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Ms Catherine Dear,  
 Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley PC  
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Planning and New Communities  
 Contact: Paul Sexton  
 Direct Dial: 01954 713255  
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 Direct email: paul.sexton@scambs.gov.uk  
 Our Ref: S/2564/11  
 Your Ref:  
 Date 09 January 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposal:** Installation of one 330kw wind turbine (53.7m to tip), access track and crane hardstanding  
**Location:** Castle Farm, Hatley Road, Gamlingay, Sandy, SG19 3HH  
**Applicant:** Gamlingay Community Turbine Ltd

**Adj parish - Although not within your parish may be of interested to you.**

Attached is a copy of the above application for your retention.

Any comments that your Parish Council wishes to make should be made **on this form** and returned to the above address **no later than 21 days from the date of this letter.** (You should note that at the expiry of this period the District Council could determine the application without receipt of your comments.)

**Comments of the Parish Council:-**

*Please see supporting letter of 25 Jan 2012.*

**Recommendation of the Parish Council:- (please tick one box only)**

|         |                          |        |                                     |                   |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Approve | <input type="checkbox"/> | Refuse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No Recommendation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---------|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|

Signed: *[Redacted]* (*J. L. REAL*) Date: *25 / 1 / 12*  
 Clerk of the Parish Council or Chairman of the Parish Meeting

**EXPLANATION OF APPLICATION SUFFIX**

- |     |                           |     |  |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|--|
| O   | Outline                   | LDC | Lawful Development Certificate                       |
| F   | Full                      | PNA | Prior Notification of Agricultural Development       |
| RM  | Reserved Matters          | PND | Prior Notification of Demolition Works               |
| LB  | Listed Building Consent   | PNT | Prior Notification of Telecommunications Development |
| CAC | Conservation Area Consent | HSC | Hazardous Substance Consent                          |
| A   | Advertisement Consent     |     |  |

Paul Sexton  
Planning department  
South Cambridgeshire Hall  
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25 January 2012

Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council, 8 Braggs Lane,  
Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2ER.

**Ref. : S/2564/11 Proposal for installation of 53.7m wind turbine, new track and hardstanding at Castle Farm, Hatley Road, Gamlingay, Sandy, SG19 3HH.**

Thank you for your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 informing Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council of the above mentioned planning application regarding proposed development on the boundary of our parish.

After careful consideration of the documents forwarded with your letter we have voted to recommend refusal of the application on several grounds, the reasons for which we list below.

The application and its supporting documentation fail to take due consideration of its impact on neighbouring communities on the Bedfordshire side of the border, in particular the village of Cockayne Hatley, and the maps supplied are cropped in such a way as to make a properly informed decision by the reader impossible.

For instances, Cockayne Hatley, which is only 1.4km from the proposed turbine is mentioned just a few times within its 200 pages, is listed as 1.8km away, and is omitted from a supporting map. The 13<sup>th</sup> Century St. John The Baptist church at Cockayne Hatley, lined with Flemish panels from the Napoleonic wars, ranked as one of the top one thousand churches in the UK and whose frontage faces the proposed turbine is not listed as a building of interest or historical importance.

In addition, the supporting documents make several assertions that are not properly quantified. The Gamlingay village day event mentioned, but not replicated for the benefit of neighbouring communities, is offered as an example of local support for the project but the opinion statistics given are both incomplete and unqualified. As far as we are aware there has been no attempt to consult our parish prior to this proposal. Our own discussions with local residents has produced very contrary opinions to those reported in the document.

Given the very obvious physical impact the proposal would have on our communities we feel a more diligent study is required for proper or meaningful debate about the projects viability to take place.

The application represents a very real danger to the documented bat colonies living in the surrounding areas, particularly those in Potton Wood, 300 metres from the proposed turbine blades. There are both rare and protected species that will be disturbed and inevitably suffer deaths if the structure proposed is built in their living space. Vibration from turbine blades is known to cause damage to the bats delicate tissues. Similarly, the whole spectrum of bird life

the woods provide a habitat for, and those of county wide woodland, will suffer the same risk of impact injury from the blades.

Potton Woods is a carefully managed woodland with a varied wildlife. A Fine example.

