

Agency, Health & Safety Executive, Highways Agency and Daventry DC Environmental Health Officer (who did request further noise monitoring but did not specify that it be placed in Draughton Village). **The only letter of support** came from the East Midlands Development Agency who said: "In light of Climate Change and

associated national targets for reducing our carbon emissions, enabling the generation of a higher proportion of energy from renewable sources is an increasingly important objective at national, regional and local levels. Therefore from a strategic perspective EMDA supports this application and recommends approval." No surprises there!

What next?

Once the Planning Officer is content that Nuon have addressed all outstanding queries she will produce her official report for submission to the Planning Committee. An open meeting will then be scheduled in Daventry at which verbal submissions will be taken from Nuon, a representative from the Parish Councils (in this case Maidwell with Draughton) and the SNHWF committee on behalf of those opposing the proposal. We have 3 minutes to get our views across! At the moment we believe the meeting may be on Wednesday, 23rd September at 6:15 pm in the Council Chamber of the Council offices. As soon as we have more information we'll let you know. **Your attendance at the meeting could be critical to the Planning Committee decision.** We can help if transport to Daventry is a problem.

If Daventry's Planning Committee turn down the application, we think it is almost certain that Nuon will make an appeal to the Secretary of State that will lead to there being a formal, lengthy and costly public inquiry similar to the one over the Swinford proposal that has just ended in Market Harborough. How much nicer it would be if Nuon could put sense above profit and realise that they made an error in their original selection of RAF Harrington as a suitable site for a wind farm.

Did we in SNHWF make a difference?

As we produce this Newsletter, and since we started our campaign, we on the group will have had 20 committee meetings, circulated 3 previous Newsletters, put up posters, maintained the web site, organized village meetings, and in the 'back office' spent many hours chained to our computers following up as much as we can of the possible grounds for objection and keeping in touch with relevant national developments. In employing consultants to help with the case we've also spent some £6000 of monies generously donated by the community to help our cause. Two questions are in our minds:

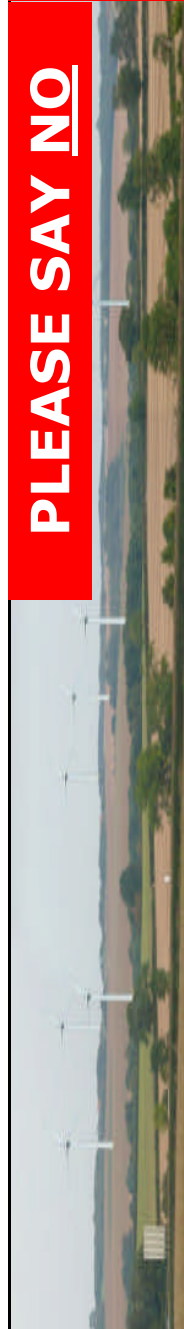
- Have we done all that we could have? and
- Have we made a difference to the volume and quality of the objections?

Well, obviously it will always be true that we might have done more, but we're pretty certain that the answer to the second question is YES.

See www.saynotoharrington.com for more information

Disclaimer: Please note that this newsletter represents the views and opinions of the SAY NO TO HARRINGTON WIND FARM committee and our members. Although we have tried to be as accurate as we can in relaying facts on the subject of this proposed development and the industrial wind industry in general, we cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies found therein.

PLEASE SAY NO



Thanks to you

We at 'Say No to Harrington Wind farm' have been monitoring the state of play at Daventry District Council Planning Office. There are two types of response: those from what are categorised as 'statutory' consultees (the bodies that the planners have to consult); and those from individuals.

Not all the statutory consultees either have or will have replied to the consultation. Whether or not this is of any real consequence is moot, but what is very significant is that overwhelmingly those that have replied in detail have been against the wind farm proposal. **Fifteen of the consultees had no comments to make which meant they did not object to the proposals (but neither did they support them); one supported the proposals; ten actively objected to the proposals.**

Individual letters: There is a huge file of letters of objection from members of our communities in Draughton, Maidwell, Foxhall, Harrington, Lamport, Hanging Houghton, Scaldwell and the other villages. Special thanks are due to our friends in Old who have rallied round to the cause, lodging some twenty-seven objections, and there are also letters from the

USA from people with strong family links to the Carpet Baggers and who know the site well.

This seems pretty conclusive with **well over 150 signatures against** the proposal and only seven or eight in its favour. Significantly, the vast majority of letters of objection cite valid 'planning' concerns and are typically long and carefully argued, not against all wind farms, but against **this** proposal using **this** technology and at **this** special place. Many state that their writers are generally in favour of wind energy harvesting as part of a sensible national strategy for renewables, but note that it is precisely this kind of speculative, 'see if we can get away with it while the financial inducement lasts' proposal that is giving the wind energy industry such a bad name. In contrast the few letters in support of Nuon's plan cite national, even global, notions about carbon dioxide and global warming. We have yet to see a letter which provides solid justification for why a wind farm at RAF Harrington would benefit anyone except the landowner and the developer.

