

Statement by Horspath Parish Council – 1st September 2009

Horspath Parish Council met on Tuesday 1st September 2009 and considered making this response to recent articles in the Oxford newspapers, reporting on a plan by Oxford City Council to locate a wind turbine on land which it owns on the south side of Oxford Road, Horspath,

1. The Parish Council has not been consulted formally or advised of any proposals, and cannot therefore comment in detail on any aspect of them. A household survey conducted in 2008 revealed that a large majority of Horspath residents were then opposed to the idea of wind turbines near the village. The Parish Council will be seeking full information on the new proposals.
2. In considering any future proposal, the Parish Council would need to be convinced that any real benefit in terms of low carbon energy for “the community” substantially outweighed the environmental impact on the Oxford Green Belt, where it notes the impact will primarily be on residents of Horspath and Garsington, and whether or not there are more suitable sites for such a wind turbine.
3. The Parish Council notes that the financial benefit of the project appears to be destined for Oxford City Council, whilst the visual impact will be solely upon the residents of Horspath and Garsington.
4. The Parish Council notes that there may be more suitable sites available within Oxfordshire for such a wind turbine which may increase the project’s viability whilst reducing the visual impact.
5. The Parish Council recommends that at this stage, while further information is still being sought, any residents who wish to campaign directly, for or against this proposal, should organise themselves accordingly.

Issued to:- Oxford City Council
Oxford Times & Oxford Mail
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (Thame Branch)
Oxford Green Belt Network
Oxford Preservation Trust