

Seamer & Hilton Windfarm Action Group

Acting to protect Seamer, Hilton, Middleton, Coldpool, Maltby, Stainton, Newby

A storm is brewing:

- **Broadview blow in on a southerly gale but the Action Group is fighting back!**
- **Our plans include:**
Generating publicity
Gathering support
Putting forward a formal objection to any windfarm application
- **SHWAG website - coming soon**

Stop Press

We won the first round! SBC rejected Broadview's planning application for a Test Mast - see page 2

SHWAG Needs You! *Please let us know if you are willing to:*

- **Do a bit of admin**
- **Help with the website**
- **Help with publicity**
- **Deliver leaflets**
- **Provide advice on various issues: legal, technical, planning, etc.**

The Nissan Sunderland wind turbine in flames:

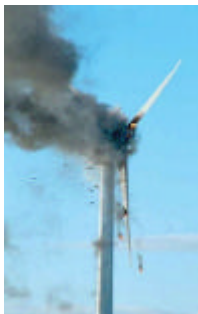


Photo: Sunderland Echo

Broadview Energy propose to erect up to 8 wind turbines, 120 to 147.5 metres high, on open land between Hilton and Seamer

Location?

The wind turbines will be located either side of the busy Seamer to Hilton road, and cause a major distraction to all road users.

Size: Does it matter? Yes it does!!!

The turbines will be at least **TWICE THE HEIGHT** of the existing electricity pylons and of the Transporter Bridge!



Taken from Hilton to Seamer Road

Wind Turbine Efficiency

OFGEM's latest figures state that in 2006 on-shore wind turbines in England only produced **24%** of the installed capacity.

Windfarms need backup

Due to the unpredictability of wind, power stations are still needed to maintain uninterrupted supplies of electricity.

But wind turbines help reduce carbon emissions?

Marginally - **certainly not as much as Developers claim.** Not much saving there, then!

Will they produce cheaper electricity?

No, they won't!

Who gains then?

Definitely Broadview: by their own figures they stand to receive **£1.9million** per annum from the Government in the form of Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROC's).

The public pays this HUGE subsidy via its electricity bills.

And Who loses?

We do: house prices will fall - by 5% to 50% according to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. We'll have construction chaos, major traffic problems and damage to the environment.

Health & Safety

Noise will be a major issue!! Especially the low frequency noise and "blade swish". According to recent research, this can be significant as far as 2km from the turbines. A government report has identified "infrasound" emitted by wind turbines as a source of stress-related illness.

Road Safety: the turbines will be a distraction to drivers both visually and because of shadow flicker, resulting in a major hazard for cyclists, walkers, horse-riders and others.

Wind Turbine Safety: there have been a number of turbine accidents. When a wind turbine at Nissan Sunderland exploded and caught fire, the A19 had to be closed for safety. Proximity of the road and the power lines at Seamer is a real concern.

Windfarms deadly to birds and bats

There is considerable evidence from around the world that spinning turbine blades have killed huge numbers of birds and bats.

Windfarms are inefficient, expensive to the consumer, give rise to health and safety issues and are a blight on the landscape: windfarms cost the earth!

Local Villages Fight Back!

At recent public meetings in Seamer and Hilton, residents unanimously decided to form an Action Group to fight the proposed wind turbine development. A number of people were willing to form a Committee, and met again on Thursday 28th February in Seamer Village Hall to discuss future action. Residents from Middleton, who had been unaware of previous meetings, also joined us. Several local Councillors attended and gave us their full backing: we really appreciate their support.

Well done to everyone who registered their comments on the test mast application with Stockton Borough Council: with the exception of one household, everyone else objected, so there's a massive amount of support to fight the windfarm. Hilton and Seamer Parish Councils submitted objections, and again, we really appreciate their support.

SHWAG will lead the fight on your behalf, but your input and involvement is important and valuable.

Stop Press BROADVIEW BLOWN AWAY IN FIRST ROUND!

At the SBC Planning Committee hearing on Wednesday 12th March, Broadview's application to erect a test mast was REFUSED by Stockton Councillors, who voted 8-3 to reject it. Speakers objecting to the application included Hilton and Seamer Parish Councils, SHWAG Committee members and other village residents, all of whom presented strong, effective objections. During a wide-ranging debate by the Committee we received strong support from a number of SBC Councillors. The Gazette covered the hearing and produced an excellent article in Thursday's edition, 13th March. You can also see it on the web: <http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/2008/03/13>

This was a victory for local democracy, and demonstrates to Broadview the strength and determination of the local community to resist them. However, this is only the first step, and they might now appeal SBC's decision. They are highly likely to target Hambleton next, as the proposed site is in **both** districts. We will continue to resist all their plans to desecrate our landscape with, as one speaker put it, these 'monstrous, churning, inefficient, expensive wind turbines'.

The Next Stage

The developer will eventually have to put in a full planning application for a windfarm installation, and **THAT'S THE BIG ONE!** As soon as we hear of it we'll let you know, so that you can again register your individual objections. SHWAG is working on a formal Objection Proposal which will be submitted at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, please keep an eye on the local press, and visit SBC's and Hambleton's planning websites:

http://www.developmentcontrol.stockton.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx

http://planning.hambleton.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx

And finally ... Please let us know if Broadview have been in touch with you - perhaps in response to any questions you might have posted on their website. They don't seem to want us to talk to each other but as we all know, it's good to talk!

SHWAG Contact Details:

If you have any questions, comments or items for the next Newsletter then please contact one of us:

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