

NO HORSPATH WIND TURBINE PLEASE!

Horspath Parish Council's campaign to oppose PfR's giant wind turbine in Horspath

At the December 2010 meeting of Horspath Parish Council, the decision was taken to start an active campaign of opposition to the proposed erection of a giant 130 metres (425 feet) high wind turbine generator in a field in the Green Belt alongside Oxford Road at the west entrance to the village. This decision reflects the vast majority view (70.2%) of Horspath residents who opposed wind turbines in this location in the survey carried out in 2008, a larger majority (95.6%) supporting the defence of the Green Belt against building development, and an even larger majority (96.7%) of residents wanting Horspath to remain as a village separated from Oxford by a strip of Green Belt fields. The Parish Council's responsibility is to reflect the majority view of the village residents, and even before any Planning Application is submitted by the wind turbine developers 'Partnerships for Renewables' (PfR), the Parish Council has decided to start a campaign to oppose this unwelcome development as it would clearly damage the openness of the Green Belt by starting industrial development there, and might well lead eventually to Horspath being joined up to Oxford.

The initial aims of the campaign:

1. To alert every Horspath resident about the giant size of the PfR wind turbine by delivering an information sheet to every household in the village, with an invitation to attend a **Residents' Meeting** on January 10th to learn in more detail from the wide range of local groups, also opposed to the proposed Horspath wind turbine, how much this wind turbine will affect everyone's lives.
2. To receive back from residents via the **Reply Slip** on the information sheet some **e-mail or telephone contact details**, so that the Parish Council can use this to send out further alerts to residents, by e-mail, when a Planning Application for the giant wind turbine is submitted, so they can read all about it for themselves, and decide what they wish to do next. This same Residents' Contacts List will also be used to inform Horspath residents when the CPRE and Parish Council will fly a kite balloon up to the same height as the proposed wind turbine from a location as near as possible to the proposed site for PfR's wind turbine. These replies will also provide the organisers of the Residents' Meeting on January 10th with an estimate of the numbers to cater for.
3. To supply to every household an A4 size yellow "**NO Horspath Wind Turbine Please!**" poster, for display in a prominent window, or safely in the side window of a car, in support of the campaign, so that any government officials visiting Horspath will quickly see the great strength of the local opposition to the PfR wind turbine. Additional posters will be displayed on some grass verges around Horspath to spread the message further.
4. To demonstrate to Horspath residents how high the PfR's proposed wind turbine would be, **by flying a large white kite balloon up to 425 feet above the ground for just one day and as near as possible to the proposed wind turbine site**. This will be very dependent on getting good calm sunny weather, and on the day before the balloon will fly, the Parish Council will send out an e-mail alert to everyone resident in Horspath for whom it has an e-mail address. A large notice will also be put up on the Green on the day when the balloon flies. We will then need to take as many photographs of this balloon in the views from different places in the village, to prove exactly how seriously the giant wind turbine would be visually intrusive.
5. To alert the 70% of households which have Internet access that further details of this campaign will be posted for them to read on the Horspath village website: www.horspath.org.uk where there is also an easy-to-use method of joining the Horspath Residents Contacts List to receive e-mail alerts from the Parish Council during this campaign.