

PRESS RELEASE

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Supporters urge cynics to experience a wind farm for themselves



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Wind farm supporters from Long Bennington and the surrounding area are urging cynics to go see a wind farm for themselves. This follows an enlightening visit to Burton Wold Wind Farm, near Kettering, on Tuesday September 2, 2008, hosted by Infinergy, developer of the proposed Thackson's Well Wind Farm.

Marlies Koutstaal, communications manager at Infinergy comments:

"In our experience most people that object to wind farms have never had the benefit of visiting one. We hope other people will follow our supporters example to experience wind power for themselves. Although our guests did support wind power before the trip they still had questions which needed answering."

The supporters of wind power, and the proposed Thackson's Well Wind Farm, asked their questions to landowner Stuart Beaty, as he took them on a tour of the ten turbines located on his farm.

As first-time visitors to a wind farm, the initial question for all was one of noise. On arrival everyone was instantly shocked by the lack of sound. While standing at the centre of the wind farm all that could be heard was the ambient noise of the A6, located about a mile away.

Commenting on the sound, mother of two, Melissa Schofield-Linnell, resident of Alverton said, "They are far quieter than I expected and far quieter than the traffic going through my village and that is right on my doorstep! I really would urge anybody with doubts to go and visit a wind farm, it was a real eye-opener seeing them up close and Stuart was happy to answer all our questions."

Further questions arose around health issues, payback and the threat to birds. Respectively Stuart answered: "the turbines don't turn quickly enough to cause epilepsy from shadow flicker, and although the effects of low frequency noise and vibrations were raised during planning for Burton Wold wind farm, Kettering council's environment expert concluded there were no issues."

Stuart continued: "The turbines would generate enough power within nine months to one year to payback the energy used to build them, and in addition at the end of the turbines 25 year life, the steel used to make the structures will be recycled."

When asked about the threat to birds, Stuart explained that an ornithologist was employed to monitor the site for a year and concluded there was no threat. "In fact, Red Kites and Buzzards are regularly seen soaring above the turbines, almost as if they are watching them," commented Stuart.

Stuart highlighted the importance a visit to a wind farm can make: "The important thing is to stand right in between them; it makes a real difference – especially in allaying fears. When first approached I wasn't so sure I wanted one on my doorstep and in the middle of my farm, but after a visit to Wales I was convinced and am now pleased and proud to have them here, especially as I can farm right up to them."

-Ends-

Further comments from the supporters:

"The advantage of building a wind turbine is that they sit with other current land uses. In this climate where there are concerns of food shortages the land can still be used for agricultural purposes. It is a fantastic example of dual use of the countryside, providing clean renewable energy and food for the masses!"

Melissa Schofield-Linnell, Alverton

"To me wind turbines are not a blot on the landscape, as you can look straight through the wind farm and see for miles. If anything a wind farm will ensure nothing else will block the landscape, as for the 25 years of their life no other development will happen where they are located."

Melissa Schofield-Linnell, Alverton

"My opinion of wind power has been confirmed, Stuart commented on the people of the area seeing them as a good thing, a landmark to highlight when they are nearly home. I wish more people could see them like that."

Nicola Watson, Lincoln

"I wanted to prove to myself that there wasn't any noise when close to them, I was proved right."

Brian Slater, Long Bennington

"My daughter has moved to within a mile of the Deeping St Nicholas wind farm. The fact that the wind farm was there had no relevance when they made their decision on location."

Brian Slater, Long Bennington

"Fossil fuels will one day run out and we need alternative sources, wind is one of these. The UK's energy security is a concern for me and I feel it is vitally important that we find ways of generating our own. We can do that with wind."

Brian Widdowson, Long Bennington

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Notes to editors:

Further information on Thackson's Well Wind Farm can be found at www.thacksonswellwindfarm.co.uk

Further information on Burton Wold Wind Farm can be found at <http://www.burtonwoldwindfarm.com>. Planning consent has been granted for a seven turbine extension, construction is hoped to commence in 2010.

Infinergy Ltd:

Infinergy is a renewable energy company, developing onshore wind farms throughout the UK. The company is committed to designing wind farms that are sympathetic to local landscapes. For more information, please visit www.infinergy.co.uk