

Rudston Parish Council

Wind Turbine Survey – May 2012

Summary

Rudston Parish Council carried out a consultation in May 2012 to determine the parish's views on potential wind turbine developments close to the village. A total of 98 forms were received by the deadline, representing just under one third of the village residents eligible to return a form; less than 10% were from those aged under 41. Of those who attended the Parish Meeting prior to the survey, 75% thought that it was useful.

Overall, the village is negative about wind turbine developments close to the village, with 40% negative, 27% neutral and 33% positive. Looking at the data more closely, the only form of wind turbine development that has any significant general support is for single small turbines sited on farms.

There was a majority view that wind turbines are not attractive and are over-subsidised.

Finally, offers of compensation only appear to change people's views if they have a neutral view overall. In this case, people might change their views if there was: better consultation; new jobs created in the village; the village is given a share of revenue; the village is given free electricity.

Background

Rudston Parish Council carried out a consultation to determine the views of the people living in the parish about wind turbine developments potentially affecting the parish.

The consultation started with a Parish Meeting on 22 May 2012 at the Village Hall. This consisted of a series of statements from local wind turbine developers or their agents; groups who are anti wind turbines on the Wolds; and East Riding of Yorkshire Planning Department, followed by a question and answer session.

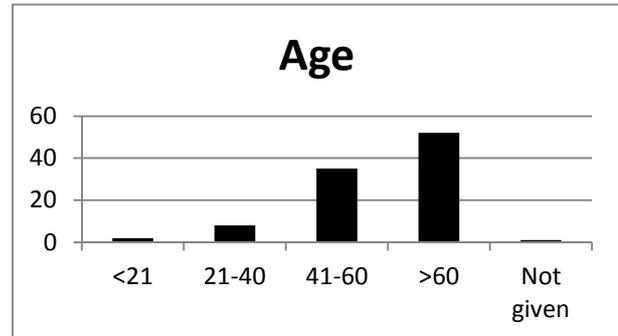
Following the meeting, survey forms were distributed to all houses in the village. Anyone aged 16 or over and living in the village could complete the form and return it to their Parish Councillor or they could complete the survey online.

The results of the survey are published with the July/August issue of the Rudston Newsletter, and on the Rudston website, www.rudston.org.uk/wind-turbine-results.aspx.

Analysis

A total of 98 forms were received representing approximately 29% of the 333 residents registered on the electoral roll. This figure is approximate as the electoral roll does not include all young people aged between 16 and 18, nor does it account for people who have moved to or from the village since November 2011.

There were very few responses from people under the age of 40. Whilst this reflects the age profile of the village to some extent, it is unfortunate that the younger people in the village have not engaged with the survey.



The meeting on 22 May was attended by 33% of the people who responded. The meeting was considered to be useful or very useful by 75% of them. In terms of the content of the meeting (the speakers and the Q&A) the results are summarised in the table. Note that East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Planning Department spending time explaining their decisions, and the policies that drive them, was appreciated most.

	Not helpful	Neutral	Helpful
Wind Prospects	35.5%	29%	35.5%
Earthmill	19%	37%	44%
George F White	22%	31%	47%
Southwold Wind Farm	34%	38%	28%
Wolds Against Wind Turbines	28%	31%	41%
Councillor Fraser	16%	22%	62%
Q&A	18%	24%	58%

As a whole, the village is negative about wind turbines being sited in the parish, but this is not true for single small wind turbines sited on a farm, where there are more people positive than negative.

	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Difference
Attitude to onshore wind turbine developments in general	40%	27%	33%	-7%
Large scale wind farm, e.g. Lissett	65%	11%	24%	-41%
Medium scale wind farm, e.g. two or more medium size turbines	58%	9%	33%	-25%
Small scale, e.g. single small turbine on a farm outside the village	29%	21%	50%	+21%
Small wind turbine at a house in the village	41%	25%	34%	-7%

This suggests that single small turbine installations, sited carefully, would be acceptable to the village as a whole, but that the installation of medium and large sites of any kind will not be.

When it comes to the need for wind turbines, there is significant negativity about the attractiveness and cost to the general public of wind turbines. The village is split evenly on whether they are needed for national power generation.

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Difference
Are attractive	50%	26%	24%	-26%
Needed for national power generation	42%	15%	43%	+1%
Over subsidised and a burden on tax payers and electricity bills	26%	29%	45%	-19%
Opportunity for a community enterprise for Rudston	38%	32%	30%	-8%

The final section looked at whether compensation (or bribes as some people commented) would change people's views.

	More negative	No difference	More positive
Made significant efforts to consult with, and address the issues of, local residents in advance of making a planning application?	27%	41%	32%
Made a financial or in kind contribution to village projects?	31%	39%	30%
Made a financial or in kind contribution to village projects commensurate with the amount paid to landowners?	27%	40%	33%
Created new jobs in the village?	21%	42%	37%
Gave the village a share in the development (e.g. %age of revenue)?	21%	42%	37%
Gave free electricity to everyone in the village?	21%	35%	44%

Looking at the overall figures, it would seem that the most effective forms of compensation might be: creating new jobs; giving the village a share of revenue; or giving the village free electricity.

