

ACTION GROUP newsletter



Issue 03 MAY 2010 STONE & TRENT VALLEY OPPOSED TO SEVERN TRENT WATER

This month: Become a member and join your MP at our 22nd September AGM.

The call for a 2km Setback:

Recently there has been a major push by STOPstw, and nationally, for wind turbines to be located no closer than 2km from your homes. There are several key reasons for this and they are:

- 1) Health issues
- 2) Visual Amenity
- 3) Noise & Shadow Flicker
- 4) Property values
- 5) Danger and nuisance
- 6) Damage to Tourism

We will endeavour to explain our concerns on some of these issues in this & forthcoming newsletters.

This month we will concentrate on health issues:-

Industrial wind turbines 'should not be built within 1.5 miles of people's homes. Let it be understood, however, that there will be health and life quality problems caused by wind turbines beyond this radius. People living 1.5 – 3 miles from a proposed turbines site should be notified of potential health and life quality effects, and for this they should be appropriately compensated'

Nina Pierpont MD, PhD



A message from our Chairman Mr Paul Shaw

As you may be aware, we won our first fight with Severn Trent Water and gained public support from Stafford Borough Council by their refusal of Severn Trent Water's application in the autumn of 2009. Unfortunately STW chose not to listen to the local objections and Appealed to the Secretary of State just before Christmas.

This appeal was granted in June and though the inspector agreed with us on some issues a 60m, yes nearly 200ft, tall anemometer mast will now be erected prior to an application for the turbines themselves.

We face an expensive fight to preserve our landscape, tranquil way of life and the value of our homes. We have high hopes that the new government will return Planning Approval to Local Authorities and so save a lot of heartache. We have faith that these plans would be refused locally but under current legislation, after that we will be faced with an Appeal & Public Enquiry.

This will be our last chance for us to defeat the proposal. We must not lose through lack of funding.

Fund raising is critical; we already have some funds pledged to our fight.

Please join these local benefactors in pledging your support by becoming a member (this is free of charge, see back page) and giving financial support if you can to save our landscape from the detrimental effects of industrialisation. We can and must win this fight and your donation will make a significant impact. We would encourage you to raise a standing order to the STOPstw bank account for £10/month or more if you can afford.

Please make sure we can identify your payment as we are committed to returning as much as possible to you when this is all over if we have your details.

Please complete and return the membership form overleaf or bring it with you to our first AGM in September.

Our bank details are Bank account details are as follows and any bank or building society will help you with organising a standing order. Sort code: 30 84 26 Acc. #: 29581268

**Paul Shaw, Chairman,
STOPstw Action Group.**

Is it all worthwhile? Reduce Carbon output and save the world!

The last Government told us we could expect energy costs to increase by 20% *above* the rate of inflation. OK, you may say if it saves us from global warming.

However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Report (2007) says "Both past & future anthropogenic (manmade) CO² emissions will continue to contribute to warming for more than a millennium". Well, we need to make a start you may say. However, whilst wind turbines may save on CO² we are now at the point where backup generation from traditional means such as coal fired generation is required for when the wind does not blow. For this reason, the Govt's own figure for saving of CO² emission by renewable generation, primarily wind, is just 9.2M tonnes by 2010.

UK based ecologist and author of "The Wind Farm Scam", Dr John Etherington, tells us that this is less than the emissions of a mid-sized coal fired power station and less than four ten-thousandths (0.0004) of global CO² concentration. It would seem that we are being asked to pay a high price for little effect and STOPstw consider the money could be spent more wisely, particularly in these times of cuts, than in filling the coffers of wind farm developers. Turbines don't just ruin the view, they cost you money and achieve little. Join STOPstw.

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9 Reasons to NO to Aston Farm turbines.

So we support the development of appropriate & sustainable renewable energy schemes? **YES!**

So why object to the siting of 3 industrial wind turbines to the South of Stone between Aston-by-Stone & Burston?

This is not a suitable location.

Wind turbines are large, industrial structures that create environmental noise pollution, putting at risk the health and well-being of local residents. The Govt. Planning Inspector even agrees that just the 60m met mast will be incongruous; never mind 3 x 132m tall turbines.

Internationally, governments are reconsidering the guidelines for installation of large, modern turbines and independent research concludes that it is critical that industrial wind turbines be sited at least 1.5km and probably 2km away from homes and schools. With around 2000 houses and 4 schools within less than 3km of the site the Severn Trent proposal is morally and ethically unacceptable.

Nine reasons why the proposal should be rejected:

1. Noise issues
2. Health issues
3. Human rights
4. Signal interference
5. Visual amenity
6. Shadow Flicker and Strobe Effect
7. Property Devaluation
8. Public Health & Safety
9. Environmental issues.

