

# KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN: CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

## REPRESENTOR RESPONSES RE: WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT July 2015

### Introduction

This document sets out a copy of each of the responses received to the Inspector's note regarding the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) re: Wind Energy dated 8 July 2015. The WMS re: Wind Energy was made on 18 June 2015.

Five parties (excluding KMBC) submitted responses and the order of this document is based on a method of standard coding applicable to all representors to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy to date. Responses received are included below verbatim.

### Responses Received

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Dear Mr Pike,

**KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN: CORE STRATEGY – WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

I am writing in response to your note on “Wind Energy Development” dated 8 July 2015, in which you invite the views of the Council on the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) entitled “Local Planning” dated 18 June 2015. Although this matter has yet to be formally considered by the Council, I can offer officer level observations as set out below.

The WMS does, in the view of Council officers, signal a change of approach to wind energy by the Government. In particular, it is clear that the Government now advises that new planning applications for wind farm developments (submitted after 18 June 2015) should only be granted planning permission if the new criteria set out in paragraph 2 of your note are satisfied. The current wording of the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (KLPCS) pre-dates the WMS and does not reflect these criteria. Therefore, the KLPCS would need to be subject to a Main Modification if it is to be brought fully into line with the approach which is now expected by central Government.

As set out in paragraph 5 of your note, the KLPCS does not identify any area which is suitable for wind energy development. The KLPCS evidence base does include an initial assessment of the areas of Knowsley which are potentially suited to wind energy development (see documents EB19: Knowsley Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Options Study and LC01/LC02: Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study). However, the Council chose not to identify such areas within the KLPCS. The Council intends to update this evidence base in advance of the preparation of the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies.

Council officers consider that each of the three options presented in paragraph 6 of your note could, in principle, offer an appropriate approach to modifying the KLPCS. On balance, we are likely to favour option c). This approach will provide clarity that:

- in the short term, applications for wind energy development will be considered solely against the WMS; and,
- in the longer term, appropriate areas for wind energy development could, subject to the relevant evidence being updated, be identified in the proposed Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies document.

In response to the question in paragraph 8 of your note, we consider that if the Council is to pursue any of the three options (i.e. options a), b) or c)), there would be a requirement for appropriate public consultation and Sustainability Appraisal of the proposed modification.

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In the light of this new situation, we propose to prepare a new Main Modification to the KLPCS, based on option c) in your note. Subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet (which we expect to seek at a meeting of the Cabinet on 26 August 2015) we would consult on this for an appropriate period. The new Modification would also be subject to Sustainability Appraisal.

We expect that any consultation on the new Modification referred to above would end by early October 2015, after which we will be able to send all responses received to you for consideration. In line with the "Examining Local Plans Procedural Guidance" document, issued by the Planning Inspectorate in 2013, we would only seek comments on the new Main Modification referred to above during this consultation and anticipate that any issues raised are likely to be capable of being dealt with via the Written Representations procedure.

I hope that this letter provides the necessary clarification in response to the questions in your note.

Yours sincerely,

*Jonathan Clarke*

Jonathan Clarke

Group Manager (Local Plans), Knowsley Council

## Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy Examination

Dear Paul Morris & Martin Pike,

I am writing on behalf of Roby Residents Action Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your concerns regarding the WMS "Wind Farms" referred to in Mr Pikes not to KMBC on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and them being omitted in the KMBC Local Plan which has now been running for approximately six years. It is good that you give me this opportunity for you to disregard further statements and allow you to completely ignore factual concerns and affords you a process of lip-service and a tick-box opportunity called "Engagement".

The ministerial statement is quite clear concerning the right of local people regarding consultation around wind turbines and the suitability for such developments to be accessed before planning permission is given.

We believe, therefore, that these needs would be best served if sites identified are part of the local plan as described in paragraph 2 of Mr Pikes note. Mr Pike further describes in paragraph 7 these changes would be a Main Modification to the plan.

As such we believe ALL residents have every right to expect further public consultation and Sustainability Appraisal to the Local Plan to ensure changes are in line with the WMS.

Although this highlights further failings; oversight; or excuses which have been unobserved by KMBC we believe the Local Plan is no-longer "Sound" as you have previously stated in both the Public Hearings held in June and in your note in this regard.

Having listened recently to the recordings of the Public Hearing (or Public Stitch-Up as we refer to it locally) you allowed residents concerns to be voiced; these were clearly dismissed and ignored which has left residents to feeling like they have been ridden rode roughshod by a Council who has systematically disregarded and worked against residents best interests. Furthermore. A resident has applied for planning permission and the Planning Department at KMBC sent seven copies of the notification to the same address of one resident, who kindly posted them to residents who will be directly affected by this application. Once again highlighting a failure in efficient dissemination of Planning & Consultation.

