



Environmental Services Department

Executive Director: Martin Kimber

Mr Richard Jones
UK Flight Safety Committee
Graham Suite, Fairoaks Airport
Cobham
Surrey
GU24 8HX

Our reference: D/MC/JAW
Your reference: ERM/DAP/Wind/Bickershaw
Please ask for: Mark Crossfield
Extension: 4319
Direct line: 01942 404319
Date: 11 June 2009

Dear Sir

Bickershaw Colliery Site – Planning Application for a Wind Turbine

I am writing to consult you on a proposal by Wigan Council to build a wind turbine on the former Bickershaw Colliery site.

The Bickershaw South project is part of the Government's Carbon Challenge programme and is only one of four sites in the country identified to demonstrate how zero carbon housing can be delivered. A key component of the scheme is to provide cost effective renewable energy through the installation of a wind turbine on the adjoining site. The project has a very high profile and is within the constituency of Andy Burnham, the newly-appointed Health Secretary.

The project is vital in the regeneration of a former coalfield community that has had a significant negative impact on employment and the local economy since the closure of the Colliery. It is also a major component of the renewable energy strategy for Wigan Council. The project is being funded through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Coalfields Programme.

We have had several meetings with the CAA and have undertaken investigations into the size, number and feasibility of providing a wind turbine/s on the site in an attempt to agree a solution that is acceptable to all parties.

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Please reply to: Mark Crossfield, Development Division,
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The feasibility studies carried out indicates that there are only two wind turbine options available that could meet the requirement of the development as follows:

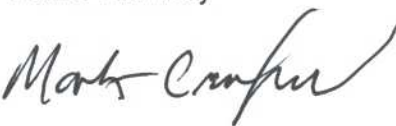
1. A single turbine (RePower MM82 -2MW) with a rota diameter of 82m and a maximum of tip height of 100m
2. Two turbines (Vestas V52-850 Kw) with a rota diameter of 52m and overall height of 91m

Due to the constraints of existing radio communications installations, water bodies, ground conditions, bridleways, and public rights of ways, the study has identified only two suitable locations out of six possible locations considered for the wind turbines. However as one of the two suitable locations is on a spoil heap of more than 15 metres in height we consider that a single turbine sited at a relatively low point on the site is most favourable to keep the total height less than 100m.

Previously we had proposed to install a 125m high turbine, so the current proposal to provide a single turbine of 100m high has moved some way to addressing concerns on height and the impact on the low flight corridor. We note the corridor is 6 miles wide at the location of the turbine and our aviation consultant considers the turbine would provide a point of visual recognition thereby aiding navigation and providing benefit to pilots. Following advice from the CAA we are intending to install a navigation light on the turbine of 2000 candela intensity which would be lit 24 hours per day. We further anticipate this will aid navigation.

Please can you reply to this letter in writing with any comments you may have on the proposals. Should you wish to discuss any of the details further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mark Crossfield
Project Group Manager

