

# Hemswell Cliff Wind Farm Update

Just in case you weren't at the Epic Centre yesterday evening or haven't see the local news this morning - WE WON!!!

The Hemswell Cliff planning application was rejected **UNANIMOUSLY** by the planning committee and despite the planning officer's [Clarkson] best efforts right up to the end to set things up for an appeal and acceptance of the Corringham wind farm application, the councillors added Landscape and Visual to the reasons for refusal and beefed up the Heritage and Archaeology reasons.

The afternoon session was very interesting with excellent and very professional presentations from Mr Barry Dutton for the Parish Councils and Mr Ernie Coleman for VOCAT. The presentation by Sir Edward Leigh MP, who arrived and left by helicopter as he had to be back in Westminster for a vote last night, was emotive and brilliant. He raised the issue of the impact on the efforts that have been made to secure the future of RAF Scampton and the presence of the Red Arrows and the work that has been going on to increase the use of the base. He made the point very clearly that an acceptance of the application would be extremely detrimental to the future of Scampton and the jobs that it provides. He also raised some excellent points regarding the wind of change [excuse the pun] going through both Westminster and the scientific community regarding climate change and green energy tariffs. He made clear his astonishment that the officer had dismissed landscape as a reason for refusal and the weakness of his report in general.

He rounded his input off with a plea to the committee to protect the special landscape of the Lincolnshire Edge and the views of and from the Lincolnshire Wolds which would be ruined by the proposed wind farm. He along with all of the anti wind farm speakers received warm and heartfelt applause for his presence and his excellent input.

Cllr. Paul Howitt-Cowan [Ward Councilor] made an absolutely brilliant presentation in which he dissected the officer's report and highlighted its glaring omissions and its reliance on what RWE had presented instead of doing a proper professional analysis of his own. He made a strong case for the recommendations on Heritage and Archaeology to be beefed up and for Landscape and Visual Amenity to be included in the reasons for refusal. It was a very clever and perceptive piece of work and it exposed what we have always suspected was Clarkson's bias towards the developer [I wonder why???

Cllr Lewis Strange [ County Councillor] filled in the gaps on transport aviation, ornithology and reinforced the reasons for refusal, again making a strong case for Landscape to be included. As always Lewis spoke from the heart and his emotional appeal was well received by the audience

Every single one of the committee members spoke out strongly against the application adding references to West Lindsey's green credentials and highlighting the great work and projects that are currently underway to deliver renewable energy without damaging our landscape and our heritage. Many of their representations were also warmly applauded and the unanimous vote against the application drew the most enormous cheering and waving of banners from over 500 of our supporters.

We were told that the venue would hold 600 people and so we printed 800 stick on badges to cover both sessions. We used about 100 in the afternoon and in the evening we used just over 500 but we were so overwhelmed by the volume of supporters arriving as the evening session started that we know there were many more supporters who didn't actually get a badge. A head-count of RWE supporters put their number at between 25 and 30, most of those were a gang of eco-warriors shipped in from outside the area. They must have been gutted when our supporters just kept coming in droves, especially when the organisers had to bring in extra seats to cope with the flood of people who wanted to show what REAL PEOPLE POWER CAN DO!

We need to be prepared in case they appeal so it may not be completely over yet but with your continued support we will win through.

So, I have just one more thing to say to all those of you who have supported us throughout and **ESPECIALLY** to the hundreds of you who turned out yesterday afternoon and evening:

THANK YOU,

**At this present time we have had no response from RWE. I anticipate RWE either dropping the project altogether, or re submitting a new application or going for an Appeal.**

**Watch this space!**