



DART

dorset against rural turbines

Secretary: Jo Davies MBE
Huish House
Winterborne Zelston
Blandford DT11 9ES

Chairman: *Robert Walter MP*

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NEWSLETTER

16th March 2004

THE GOOD NEWS

Most of you will have learnt last week from Press & Media reports that the major landowner involved in the National Wind Power for 23 wind turbines at Muston Down has now withdrawn and this has been confirmed by the company. We hope that this will be the end of this project. We are all most grateful for this decision by Morden Estates Company not to continue their involvement and mindful of the earlier letter writing campaign against the proposal, it would now be appropriate for all DART members to write and express individual thanks to:

Mr R Drax, Estate Office, Charborough Park, Wareham, Dorset BH20 7EN

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS

The smaller application for 9 turbines by Your Energy Ltd at Winterborne Zelston is lodged with North Dorset District Council (NDDC) and is now expected to be considered by the Development Control Committee (DCC) in say, May at the earliest. DART is hopeful that the DCC will refuse planning consent, not least due to the huge numbers of letters submitted by you against the proposal – and also because NDDC recommended that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) should reject the recent application for 2 turbines at Cucklington which would have affected much of North Dorset (and this was indeed rejected on 9th March by SSDC).

It is likely that Your Energy Ltd. will Appeal against such a decision and DART will be faced with raising £25,000 to fund the Appeal process. We would welcome your pledges of donations to ensure that we are ready to fight if the need arises. To date our costs have been nearly £10,000.

However an even greater fear now exists that the Planning Inspector at any Appeal stage may be compelled by Government edict to grant planning consent regardless. This would be a travesty of local democracy and it is a high enough risk that we must do our best to avoid by using other strategies. The best solution therefore would be for the landowners to once again withdraw.

We therefore request you to write urgently, voicing your concerns, to the key landowner:

Miss Bridget Hooper, Riverside Farm, Winterborne Zelston, Dorset DT11 9EU

Many thanks for your help and support.

Jo Davies, Secretary