

Development will add millions to economy

# Anger as wind turbines given green light near the Fitties

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**PROTESTERS** reacted with anger after the Government gave the green light for eight wind turbines near Humberston.

ASC Renewables has been granted planning permission for the turbines of up to 115 metres in height at Bishopthorpe Farm, between Humberston Fitties and Tetney.

The turbines will add to the existing two at the site which are part of a separate development.

The turbines will be capable of generating 55.1GWh of renewable electricity a year – enough to supply 11,500 homes.

The planning inspector said that it was “not clear that the landscape character and visual impacts would be significantly harmful” and that there was “no evidence of the likelihood of any material impact on tourism in the area”.

The report also questioned the strength of feeling against the proposal, adding that it was not as firm as suggested.

East Lindsey District Council said that, rather than wait for the council to consider the application and prepare reports, the applicant chose not to agree to an extension of the time period and appealed against non-determination.

Planning team leader Chris Panton, said: “The council’s planning team presented a very robust case against this application in view of the negative impact that it would have on the landscape and local heritage and also the visual impact of such a substantial development in this area.

“Added to this is the huge strength of feeling within the local community against the application. It goes without saying that we are very disappointed by the decision of the Secretary of State to allow the development to go ahead.”

Melvin Grosvenor, chairman of the Marsh Wind Farm Action group, said the decision was the wrong one and criticised an “atrocious assessment”.

“The full impact has not been

**SAY NO:** Members of the Marsh Wind Farm Action Group met at the Cleethorpes Yacht Club car park yesterday to show their opposition to the decision to allow eight more wind turbines to be built nearby.

Pictures: Jon Corken



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properly assessed and we’re looking at our legal position regarding challenging the decision,” he said.

“If this goes ahead the impact on this area will be absolutely colossal.

“They want to fill this area with wind turbines. It will change the whole area for miles into an industrial wind farm landscape.”

Roger Lukehurst, a Tetney Parish Councillor, said a questionnaire sent to residents 18 months ago showed 80 per cent of those who replied wanted to retain the “open sky views” towards the coast and the Wolds.

He warned: “We’re not giving up yet.”

ASC Renewables chairman Stephen Critchlow said: “This is a welcome confirmation of the Government’s support for sustainable, low carbon energy projects which will make a significant contribution towards meeting the UK’s legally binding 2020 renewable energy targets.

“Bishopthorpe has been

developed in line with our ethos of sustainability without compromise. For wind, this means that only the best wind farm sites should be progressed.

“ASC has consistently shown that many within the local community support the project, and we are pleased that the planning consent has validated our view.”

He added that the firm had committed to a Community Fund of

£5,000 per MW produced for the lifetime of the site, expected to be worth more than £2.5 million.

He pledged to use local businesses and contractors as much as possible throughout the construction and operation phases, which could be worth as much as £8.15 million to the economy.

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**OPPOSED:** Marsh Wind Farm Action Group chairman Melvin Grosvenor shows a picture of what the new wind farm will look like.