



# News

*From*  
**Robert Walter MP**  
*Member of Parliament for North Dorset*

*Release: immediate*  
*Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005*

## **BOB WALTER WELCOMES PRIME MINISTER'S OPPOSITION TO ONSHORE WIND TURBINES**

**Robert Walter MP (North Dorset) today (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January) visited Mapperton in the Winterborne Valley in his constituency as part of his continued opposition to wind farm developments in the most beautiful parts of Dorset.**

During the visit Bob Walter commented on Tony Blair's remarks about wind farms in his constituency. In an exchange with journalists yesterday (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January) at a regular Press Conference the Prime Minister was asked:

*"Just before Christmas an application for four wind turbines outside your home was turned down after the intervention of your agent. Would you have been happy to see those wind turbines outside your home in Durham in terms of your support of wind turbines, or did you breathe a private sigh of relief, and will you be buying your agent a pint the next time you see him?"*

He replied:

*"Well I think he was representing the views of the local community, who weren't too keen on having them there, and I should imagine I will be buying him many pints in the future."*

Commenting on this, Bob Walter said:

"I am delighted that Tony Blair has finally recognised that local communities should have a say when it comes to deciding where wind farms are to be sited.

"Instead of forcing people up and down the country to accept wind farms on their doorsteps and thereby putting all Britain's eggs in one basket, we should use our natural geographical advantages and encourage a wider range of renewable energy, including tidal and wave power."

"A Conservative Government would repeal the national planning policy PPS 22 which is designed to remove local obstacles to the approval of wind farms. We do not believe in imposing developments on local people and believe that, given a more participatory and empowered framework of decision-making, local communities will make the most sustainable decision for their area."

ENDS

**Note to Editors:** Photo available of Bob Walter today in Mapperton

*Robert Walter can be contacted on - Office 020 7219 6981, Mobile 07721 071 671 or Pager 07626 801 397*  
*Website: [www.robertwaltermp.com](http://www.robertwaltermp.com)*