

Item No. 13

APPLICATION NUMBER	CB/12/00718/VOC
LOCATION	The Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, Station Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedford, MK43 0PR
PROPOSAL	Variation of Condition: removal of condition 9 (refers to noise levels) of planning permission CB/11/04077/FULL (Erection of a wind turbine, up to 120.5 metres in height, and ancillary infrastructure)
PARISH	Marston Moretaine
WARD	Cranfield & Marston Moretaine
WARD COUNCILLORS	Cllr A Bastable, Cllr S Clark, Cllr K Matthews
CASE OFFICER	Lisa Newlands
DATE REGISTERED	28 February 2012
EXPIRY DATE	29 May 2012
APPLICANT	Blue Energy Marston Vale Ltd
AGENT	AMEC Environment and Infrastructure
REASON FOR COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE	Major Application with an objection from the Parish Council.
RECOMMENDED DECISION	Variation of Condition - Granted

Recommendation

That Planning Permission be granted subject to the following:

- 1 The development hereby approved shall be commenced within three years of the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which is designed to ensure that a planning permission does not continue in existence indefinitely if the development to which it relates is not carried out.

- 2 The planning permission is for a period from the date of the installation until the date occurring 25 years after the date of Commissioning of the Development. Written confirmation of the date of commissioning of the development shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority no later than 1 calendar month after that event.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and landscape protection.

- 3 **No development shall take place until full details of the turbine, including make, model, design, power rating, sound power levels and**

tonal assessment have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the turbine is in accordance with the details submitted in the Environmental Statement and protect the amenities of the neighbouring residential properties.

- 4 **No development shall take place until details of the external appearance and colour finishes of the turbine and details of the design, including samples of the external materials and the associated infrastructure hereby permitted have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and retained as such thereafter.**

Reason: To protect the visual amenities of the area.

- 5 The maximum height of the turbine hereby permitted, when measured from the turbine base to the blade tip in the vertical position, shall be no greater than 120.5 metres.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt.

- 6 Not later than 3 months from the date that the planning permission hereby granted expires, or if the turbine ceases to operate for a continuous period of 6 months then, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority, it shall be dismantled and removed from the site and the land reinstated to its former condition.

Reason: To ensure that the turbine is removed at the end of its operational life and to safeguard the character of the locality.

- 7 **No development shall take place until a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CTMP shall include proposals for construction vehicle routes, site accesses, the management of junctions with, and crossings of, the public highway and other public rights of way, the scheduling and timing of movements, details of escorts for abnormal loads, temporary warning signs, temporary removal or replacement of highway infrastructure/street furniture, reinstatement of any signs, verges or other items displaced by construction traffic, and banksman/escort details. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved CTMP including any agreed mitigation measures and reinstatement/improvements of the highway works along the route.**

Reason: To ensure the development is undertaken safely and without undue disturbance to the local community.

- 8 The rating level of noise emissions from the wind turbine, (including the application of any tonal penalty) when determined in accordance with the attached Guidance Notes, shall not exceed 35dB LA90 at any dwelling for any relevant 10m height 10 minute mean above ground level measured integer wind speed between 1-12m/s and:

- A. Prior to the First Export Date the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval a list of proposed independent consultants who may undertake compliance measurements in accordance with this condition. Amendments to the list of approved consultants shall be made only with the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.
- B. Within 21 days from receipt of a written request of the Local Planning Authority, following a complaint to it alleging noise disturbance at a dwelling, the wind farm operator shall, at its expense, employ a consultant approved by the Local Planning Authority, to assess the level of noise emissions from the wind farm at the complainant's property in accordance with the procedures described in the attached Guidance Notes. The written request from the Local Planning Authority shall set out at least the date, time and location that the complaint relates to. Within 14 days of receipt of the written request of the Local Planning Authority made under this paragraph (B), the wind farm operator shall provide the information logged in accordance with paragraph (G) to the Local Planning Authority in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e).
- C. Prior to the commencement of any measurements by the independent consultant to be undertaken in accordance with these conditions, the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval the proposed measurement location identified in accordance with the Guidance Notes where measurements for compliance checking purposes shall be undertaken. Measurements to assess compliance with the noise limit of this condition shall be undertaken at the measurement location approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- D. Prior to the submission of the independent consultants assessment of the rating level of noise emissions in accordance with paragraph (E), the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval a proposed assessment protocol setting out the following:
- (i) the range of meteorological and operational conditions (which shall include the range of wind speeds, wind directions, power generation and times of day) to determine the assessment of rating level of noise emissions; and
 - (ii) a reasoned assessment as to whether the noise giving rise to the complaint contains or is likely to contain a tonal component
- The proposed range of conditions shall be those which prevailed during times when the complainant alleges there was disturbance due to noise, having regard to the written request of the Local Planning Authority under paragraph (B), and such others as the independent consultant considers likely to result in a breach of the noise limits. The assessment of the rating level of noise emissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the assessment protocol approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- E. The wind farm operator shall provide to the Local Planning

Authority the independent consultants assessment of the rating level of noise emissions undertaken in accordance with the Guidance Notes within 2 months of the date of the written request of the Local Planning Authority made under paragraph (B) unless the time limit is extended in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The assessment shall include all data collected for the purposes of undertaking the compliance measurements, such data to be provided in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e) of the Guidance Notes. The instrumentation used to undertake the measurements shall be calibrated in accordance with Guidance Note 1(a) and certificates of calibration shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority with the independent consultants assessment of the rating level of noise emissions.

