

PLANNERS URGED TO TURN DOWN RENEWAL

Date : 12 Nov 2004

A plea for planning permission to be withdrawn from a wind turbine in Devon will be made to Torridge planners next week. The proposed turbine at Swingdon, Ashwater, near Holsworthy, was granted planning permission at appeal in 1994. It was renewed in 1998 and varied to increase the height to 226ft to the blade tip in 1999.

On Monday, Torridge District Council's planning committee will consider a formal application for the permission to be renewed. But Ashwater Parish Council, which has always opposed windfarm development in the area, is calling on the district council to refuse to renew the permission.

The parish council said that since the original application and the subsequent renewals, tourist businesses had developed in the Ashwater area.

"Many of the residents of the parish have invested heavily in tourism-based projects, many as a direct result of the ravages of BSE and foot and mouth," the council told Torridge planners.

The council chairman Malcolm Timney said that if the district council did not refuse to renew the permission then there were at least three conditions that should be imposed.

These were that the height of the turbine should not be increased from the existing permission, strict noise conditions should be imposed and a bond should be paid to cover the cost of removal and reinstatement when the turbine ceases to operate.