

3 October 2022

Planning Services
Kirklees MBC

PLANNING APPLICATION 2022/62/92887/W FOR INSTALLATION OF WIND TURBINE ON
LAND WEST OF NO 4 HOPEFIELD COURT HADE EDGE HOLMFIRTH HD9 2LD

With reference to the above we wish to make an objection to the application on the following grounds:

1. The proposed turbine is totally inappropriate particularly in terms of size and location. The structure is approximately 13 metres in height including the blades, which we understand is above the permitted maximum of 11.1 metres. If approved it will be visually distracting, in essence a "blot" on the landscape and totally nonsensical in a domestic setting. It will be visible from most areas in the village but most of all from the neighbouring gardens, the village school and playing fields and in particular the very popular adjacent public footpath/bridleway which is roughly 15 metres away (see photos attached).
2. The "field" where it is proposed to erect the turbine is used by the four properties on Hopefield Court which adjoin it. Both the deeds of each property together with custom and practice have resulted in the whole field being open to all residents - although each resident technically owns the land adjacent to their own property. The planning application shows no recognition of this agreement and thus no consideration of immediate neighbours. In fact, if approved it will devalue our property.
In addition, there are additional covenants placed on the field by Kirklees Planning Services [copy attached] and which are incorporated into the deeds of each property which determine the upkeep of the field and strict rules as to what can and cannot be located in this area. It seems wrong that we cannot place play equipment, sheds, ponds etc. on our field but a 13-metre turbine may be acceptable.
3. The field in question has a hedgerow to its southern border which is owned by us. The deeds to our property contain a covenant to preserve this hedgerow in order to protect the wildlife. The trees house a variety of birds both resident and migratory and which fly over and around and forage in the field.
Bats also fly over and feed in the field area on a nightly basis.
In addition, House Martins nest in the eaves of the school directly opposite each year and also use the proposed site for feeding.
The turbine will interfere with the wildlife of the field; it is well documented that turbines are a threat to wildlife and particularly birds.
4. Hade Edge is known for its extreme winds and we are worried with regard to the safety of the turbine given its clear proximity to numerous houses, a popular walking area and not least the primary school. There is evidence in surrounding fields of larger and more robust turbines which have either blown over, lost blades or burst into flames. The field in question is

particularly exposed to westerly winds blowing directly from the Pennines. Indeed, in February 2022 a 6-metre tree in our hedgerow was blown over and lifted from the ground.

5. The local community will have no benefit from this application. It is a private application to provide energy for one household.
6. Despite the assurances of low noise, we are aware that there will be some noise which doesn't exist at present and that the noise will vary dependant on weather conditions and wind direction. It is also a fact that the noise from turbines increases with usage especially when the bearings begin to wear out.
7. This application could set a precedent for others to erect such structures in their gardens.
8. There has been a distinct lack of public consultation in respect of the application. Although we, as residents of Hopefield Court, received a letter from Mr and Mrs Hawley, we have not received any communication from Kirklees Council. There are no public notices anywhere, and it appears that most people in the village are unaware of the proposal. It is not adequate to only post such proposals online.
We would therefore question the legality of the public consultation.

Whilst recognising the need for renewable energy there are times when common sense should prevail and, in this case, the proposed erection of this turbine should be weighed against the detriment to the immediate vicinity and the environmental impact, particularly in terms of the wildlife. Its size is not appropriate in a domestic setting. Any benefits are limited to one household at the expense of the wider community.

In addition, we would implore Kirklees Council to review its clearly inadequate consultation processes.



Kirklees
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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Landcare

2

12 March 1999

It is important to stress that this area does not form part of the gardens of the dwellings. Whilst the land will be in the ownership of the occupiers who will obviously be free to access and maintain their patch, it is green belt land on the UDP and any attempt to extend domestic gardens into it will be strongly resisted and will be enforced against. Maintenance shall be strictly on the basis described above, i.e. after the first year, the wildflower meadow will be cut a maximum of 3 times per year at the times specified, the heathland shall not be cut at all. No sheds, greenhouses, play equipment other structures or ponds etc, can be located in this area.

It may be beneficial if these limitations are incorporated into the deeds of sale so that occupiers are not under any misapprehension to help prevent the need for the Council to take action against unauthorised development in the future.

Yours faithfully

P. A. Ashton

P A Ashton (Ms)
AREA PLANNING OFFICER







