate another 1000 MW from biomass , why would we want to have 100 x 410 foot turbines with a capacity of only 250MW instead or as well?

Selby should not set policies which exceed national standards, the 10% target should be removed and replaced by one which encourages solar on existing roofs and encourages other energy resource efficiency such as heat pumps and biomass, but not to do this in such a way that it is dependant on the level of subsidy. This matter is covered by para 95 of the NPPF, it does not need additional statements.

Selby should not set policies where the matter in already dealt with by a national standards. The inclusion of the term " subject to viability testing " clearly indicates that there is an expectation that it will increase costs. It will also create work that is not required in other districts and make Selby less attractive to developers.

Selby should not identify areas for wind farms and solar farms because to do so would not limit them to those areas because devlopers would still be able to propose them on any other site.

Setting minimum distances is the best way to protect Selby District residents from the worst effects of wind turbines. Many argue for a minimum of 2km but this is unreasonable because it would exclude all turbines, including smaller turbines from most of the District. A minimum distance which is linked to the size of turbine is a better approach and would protect communities as turbines get bigger. 2km is reasonable for the larger turbines (145metres , it should be greater for 200 metres turbines).

The number of turbines should also be taken into consideration. It must not be permissible to have more than one turbine at the minimum distance.

Minimum distances should be set for distances from homes, roads, pathways, public areas and areas used for recreational acivity.

While not an SPD the most urgent requirement is to do a detailed landscape character assessment.

This is the key evidence base for wind farm and solar farm proposals. Government has recognised by Ministerial statement that wind farms in flat landscapes have as much impact as they do in hilly landscapes and this has had a significant impact on planning appeals.

The local landscape character is one of the most important factors in determining wind farms applications at appeals.

"By 2027 Selby will be a distinctive Rural District with an outstanding environment, a diverse economy and attractive towns and villages. Residents will have a high quality of life and there will be a wide range of housing and job opportunities to help create socially balanced and sustainable communities, which are less dependant on surrounding towns and cities."

It is important that any work done has value and deals with genuine issues. Any policies must be cost effective in dealing with issues that affect numerous planning applications. Candidate subjects that are current include

- **Cumulative issues of incineration - traffic and air quality**
- **Solar farms - visual impact and enclosure of open space**
- **Wind turbine cumulative visual impacts**

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It is our belief that they have had plenty of opportunity to argue their case and they have continually failed to do so. Maybe it is time that you showed them the door. It is quite apparent that they are hoping that the local populace will lose interest in their fight and may thereby, obtain planning permission on a technicality. They are in for a big disappointment.

With reference to Q26 of the Development Plan, we make the following comments:

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SDC have been extremely pro-active in ensuring that the area meets its regeneration targets. Drax is a prime example with the use of bio-mass and they are also going further with CO2 capture. The Power stations provide employment whereas, besides ruining the local landscape, wind turbines will NOT provide any employment. We therefore trust, that you will continue to your best for the residents of the Selby area and not allow the turbines to march across the countryside.

Yours faithfully

Sheila & Paul Sharman