However, a closer look at the data shows that those who are against wind turbines in general, would become more negative if compensation of any kind was offered; those who are in favour of wind turbines in general, would become more positive if compensation of any kind was offered.

Looking at the results from people who are neutral overall, i.e. those that do not have views that are already fixed, we get the following:

	More negative	No Difference	More positive
Made significant efforts to consult with, and address the issues of, local residents in advance of making a planning application?	11%	39%	50%
Made a financial or in kind contribution to village projects?	26%	48%	26%
Made a financial or in kind contribution to village projects commensurate with the amount paid to landowners?	11%	56%	33%
Created new jobs in the village?	7%	52%	41%
Gave the village a share in the development (e.g. %age of revenue)?	7%	45%	48%
Gave free electricity to everyone in the village?	7%	33%	60%

These figures show a similar, but much stronger, result to the overall figures. Initially neutral people would appear to see significant consultation & compensation as a way to make them more positive. However, note that the “standard” approach of offering small amounts of compensation (relative to landowners returns) would only increase the divide in views, by reducing the number of neutral people and increasing both the positive & negative camps.

Comments made on Survey Forms

Below are all the comments made on Survey Forms (both paper and online) included in the results above. These are as they were received. They are anonymous as we stated that personal details on the forms would only be used to ensure responses were not duplicated and that responses only came from people resident in the village.

- As fossil fuels are depleting and as per the need to reduce carbon emissions there is more need for the various renewable technologies, there seem to be a lot of the older generation taking the nimbby stance - not in my back yard but the reality is we need these along with other forms of renewable energy otherwise the cost of electricity will dramatically increase and if say for example the cost of 1 kilowatt unit of electricity reaches £1 per unit these people will be the first to start moaning. No body moans about the old style windmills - maybe in the future people will realise these are here to stay and are needed. Green Deal is being introduced by the government which is aimed at reducing fuel poverty within the country and energy companies are backing this and part of reducing fuel poverty recommends the use of small scale generation i.e. wind turbines.
- As you can see I strongly object to wind turbines on the Wolds and the coast. The cumulative effect of them in our area is DOMINATING the landscape and turning it into an industrial one. The possibility of the Springdale application is an appalling one - totally out of proportion, too near the village. The word BRIBERY is not out of context in this case. David Hinde was quite right to talk of Hockney/Holtby - I agreed with everything he said.
- Better to have smaller scale turbines than a large power station.
- Conflicting reports on noise element. Feel this is not environmental issues but more of a way to make money for companies and people involved.
- Difficult to answer questions without the knowing details of any specific proposal
- Do not want any bigger than 25-34.5m in height at any point on the Wolds especially Rudston.
- Don't mind compensation if wind turbines are approved. Totally against bribery. I didn't approve of people from other places than Rudston Parish voicing their opinions from the floor/audience. Totally out of order. I am totally opposed to any large wind turbines i.e. the one proposed at Springdale as the farm there has no use of the electricity and does not justify a wind turbine, nor is the owner of the farm resident in the farm or the village. I have no problem with 1 / 2 wind turbines of small size to aid long term farms in the area.
- Everywhere you look now around the village they are there. A new one appears with great regularity. Enough. It is getting ridiculous.
- I am against commercial sized wind turbines on farms.
- I am against money generated by these projects going to foreign based companies and private individuals. They should benefit the nation if they must be built.
- I am still a little worried about efficiency issues etc, but as for spoiling the countryside, I feel that wind turbines are no more damaging to the views than the average farm building or the awful mono-culture crops we are surrounded by.
- I am worried about energy supply in the future.
- I feel that we have to look at all the different sources of renewable energy available to us. This country is not capable of producing enough energy to cope with current demands and in years

to come this could put the country in a position where we are held to ransom over the price of gas/oil etc. Whilst I do not have any children, how do we expect younger generations to deal with this? Ignoring the problem now will not make it go away, it will only store up a bigger problem for the future. In 25 years time, which is the life expectancy of the turbines at Lissett, the off shore wind farms will be on-line and may take away the need for replacement land turbines. It is a shame that the government is no longer looking into tidal generation in the Severn - I don't think that we can afford to ignore any opportunities available to us. It would be interesting to know what the residents of Rudston would think about increased electricity charges - would they consider 30p a unit excessive, or 40p, 50p? Whilst ever we rely on other countries selling fossil fuels to us, then we will not be able to control how much it costs. The alternative could be that we only have electricity for 3-4 hours per day, which is where some third world countries are now.