We understand that there is some debate about the methodology of measuring sound and in particular the noise pollution aspect of wind turbines. The decibels levels given in the supporting documents are not set out in way a lay person can make an informed opinion as to what is acceptable, The 30 decibels suggested for Cockayne Hatley side of the woods and 40 decibels suggested on the Gamlingay side is clearly a large increase in noise residents would suffer if the turbine was erected. A brief research to find comparative noise levels to create a context found variously that jet engines produce 120 decibels, a car horn 90 decibels, and a normal conversation 60 decibels. It is not clear how much noise pollution the proposed design might cause in practise but the levels the study suggests are alarming in the context of other sources. With further notice a similar plant could have been visited to study the experience.

Flicker from the blades and low level and or sub audio vibration is largely dismissed in the report but health issues have been reported from many sites. Documentation of Incidents of nausea, seizures, headaches, sleep loss, etc are readily available. Clearly anything that damages the health of locals would not be supported.

At 53.7metres tall the specified turbine would tower over the canopy of Potton Woods whether or not it is the smaller or taller of any other proposal. Such a stark design, lit at night with a tip strobe, would blight the beauty of this relatively unspoilt and particularly pretty area of farm and woodland. Any development to the green belt would be very difficult to reverse.

Finance for the proposed project is stated to be from local investors with the project as a community project but the finance appears to be neither exclusively from or to Gamlingay residents and with no visible business interest or spin off for the local economy. Post construction, maintenance is listed as one van for one day every six months. Worryingly it also states the van would be visiting other nearby sites to make travel more cost effective. Whilst some investing residents may be earning dividends of some sort, and the land owner whatever has been agreed, it would seem the rest of the residents will in fact be subsidising the project via the public purse in substantial subsidies paid by to government to the turbine operators. A brief research into the level of subsidy suggests that on a level playing field, with no subsidies, wind turbines of the type proposed are not commercially viable. We have not had time to fully study the accounts of running turbine projects but there is very compelling and readily available evidence that wind turbines are not sustainable in their own right.

In addition, the carbon assumed saved is based on fossil burning electricity generation which is surely the most carbon unfriendly method employed at present. The level of saving compared to nuclear, wave power, or even PV cell, for example would be very much lower. The carbon footprint of the turbine's manufacture, its transport across Europe, erection and operation would erode the saving even further.

Factoring in the drop in property values suffered by residents near previous turbine developments would be difficult, but it would be wrong to not consider that additional cost to the greater community when weighing up the proposal's advantages and disadvantages.

Electricity created by wind turbine is not storable and as such the amount of energy actually used is much lower than the suggested production rate, which at only 127kw in 6 metres per second wind (appendix e page 2) is already low. Production will never be reliable in a forward planning sense. The independence and reliability of supply the supporting document allude to are illusory.

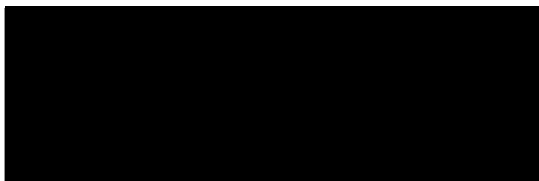
*As a Parish council we are all dedicated to addressing energy issues and embracing green ethics in our community, but feel the wind turbine proposal addresses the needs of too few of our community at the expense of the greater community and indeed the nation at large.*

*We would urge you to investigate the sustainability of wind turbine electricity without government subsidy and if the targets set by central government might be better worked towards at less cost to the lives of the general public by other, proven, technologies available.*

*Wind turbine electricity production appears to be seriously flawed both technically and financially, and it is by no means compulsory.*

In summary, our key points of objection are :-

1. The proposal has factual errors and lacks proper consideration of all parties affected.
2. The proposal is sited amongst protected wildlife and represents a very real danger to their welfare.
3. The proposal is too close to local residents and will create unacceptable noise pollution, health risks, light/shadow flicker, vibration, and sub audio disturbance.
4. The proposal will blight the green belt, is out of keeping with the rural landscape and will be too obtrusive.
5. The proposal will cause a fall in local property values, will be subsidised by locals via government subsidies, is not sustainable in its own right and brings negligible economic benefit to the community.
6. The proposal's carbon saving credibility is highly questionable.
7. Better technology is available.



Alan Ingrey, Chairman of Planning Committee, Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council.