

Representation 65282 on Cambridge and South Cambridge Modifications Consultation Report by Bridget Smith 17462

I shall be restricting my comments to small scale community wind power generation.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has referenced in the most positive terms the extremely successful Gamlingay Community Turbine in numerous documents and publications. It would not be going too far to say that the Council has expressed pride in this initiative and has promoted it as a model of best practice.

Whilst acknowledging that the Governmental Statement on wind power has made it very difficult for local authorities to support the principal of wind power South Cambs District Council should be mindful that discounting small scale community projects, leaves them open to criticism of discrimination and unfairness.

Though villages undertaking Neighbourhood Plans do have the option to identify areas suitable for wind power the vast majority of South Cambridgeshire's villages are too small or too under resourced to go down this path and it is they who actually stand to benefit the most from a project such as Gamlingay Community Turbine.

The Written Statement says that wind power will only be granted permission if an area is identified in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. However, the explanation for the modification says, "The Council has not identified areas as suitable for wind energy development in the Local Plan". What exactly does this mean? Does it mean that the Council has carried out a full investigation and analysis and failed to identify any areas suitable for wind power or does it mean that they have not bothered to look?

If it is the former, then where is the evidence that nowhere in South Cambridgeshire is suitable for wind power? If so, I believe that we should be contesting this evidence in light of the success of the Gamlingay Community Wind Turbine.

If it is the latter, then surely, in order to fulfil its corporate aims of reducing carbon emissions and of making South Cambridgeshire a good place to live, the council has a duty to carry out such a piece of work rather than just deciding, based upon no evidence at all that wind power is not for South Cambridgeshire.

My representation is that, based upon the success of community wind power in South Cambridgeshire that the Council revise their plan to allow for small scale community projects subject to all the normal planning constraints, including sufficient community support.