- I feel the responsibility of the landowners are to respect our countryside and its appearance. Not at a large expense to the British taxpayer.
- I feel tidal would be more reliable and less of an eyesore.
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- I felt for the Farmer that spoke about his attempts to keep his farm alive and provide jobs. I think he spoke from the heart, I couldn't agree with him more when he said this is about Rudston!!
- I find the questions (no 9) to be provocative. If one is against wind turbines, then offering free electricity, creating jobs or making a financial contribution to village projects, can only be described as blackmail or blood money. The main reasons for these applications is financial, and nothing to do with providing electricity (there are other more efficient ways). The winners would be land owners, who are already over-subsidised by rate payers.
- I find turbines nice to look at and I fell they are much needed to enable small farms to continue. I do not feel that having wind turbines in Rudston would effect the amount of visitors we get.
- I like to see wind turbines, can't see how they spoil the countryside.
- I object to industrial size wind farms (i.e. mast sizes larger than 25 metres) being in and around Rudston, and believe larger industrial size wind farms should be offshore. I agree to "green farming" by local farmers however, I object to the size of the wind turbine proposed by Springdale Farm. This is too large and too close to the village. Why can they not put up a smaller wind turbine like on other farms, and add solar panels to the very large barn they have up at Springdale, if they require extra KWs?
- I think we need to look to the future and wind power is clean an less expensive than any other form of energy. I also think we should be supporting local businesses to be sustainable ie: farmers
- I think we need to look to the future with regard to sustainable energy and wind power seems to me to be the way forward. It is clean and there are no unsightly overhead wires. The objectors never seem to have a satisfactory alternative, which to me does not help to justify their objections. I hope this Parish Council will consider the future of wind farms with great care bot just for today but for future generations. I also suggest that several of the speakers at the meeting get their facts correct before addressing any future public meetings.
- I would like to see other initiatives, e.g. the sea!
- If it transpires that we are unable to stop wind turbines being built near our village, that is the time we would have to be compensated, i.e. Free electricity ect.

- If it will help poor farmers I am all in favour. I like to see turbines going round.
- If there were to be free electricity for everyone in the village - I doubt if the grid could cope!!
- If we must have wind farms then they should be off shore
- In favour of anything that helps small farms to continue. Wind turbines are the way forward.
- My responses are based on the premise that though we do need wind turbines as part of a national power generation package such developments should be out at sea; land based turbines can only be such a small scale that they are pointless.
- No Comment
- No comments!
- No problem with isolated wind turbines, eg for farmers, or onshore if they do not sprawl across beautiful countryside. I do not believe they would create local jobs or bring lasting benefit to the village
- Personally, I would consider any contributions offered as a bribe, however the offer of free electricity would be hard to resist.
- The countryside is where some of us earn our living. It is not just a pretty landscape.
- THERE IS A PLACE FOR TURBINES AT SEA
- They are sprouting up everywhere now. Enough is enough. They are spoiling the beautiful landscape
- Think wind turbines are a good idea, but should be out at sea as they will get most wind there and does not spoil the beautiful look of the yorkshire wold
- This village is a peaceful haven for people and wildlife, both of which would be affected in a detrimental way by these hideous (AND NOISY) monsters, and the traffic created by their construction AND maintenance.
- Unless everyone reduces electricity usage something is needed to replace aging power stations. This is one of the least objectionable (PV panel sites are better). I certainly don't want a large coal or nuclear power station nearby!! So accept turbines, but they should be carefully situated to maximise output & minimise visual impact.
- Very good meeting, shame we had to listen to residents of Bempton more than residents of Rudston. The question on over subsidised and a burden on tax payers is an interesting one, as was made clear at the meeting the no to wolds windfarm group did not know the subsidies paid, and indeed quoted a figure which does not correspond to any turbine, there are different payments for different sized turbines with a different cost to the tax payer, so unless people know the cost how can they make an informed decision, but well done on putting this together and giving more people a say.
- We have already lost part of a beautiful area to gas storage. Despite the money for the Children's Playground, there are other grants and ways to finance village projects.
- What form of generation is to be preferred?
- Wind turbines are not attractive - there are other alternatives with less of a visual impact to the environment and landscape. However, NIMBY will always be an issue and if the incentives are there then the opportunity must be examined.
- Wind turbines of any type and the future when it comes to energy generation. They are efficient and cause no real disruption to the communities where they are located. From the meeting it seemed that those against the turbines were either professional moaners or those in the village who were concerned about property prices. the only people who seemed to have positive

arguments were the farmers present even the planning people could not bring much to the table with regard to applications being refused as in the end it comes down to the government and they are behind the use of this type of energy. I believe even the PM has a turbine on his house and the Prince of Wales has allowed a large development on the Duchy of Cornwall. This is not about what the village will be given by developers it is about making use of a natural resource that could mean we will not have to rely on Nuclear Power in the future. So my message to the Parish Council is to jump into the 21st Century and make the most of this opportunity and stop being concerned with what profit the village can make from this. Surely looking after the next generation is more important

- Would there be such a rush to erect turbines if there were no direct or indirect subsidy and their electricity was paid for at the price of conventional power? We subsidise every turbine being built.