

## **PRESS RELEASE - Issued by LOOT Nov 25th 2004**

East Lindsey District Council Planning committee voted today by 15 Votes to 6 to refuse permission for Ecotricity to build a 20 Turbine Wind farm at Conisholme Fen, Near Louth in Lincolnshire.

After a long and very balanced debate between councillors the members determined that the application, due to its size and scale within this wide and flat open landscape was contrary to the development plan in force and it was duly refused.

Loot is delighted for all the residents in Conisholme and neighbouring parishes who are wholly opposed to this development and who have had to live with the shadow of this application hanging over them for the last two years.

Loot thanks the Planning Committee Chairman, Stephen Eyre for his running of an exemplary meeting and thanks the Councils monitoring officers Alan Tasker and for the application, Mr David Purchon for ensuring balance was returned to the application hearing.

That said however Loot has serious issues with certain officers within the planning department for yet again they had ignored the development plan and all its policies to recommend approval. They did so with the Orby application and the planning Inspectorate supported Loot's position and upheld refusal.

Members today again rejected the officers report and it is our position that the Head of planning's position at ELDC is now untenable.

With careful and less emotive consideration we are certain the Council members will agree with us.

It is certainly the case that the Head of Planning can have no direct involvement in preparing the case for an expected appeal by Ecotricity against the decision.

Whilst we believe the officers position is untenable it will be for the executive board of the council to make that decision.

Further the members also rejected the work of John Campion whose landscape assessment of the district was used by officers to support their position.

That landscape assessment has now been rejected as was his work at West Lindsey District when he recommended the Laughton site as suitable for development and the committee there refused permission.

Loot accepts that the application process has been bruising and perhaps upsetting for certain people however it is local people who have won this decision because they care passionately about the world our children will inherit. Fine landscape belongs to all who live in this nation and today our district councillors used their powers to protect it for the future. We thank them for that.

Loot will continue to work to preserve Lincolnshires cherished landscapes for future generations.

END