Additionally there is local concern this further opportunity to "involve" and pay lip-service to resident involvement has only been extended to those people who attended the June Hearings and not to ALL residents who have been involved over the past enduring six years, the duration for which the KMBC Local Plan has now been running. Why has this happened is this to ensure a further dumbing down of engagement? As if this question along with the many, many other unanswered questions needs to be answered or you will bother to deign to give a response.

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Additionally I raise further concerns in respect of your lack of regard to Minister's statements on Brownfield since the General Election also. Is this because this would further flaw the "soundness" of the Local Plan and that as there are alternative Brownfield and other such sites it is easier to ignore this alternative view which contradicts your "sound" findings as this would highlight your flawed decision?

Despite the fact that there has been a blatant ignoring of the vociferous and factually written concerns from residents, including supporting evidence which has been disregarded in respect to KMBC's flawed process, lack of engagement and clear flooding issues in many areas your concern is in relation to "Wind Farms". With all the hot air demonstrated from KMBC, I would propose these "Farms" be set up directly in line with KMBC's Offices as they would be the most efficient source of capturing all the hot air being omitted from such a concentrated area of the Borough.

In light of another raised concern from at this juncture I believe that a vote of "no confidence" be given to the Planning Department and the Local Plan from KMBC and that the Local Plan be withdrawn.

I would like to give this opportunity before we ask for it to be "Called In" by the Minister.

Kind regards,

Residents and members of Roby Residents Action Group (R.R.A.G.)

Jayne Tattan

R.R.A.G

(Please note that any and all personal details must be redacted before sharing on any websites run or controlled by KMBC.)

## Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy Examination

Dear Mr Morris,

I am writing on behalf of Save Knowsley Village Green Belt Committee regarding the WMS referred to in Mr Pikes latest note to KMBC on the 10th July.

Our committee has been a conduit of Knowsley Village public opinion regarding the Local Plan since the announcement in 2014 of green belt status removal. The campaign team canvas opinion regularly through newsletters and social media. Knowsley Village residents funded our legal team to formulate the response required during the public consultation stage in November 2014 generating over 1200 replies. The committee has been supported further by local residents during the Hearings early June 2015.

The ministerial statement is quite clear concerning the right of local people regarding consultation around wind turbines and the suitability for such development to be assessed before planning permission is given.

We believe these needs would be served best if sites identified are part of the local plan as described in paragraph 2 of Mr Pikes note.

As Mr Pike describes in paragraph 7 these changes would be a Main Modification to the plan. As such, we believe residents have every right to expect further public consultation and Sustainability Appraisal to the Local Plan, to ensure changes are in line with the WMS.

Regards

Collette Milne on behalf of Save Knowsley Village Green Belt Campaign

## Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy Examination

Dear Mr Morris,

I am writing as Knowsley Town Councillor Ian McKenzie representing Save Knowsley Village Green Belt Group regarding the WMS referred to in Mr Pikes latest note to KMBC on the 10th July.

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The ministerial statement is quite clear concerning the right of local people regarding consultation around wind turbines and the suitability for such development to be accessed before planning permission is given.

We believe these needs would be served best if sites identified are part of the local plan as described in paragraph 2 of Mr Pikes note.

As Mr Pike describes in paragraph 7 these changes would be a Main Modification to the plan. As such, we believe residents have every right to expect further public consultation and Sustainability Appraisal to the Local Plan, to ensure changes are in line with the WMS.

Regards

Cllr I McKenzie

Knowsley Town Councillor

Save Knowsley Village Green Belt Campaign

## Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy Examination

Dear sir,

regarding wind energy and the dangerously high levels of carcinogenic air polluting poison deposited on merseyside ,evidenced by friends of the earth and published in the liverpool echo ,.....neither topics of wind energy or air quality have been taken into consideration by kmbc in their core plan ,therefore making further consultation a necessity , in order to make the plan sound.

kind regards,

j webster,founder roby residents action group.

## Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy Examination

Dear Mr Pike,

There are four main areas in Knowsley suitable for wind generation.

Kirby Industrial estate

Melling

Prescot Hill

Knowsley Safari Park

There should also be allowances for small scale turbines where space and location permit.

There had been two wind mills in Prescot and one in Melling district in the past.

regards

Mike Gittens

Sent from my iPad