Shouldn't we, at least, give turbines a chance?

Very fair-minded but how long were you thinking of? Wind energy has had a long time to prove itself:

- Windmills were invented by the Iranians (Persia) 2000 years ago
- The Dutch have used them for 600 years to keep their heads above water
- Modern wind turbines are not new
- We have 1000 of them in the UK dating back to 1991
- The Danes are overrun with them and boast the dearest electricity in Europe & notably are building no more.
- Just one German group: E.ON, owns 8000 turbines and publishes their overall net output as 18% - a far cry from the wind industry claims of 25% upwards.

Wind works for irrigation and cereals. Why? Because you can store both water and grain. You cannot bulk store electricity!

There is one possible exception to this. You could use wind turbines to pump water up to the head of a hydro dam. This reclamation of water is already practised by many hydro stations at night by turning their generators into electric motors which feed off low peak grid. In the case of wind it must be said that it would only be a gesture. The entire night's reclaimed water from 20 turbines would be used by the hydro station in 14 minutes the next day.

There is an old saying: "No one ever built a windmill if he could build a watermill."

N. Shropshire MP, Owen Patterson says that wind farms are an expensive waste of tax payers' money. 'Instead we could make enormous efficiency gains on insulation or water power which would work, and has worked for centuries. These also work for 24 hours a day, whereas wind is totally unreliable', Mr. Patterson told the Whitchurch Herald.

Should we give turbines the chance to destroy our health and our landscape for the sake of a small, inconsistent, heavily subsidized output of electricity?

'I am involved with the BlueSky/Greenfield wind turbine project in N.E. Fond du Lac County. I am also a successful farmer who cherishes his land. My father taught me how to farm, to be a steward of my fields, and by doing so, produce far better crop production. As I view this year's crops, my eyes feast on a most bountiful supply of corn and soybeans. And then my eyes focus again on the trenches and road scars leading to the turbine foundations. **What have I done?.....**'

This is the opening paragraph of an advertisement that appeared in the October 25, 2007 issue of the Times-Journal newspaper in Wisconsin, USA. It was written by Don Bangart of Chilton, Wisconsin following a 2 hour interview with a landowner, who although wishing to remain anonymous, approved the text for publication. The complete and compelling message can be seen here:

www.wind-watch.org/alerts/2007/12/27/what-have-i-done/



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Worldwide Concern

USA: Accumulated evidence has led Dr Pierpont to identify what she has now called “**Wind Turbine Syndrome**”. She told the New York State Legislature that she, a doctor in Australia & a doctor in England were all studying the syndrome and identifying the same symptoms. They are:-

- Sleep problems: Noise or physical sensations which make it hard to go to sleep and cause frequent awakening.
- Headaches, which are increased in frequency or severity.
- Dizziness, unsteadiness, and nausea.
- Exhaustion, anxiety, anger, irritability and depression.
- Problems with concentrating and learning.
- Tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

France: In March 2006, the French National Academy of Medicine issued its report on: **The Repercussions of Wind Turbine Operation on Human Health**. In this document they wrote: *‘In current scientific literature, there is very little data on the potential hazards for humans that are posed by wind turbines. Reviewing current knowledge and assessing the possibility of this harmfulness was the mission of this work group, and led it to propose a number of recommendations to the Board of Directors’*. They went on to recommend the development of a procedure to record noise from turbines and the launch of epidemiological investigation into the health consequences of wind turbine noise. Significantly, pending the results of these studies, they recommended “As a precautionary measure, suspend the construction of wind turbines whose parks have over 2.5 MW of power when they are located less than 1.5 km from homes.” **Severn Trent Water propose 3 turbines of 3.2MW EACH.**

Germany: In 1998, the German Academic Initiative Group, endorsed by more than 100 university professors, wrote in the Darmstadt Manifesto that: *‘More and more people are describing their lives as unbearable when they are directly exposed to the acoustic and optical effects of wind farms. There are reports of people being signed off sick and unfit for work. There are a growing number of complaints about symptoms such as pulse irregularities and states of anxiety, which are known to be from the effects of infrasound (sound frequencies below the normal audible limit).’*

UK: The consequences for health of poor sleep are fully investigated in a paper by Dr Christopher Hanning called: **Sleep Disturbance and Wind Turbine Noise**. He writes: *‘Inadequate sleep has been associated not just with fatigue, sleepiness and cognitive impairment but also with increased risk of obesity, impaired glucose tolerance (risk of diabetes), high blood pressure, heart disease, cancer and depression. Sleepy people have an increased risk of road traffic accidents’*. **In a paper by Hanning, he appended a list of recommended setbacks from various sources:-**