- F. Where a further assessment of the rating level of noise emissions from the wind farm is required pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of the attached Guidance Notes, the wind farm operator shall submit a copy of the further assessment within 21 days of submission of the independent consultants assessment pursuant to paragraph (E) above unless the time limit has been extended in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- G. The wind farm operator shall continuously log power production, nacelle wind speed, nacelle wind direction and nacelle orientation at the wind turbine all in accordance with Guidance Note 1(d). 10m height wind speeds averaged over 10 minute periods shall be measured at a location approved by the local planning authority for comparison with noise levels, for the duration of the noise level compliance check survey. Rainfall shall also be measured during any measurement regime at a location approved by the local authority in writing. These data obtained shall be retained for the life of the planning permission. The wind farm operator shall provide this information in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e) to the Local Planning Authority on its request, within 14 days of receipt in writing of such a request.
- H. Once the Local Planning Authority has received the independent consultants noise assessment required by this condition, including all noise measurements and audio recordings, where the Local Planning Authority is satisfied of an established breach of the noise limit, upon notification by the Local Planning Authority in writing to the wind farm operator of the said breach, the wind farm operator shall within 14 days propose a scheme for the approval of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be designed to mitigate the breach and to prevent its future recurrence. This scheme shall specify the timescales for implementation. The scheme shall be implemented as reasonably approved by the Local Planning Authority and according to the timescales within it. The scheme as implemented shall be retained thereafter unless otherwise agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

For the purposes of this condition, a “dwelling” is a building which is lawfully used as a dwelling house and which exists or had planning permission at the date of this consent.

Reason: To ensure that the amenities of occupiers are not prejudiced by

excessive noise.

- 9 The turbine shall be fitted with 25 candela omni-directional red lighting at the highest practicable point and this shall be retained for the lifetime of the turbine.

Reason: In the interests of air safety.

- 10 The Applicant shall provide written confirmation of the following details to the Ministry of Defence and Civil Aviation Authority within 3 months of the date of this permission and the erection of the wind turbines shall not occur until this confirmation has been given:

- i) the proposed date of commencement of the development
- ii) the maximum extension height of any construction equipment

Reason: In the interests of aviation safety.

- 11 Within 14 days of the commissioning of the final turbine, the Company shall provide written confirmation of the following details to the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority:

- i) date of completion of construction
- ii) the height above ground of the highest potential obstacle
- iii) the position of that structure in latitude and longitude
- iv) the lighting details of the site

Reason: In the interest of aviation safety.

- 12 The turbines hereby consented shall be positioned within 10m of the co-ordinates stated in the application and the location of the turbine shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the turbine being constructed. No further movement of the location shall be undertaken without the written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure an acceptable siting of the turbine and the appropriate ground conditions.

- 13 **No construction activity shall take place until a detailed Ecology Monitoring Programme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with Natural England. This will include details of automated data gathering for bats, and use of suitably experienced ecologists to carry out collision searches and monitor the activity of bats and birds in the vicinity of the turbine over the period beginning April to the end of October. Following two years of monitoring, the results shall be formally submitted to the Local Planning Authority, and used to modify turbine operating protocol if necessary.**

Reason: To ensure that biodiversity interests are protected.

- 14 **No construction activity shall take place until the mitigation measures outlined in the Ecological Assessment to minimise ecological impacts during the construction process have been gathered together into a**

single 'Construction Environment Management Plan' and have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This shall include a protocol for avoiding impacts to protected and notable species, such as timing constraints and procedure for undertaking construction activities in an ecologically sensitive manner, and a clear point of contact for ecological advice during the works. All contractors must be formally briefed on this document prior to their commencing work on site.

Reason: To ensure that biodiversity interests are protected.

15 **No development shall take place until a scheme setting out measures for protecting all trees, shrubs and other natural features during construction work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. No work shall commence on site until all trees, shrubs and features to be protected are fenced with 2.3 high weldmesh fencing securely mounted on standard scaffolding poles driven firmly in the ground in accordance with BS 5837:2005;**

- for trees and shrubs the fencing shall follow a line 1.0m outside the furthest extent of the crown spread, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- for upright growing trees at a radius from the trunk not less than 6.0m, or two thirds of the height of the tree whichever is the greater;
- for other natural features along a line to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Such fencing shall be maintained during the course of the works on the site. No unauthorised access or placement of goods, fuels or chemicals, soil or other materials shall take place inside the fenced area.

Reason: To safeguard the existing trees on the site in the interests of visual amenity.

16 **Prior to the commencement of development, a baseline television reception study in the Marston Moretaine area shall be undertaken by a qualified television engineer and submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Details of works necessary to mitigate any adverse effects to domestic television signals in the Marston Moretaine Area caused by the development shall also be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any claim by any person for domestic television picture loss or interference at their household within 12 months of the final commissioning of the wind turbine, shall be investigated by a qualified television engineer and the results submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Should any impairment to the television reception be determined by the qualified engineer as attributable to the wind turbine on the basis of the baseline reception study, such impairment shall be mitigated within 3 months of this decision according to the mitigation scheme outlined.**

Reason: To ensure that the impact of the turbine on broadcast systems are adequately mitigated.

- 17 **The wind turbine hereby approved shall operate in accordance with a shadow flicker mitigation scheme which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the operation of any wind turbine unless a survey carried out on behalf of the developer in accordance with a methodology approved in advance by the local planning authority confirms that shadow flicker effects would not be experienced within habitable rooms within any dwelling.**

Reason: To ensure shadow flicker is adequately mitigated.

NOTES

In advance of the consideration of the application the Committee were advised that comments had been received from the Noise Consultant on behalf of the Applicant.