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By e-mail

05 March 2015

Dear Mrs Thompson

THE PROPOSED WIND TURBINE ON LAND TO THE SOUTH WEST OF HARPER FARM, SOUTH OF THE A58 WHITEHALL ROAD, FARNLEY, LEEDS

Further to our telephone conversation earlier today we thought that it would be prudent to write to you in advance of the New Farnley Vision Groups Meeting on 19 March 2015 to provide the group with details of the proposed wind turbine on farm land adjacent to land to the South West of Harper Farm, south of the A58 Whitehall Road in Farnley for its consideration.

The Proposal

The proposed development is a single 180kW wind turbine and associated infrastructure on farm land to the south west of Harper Farm, south of the A58 Whitehall Road in Farnley, Leeds in support of the local farm business. The attached location plan and site plan identify the extent of the proposed application site and the proposed site layout.

The proposed turbine is the Endurance X35Q 180kW wind turbine with a hub height of 30.5m and blade length of 17.5m. The wind turbine is a typical horizontal axis three bladed turbine, which is ideal for generating power for farms, schools and public buildings, and industrial/commercial units.

It is proposed that general construction materials and the turbine components will be transported to the site utilising the existing farm entrance off the A58 Whitehall Road to Harper Farm, which is a well established concrete road that serves the farm and the nearby poultry unit where the wind turbine is proposed to be situated.

Need Case

The applicant, C R & G Stephenson Ltd, is an established local farm business based at Harper Farm. The applicant is local to the area, with four generations of the family having farmed at Harper Farm for 100 years. The farm started out as a mixed farm run by Charlie Stephenson's great grandfather. The farm has since adapted over the years, changing as demands and agricultural practises altered, with the farm specialising in milk production up until 25 years ago.

Fourth generation Charlie Stephenson bought and subsequently took over the farm 10 years ago, and has changed the farm business from dairying to free range egg production and replacement pullet rearing. The change in farming practises was in response to the significant difficulties being experienced in the dairy

industry in the UK, mainly due to the ongoing decline in wholesale milk prices, and the increasing costs of fuel and feed, which resulted in many dairy farmers having to sell milk at a loss.

C R & G Stephenson Ltd now runs a successful and substantial family farm business supplying poultry products both locally and nationally through the major supermarkets. At Harper Farm they carry a laying flock of some 50,000 birds producing an average of 300,000 eggs per week (25,000 dozen). The eggs are supplied to a national egg packing company, Oakland's Farm Eggs, who in turn supply the major supermarkets and the food service industry. 10 to 15% of eggs are also sold to local traders and they have in excess of 100 retail customers calling at the farm. In addition to egg production the farm rears some 70,000 pullets per year from day old to point of lay. Most of these are used for their own egg production with the surplus chickens being sold on to other egg producers.

The farm business currently employs over six members of staff locally, plus contract staff when required. Demand for the product continues to grow and the business expects to expand their bird numbers to accommodate this in the future. As the family children grow up they are looking to bring them in to the farm business and hope to market more of their own eggs locally under their own brand and secure the future of the farm for the next generation.

The proposed development is a single medium scale wind turbine to be situated on land at Harper Farm. This proposal is being considered as a further support mechanism for the farm business, which will support the continued viability of the farm by generating an income and sustainable energy supply, whilst also enhancing the farm brand as a more sustainable product.

The major supermarket customers of Harper Farm products are constantly striving to reduce their carbon footprint, and produce marketable, sustainable products, and are increasingly looking to their suppliers to make the same commitment. The need to demonstrate best practice and sustainable production is expected, with markets demanding higher environmental standards from their supply chain, and buyers requesting support from suppliers to help meet their commitments. For Harper Farm, in a competitive market the ability to demonstrate that the farm business is working hard to support buyers' environmental strategies is becoming increasingly important to maintain business. This is supported and promoted by Oakland's Farm Eggs, to which Harper Farm supply the majority of their eggs, who themselves are committed to ensuring sustainable food production.

Energy prices are also increasing and to ensure production remains viable, both environmentally and financially, a sustainable energy supply is essential. As the Harper Farm business is a relatively large consumer of electricity, they are acutely aware of the need to achieve maximum efficiencies and in this regard are always looking to employ the most energy efficient production systems available. The farm has recently installed a small roof mounted solar PV system, with zero environmental impact, and this is already assisting to offset the farm's power consumption. In order to put the farm business on a firmer footing they are now considering a wind turbine, which as well as being a sound business proposition would clearly demonstrate to their customers, a commitment as their supplier, to a 'greener' and more 'sustainable' product.

Planning Application

A planning application is currently being prepared and as part of this a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been undertaken by independent chartered landscape architects JBA Consulting to support the application. As part of this photomontages from Hart Hill, Gildersome (VP1), Land off Hepworth Avenue, Churwell (VP2), the public footpath near Parkside Farm, Farnley (VP3) and Wood Lane (near Woodend Farm (VP4) have been prepared to provide an indication of the scale of the proposed turbine in relation to the surrounding area. Copies are attached for your reference.

Community consultations are also being undertaken with site notices put up around the site to inform members of the public and invite opportunity to comment. In addition to contacting Ward Councillors we have

also contacted The New Farnley Vision Group to inform them of the proposals however to date we have received no feedback from them.

The applicant, Mr Stephenson has also himself visited neighbours in the immediate locality of the site to let them know of the proposal and discuss the scheme plans. This included visits to Farnley Wood Farm, Willow House and Wood End Farm, which are the nearest properties to the site.

Once the application is completed we hope to be able to submit an application to Leeds City Council at the end of March.

We look forward to meeting you on 10 March to discuss the proposals further. Please let me know if you would like further information in the meantime.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Winter'.

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