

What Residents of East Bridgford Need to Know About the Gunthorpe Wind Turbine Development

I accepted an invitation from Partnerships for Renewables, the Company that are developing the Gunthorpe wind turbine project, to visit a local wind farm and to 'get up and close to' examples of these mechanical masterpieces or monsters, dependant on your view.

The tip height of turbines was 95 metres and to put this in perspective, it is just 2 metres short of the height of Big Ben. It was therefore not surprising to learn that the wind turbine monolith that is proposed for the Gunthorpe Lock development at 122 metres would more closely approximate the height of the London Eye.

During our visit we were unable to hear the noise generated by the wind turbines as they were either stationary or not rotating at operational speed. We did learn that the rhythmic throb of a large wind turbine could be disturbing to those living within 800 metres. This distance was even greater where properties are downwind of a turbine.

From maps provided by PFR, it was apparent that the site of the wind turbine, on land owned by British Waterways, would be 805 metres from the closest Gunthorpe residence.

What the maps also identified was the fact that a considerable number of East Bridgford residences would be within 800 metres of the Gunthorpe wind turbine and therefore subject to the visual and noise pollution that would 'cross' the Trent.

All properties on or adjacent to Kneeton Road within our village are closer to the Gunthorpe wind turbine than any homes in Gunthorpe village.

Should you consider that your family could be adversely affected by the construction and operation of such a 122 metre mechanical monster, it would be wise to register in writing with Sherwood and Newark a wish to be notified of any planning application that they might receive as you feel that, during the planning application process, consideration should be given to the significant number of residents of East Bridgford who live closer to the wind turbine development than do residents of the village of Gunthorpe.

The Parish Council might also be mobilized into making similar representations to the Sherwood and Newark Local Authority and, as a result of your representations to them, determine if it is the wish of our community to be blighted by this and other wind turbines that will turn our beautiful and tranquil Trent Valley recreational area into an unsightly and noisy wind farm.

I would suggest that it is essential to act now if we are to retain the green belt area surrounding our homes as a legacy for our children and their children to enjoy in future years.

John O'Hare