Letters from consultees are as follows:

Of real significance is a very strong letter of objection from **English Heritage** that gives two grounds for advising rejection. Firstly they state that the *entire scheme* (and not just the two 'top' turbines) will compromise the site and 'setting' of the Thor missile pads, which are in line for being given status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. They say 'The effect of the proposed development on the Thor Missile launch sites is serious and by itself in our view would be grounds for refusal.' Secondly, they point to the impact of the proposal on the 'setting' of numerous scheduled buildings in the area. Subsequently Nuon's own consultants spotted this weakness in their plan and somewhat late in the day entered a 'Supplementary Archaeological Assessment' in which they used a very convoluted argument, described by one of the Parish Councils as 'basically incoherent waffle', to justify despoliation of the old Thor Missile site. A response from English Heritage simply states that they have 'no reason to modify (their) original advice'. As far as we can tell, it would be very unusual for a wind farm application opposed by English Heritage to get planning approval. On their website Nuon say:

"We are currently working with English Heritage to mitigate the effect of the proposed wind farm on the Thor Missile Emplacements." We understand that to this end a meeting between Nuon, EH and DDC Local Planning Authority has been arranged.

If you doubt that this site is important, please do what several of us have done, and pay it a visit, taking with you a plan of how each silo was laid out.

It is impossible to visit this place without feeling that there is something that is very strange about it: it really does feel as if one is at some end of the earth. As and when all this wind farm

business is over, as a community we really should do more to value this part of our heritage. In their letter of objection the **Airfield of Britain Conservation Trust** speak of the site as being a 'hugely important and popular place' and 'urge as strongly as possible that this planning application be rejected'. Perhaps even more emotionally, in its letter the (US) **801st/492nd Bombardment Group Association** draws attention to the 'dismay felt by the American veterans who served at Harrington during the WWII at the prospect of the tranquility of their memorial site being broken by the proposed wind farm' noting that 'it is unfortunate that this historically important site is to be desecrated by these gigantic wind turbines'.

Throughout our work, the **Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE)** have been incredibly supportive and generous in both time and trouble. They have lodged two responses. Their wind farm specialist points to the lack of need for Northamptonshire to add any more capacity to that already installed and planned at Burton Wold, and to the overall poor quality of the documentation provided relative to others he has seen. He advises rejection on ground of both noise nuisance and landscape. The other, from their Northampton office, simply and directly says that 'CPRE must state opposition to this proposal'

The **Parish Councils** of Harrington, Maidwell and Draughton, Lamport and Hanging Houghton, Old, Arthingworth, Scaldwell, Orton, and Loddington have all lodged very strong letters of objection. Not all these Parish Councils turn out to be statutory consultees, which is a reflection of the position of the proposal on the very edge of Daventry District. Brixworth PC who initially supported the application reflected and re-

considered, and amended their view to one of "no objection".

Kettering Borough Council have sent a very strong letter of objection noting numerous deficiencies in Nuon's Environmental Statement relating to noise, the locations of the photomontages, shadow flicker, and connection to grid. Subsequently in the last couple of weeks Nuon have repositioned noise monitoring equipment in three properties at Harrington Lodge, Foxton Cottages and Draughton Heath. We are, however, very concerned that this equipment is now monitoring noise during what is the busiest (and noisiest) period of activity in this area—harvest. In Draughton there has been almost non-stop movement of combine harvesters, tractors with trailers and heavy goods vehicles delivering manure to harvested fields. Additionally the Sywell air race has also taken place over two days during the assessment period. We are assured by Nuon that this can be taken into account when readings are interpreted but are still sceptical of the value. We would also have like monitoring equipment to be placed in Draughton village. Nuon said that they didn't put more equipment in before because residents were not available to ask and time was limited. We furnished names of at least 4 residents happy to host equipment, and this second round of monitoring certainly provided the time, but still the opportunity was not taken up by Nuon.

Several letters, though not objecting to the proposals in principle, do comment regarding the recommended distance from public rights of way (PROW) and the guidelines issued by the British Horse Society (BHS). For example, **Northants County Councils** PROW officers visited the site with Nuon and recommended that DDC take the BHS guidance into account regarding sepa-

ration distances between turbines and PROW, requiring turbines to be at least 200m from bridleway. This means that either 2 turbines or the bridleway itself need to be moved. Likewise turbine 6 or the nearby footpath also need to be moved to achieve a separation distance of at least 126m. The **Northants Local Access Forum** and the **Ramblers Association** make much the same point, writing strongly in favour of BHS guidance and stating that 4 turbines need to be repositioned. It may well be that by juggling around the turbine locations or reducing their number Nuon can do something about these objections, but, by their own admittance in their 'constraints' map in their Environmental Statement, there isn't much room for manoeuvre. We understand that one proposal is to move the bridleway from its current position towards Draughton. This will change the surface from the current hard concrete composition to soil.

The **Northants Bat Group** are concerned about the impact of the proposal on bats and have therefore objected. **Natural England** have stated that they are happy that risk of birds colliding is low and initially did object to the proposal due to possible issues with bats. Nuon say on their website that they have managed to find an acceptable mitigation plan and Natural England have now removed their objection. The **Northants Badger Group** had no comment to make.

The **Defence Estates/MOD** state that they have no objection on air safety grounds, but recommend that if built all the turbines will need to be lit up at night for safety reasons. This view is supported by the CAA.

Other consultees who had no comments to make were Anglian Water, the British Pipeline Agency, Coventry Airport, the Environment