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	
			<u>Miles</u>	<u>Km.</u>
Frey and Hadden	2007	Scientists Turbines >2MW	>1.24	>2
Frey and Hadden	2007	Scientists Turbines <2MW	1.24	2
Dr Amanda Harry	2007	UK physician	1.5	2.4
Dr Nina Pierpont	2008	US physician	1.5	2.4
Welsh Affairs Select Committee	1994	Recommendations for smaller turbines	0.93	1.5
Scottish Executive	2007	Based on visual rather than noise criteria apparently	1.24	2
Adams	2008	US lawyer	1.55	2.5
Bowdler	2007	UK noise engineer	1.24	2
French National Academy of Medicine	2006	French physicians	0.93	1.5
The Noise Association	2006	UK scientists	1	1.6
Kamperman and James	2008	US noise engineers	>0.62	>1
Kamperman and James	2008	US noise engineers	>1.24	>2
Bennett	2008	New Zealand scientist	>0.93	>1.5
Acoustic Ecology Institute	2009	US noise engineers	0.93	1.5

WHY DO PEOPLE LIVING NEAR TURBINES GET ILL?

In essence, the argument centres around the different kinds of noise and vibration emanating from wind turbines and the impact that these can have on susceptible people, particularly children, the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions and sleep problems. Dr Nina Pierpont argues that it is susceptibility to low-frequency noise that is a significant risk factor in people developing Wind Turbine Syndrome.

The Noise Association draws on the work of reputable scientists, such as Dr G P van den Berg of Groningen University and points out that a major part of the problem is that: *‘there are people who are suffering badly as a result of the noise generated by neighbouring wind farms...’* but that *‘the wind farm industry and its allies can refuse to acknowledge the extent of the suffering that this noise can cause and they sometimes deny its very existence.’* Furthermore, *‘wind farms have also divided noise experts. There is an on-going technical debate about the noise and vibration produced by wind farms. The debate has led some acousticians to question whether the Government’s guidelines for wind farms are rigorous enough.’*

Wind Turbine Noise Level determination in the UK:

We are meant to be protected in England by Govt. policy enshrined in ETSU-R-97. As Professor Ffowcs Williams, Emeritus Professor of Engineering at the University of Cambridge said: *‘The regulations (ETSU-R-97) are dated and in other ways inadequate. It is known that modern, very tall turbines, do cause problems, and many think the current guidelines fail adequately to protect the public’*.

Furthermore, the Renewable Energy Foundation stated: *‘REF believes that this material provides further evidence that the current noise assessment guidance (ETSU-R-97) is not fit for purpose, is failing to protect the amenity of neighbours and is urgently in need of revision’*

ETSU-R-97 allows wind turbines to be located just a few hundred metres from our homes. In the case of Aston Hall Farm, homes in the 3 villages of Aston-by Stone, Enson & Burston are less than 700m away. Most of Aston Lodge is within 2km and the same goes for the Saxifrage Drive and Cherryfield estates. **We think these turbines should not be this close to our homes & our children’s schools! Help us STOP this madness.**

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AGM – AGM – AGM – AGM – AGM – AGM – AGM – AGM

Your committee is pleased to announce the date of our first **AGM as 22nd September at Aston Village Hall, 7:30pm for an 8pm start**. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AND MAKE SURE YOUR NEIGHBOURS ALL JOIN US.

We apologise that this is a little longer than 12mths since our inception last July but trust you will agree with us that it was necessary to await the result of the anemometer appeal and for the holiday season to be finished before we meet.

We are expecting that both Local MPs, Mr Bill Cash & Mr Jeremy Lefroy will be joining us to express their thoughts and tell us where the national campaign is at – subject to parliamentary business. Please keep an eye on the web site and news media. It is important that we now get our supporters signed up as formal members so that we can all vote on the 22nd. So please complete the below form and post it to us or bring with you. Or, preferably, you could fill in the form online and get it to us ASAP. Membership is free so please help us to help you by signing up and showing your support.

Together we can win this battle as many of our fellow campaign groups are showing at the moment.

Membership Form: Please return to STOPstw c/o Burston Villa Farm, Burston, ST18 0DS or complete online at www.STOPstw.co.uk

1	Name: (Include title)					
2	Address:					
3	Tel:	Hm:	Wk:	Mob:		
4	Email: (please print)					
5	Age Range:	0-18	18-30	30-45	45-60	over 60
6	Occupation:					
7	Principle objection/s:					
8	Interests:					
9	Assistance:	If you are willing to help directly, please indicate how you feel best able to do so:				

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