

Melton Local Plan additional submission  
FC response ref. ID is ANON-7VBY-7HEP-V.

Dear Mr Kemp  
Matter 9. Policies for the Environment

Matter 9.6 EN10 & Matter 9.8 EN13

Policy EN10 Energy Generation from Renewable Sources

I have in the past made representations in respect of the contents of emerging policy EN10. I feel that it is not necessary to include extracts from their Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Study 2014, because it creates the impression that MBC would welcome new wind energy development in many areas of the borough. It is clear that the Government is not seeking to promote onshore wind.

The study outlines Landscape Character Units (areas) which would be less sensitive than others but it does not identify them as necessarily suitable for wind turbine development, just areas that are less sensitive than others. That is not the same as allocating sites. I still consider that it is unsound to allocate these areas in the policy EN10, and that they should be removed.

There should be a need to ensure that the applicants carry out a pre application consultation in every case where residents may be affected by an application.

After the Extraordinary meeting of the Council ( for the Melton Local Plan) on 27th July 2016 I made some notes on the comments that I made then, which are still relevant now which you will find at Appendix 1 attached.

At Appendix 2, I attach the redacted letter from James Wharton MP to Geoffrey Cox QC MP regarding the need to have identified areas for wind developments in a local plan.

At Appendix 3, I attach a letter from Gavin Barwell MP to myself relating the same advice.

Heritage Policy EN13

This policy does not meet the intention of paragraph 132 of the NPPF which says that when considering the impact of a proposed development on a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the assets conservation.

The policy needs to be strengthened to protect and enhance heritage assets in the borough, even to the extent of listing and naming them with consideration as to how the setting contributes to their setting.

Regards,

Cllr Janet Simpson

Draft Policy EN10  
Energy Generation from Renewable Sources

My notes from 17/08/16

At the Extraordinary meeting of the Council ( for the Melton Local Plan) on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016, I asked for an 'amendment' to the draft policy EN10, as I objected to the inclusion of a list of landscape study **areas** considered suitable for wind energy development being included in the main body of the draft policy EN10. This was supported by a seconder..

I went on to say that:

"The Written Ministerial Statement [WMS] of 18 June 2015 was just concerned with considerations to be applied to planning applications for wind energy development. One of these is that the proposed development site should be in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan.

The problem is that the PPG on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy has not been amended as regards developing a positive strategy for developing renewable energy. Although certain paragraphs were amended the guidance continues to refer the need for local planning authorities to identify the local potential for renewable and low carbon energy generation.

But **renewable and low carbon energy does not only equate to onshore wind.**

The Government has been very clear that it **had a manifesto commitment to curtail the deployment of onshore wind, unless it would be supported by the affected local community.**

The Government is committed to increasing the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy and has a policy of offering financial support to some such schemes (**but not onshore wind**).

I can understand why officers feel that nothing has changed as regards to the Local Plan simply because the PPG does not explicitly say so. However, **it is clear that the Government is not seeking to promote onshore wind.**

I feel that it is not necessary to include extracts from their Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Study 2014, because it creates the impression that MBC would welcome new wind energy development in many areas of the borough. This is against the Governments directive. The study outlines Landscape Character Units (areas) which would be less sensitive than others but it does not identify them as necessarily suitable for wind turbine development;

There is no impending need to include the landscape study in policy EN10. That should be left to the accompanying/explanatory text."

I therefore proposed an amendment to EN10 to withdraw reference to inserted extracts from, the Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Study 2014.

I have seen no evidence that its inclusion is required.

I said that in the '**summary of consultees' responses** in the recent consultation, the responses **do not reflect any overall support for the Policy** when the comments in relation to wind turbines are analysed.

The Chair of the MLP working Group suggested that the item is deferred and is brought back to the working group for consideration. I agreed to this and it appeared at agenda item 7 on our WG papers for the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016. (Agendas and minutes of these meetings are not available to the public)

At that meeting I once again reiterated the above, and that this greatly affects areas such as Saltby/Sproxton limestone edge, Great Dalby & Gaddesby pastoral farmland, Buckminster/Wymondham/Freeby farmland, Asfordby, and the Wolds, Melton farmland fringe in clusters of up to 4/5.

I also pointed out that in the MLP emerging options, (draft plan) consultation booklet page 133, 7.20.9 reads:

“In applying these new considerations, suitable areas for wind energy development will need to have been allocated clearly in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan.”

But I explained that it stops short of the WMS advice by omitting “. **Maps showing the wind resource as favourable to wind turbines, or similar, will not be sufficient.**”

I also explained that North Devon and Torridge councils have now submitted a joint local plan, and have withdrawn their LUC's from their policy. I had spoken earlier that day to the Chair of their Local Plan WG at North Devon Council, Cllr Jeremy Yabsley who categorically confirmed that you do not have to include **identified areas** in your local plan. This had been confirmed by the Government to their MP. You do however have to have the policy carefully worded.

A long debate ensued, mainly between the Chief Exec, Officers and myself, and the sticking point seemed to be (with Councillors and officers) was that **to approve a turbine**, it must be sited in an area that is identified in a Local or Neighbourhood plan as suitable for wind energy.

An amendment was agreed **to reinstate** the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point to read:

- In the case of proposals for wind energy development involving one or more wind turbines, planning permission will only be granted if, following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.

Unless anything changes, I will not be supporting policy EN10 when we return to full council on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

17/08/16

Cllr Janet Simpson



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Our Ref: 2231397  
Your Ref: [REDACTED]

11 APR 2016

*Dear Geoffrey*

Thank you for your further letter of 18 March [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] regarding wind energy development and local plans.

I am grateful to you for bringing your constituents' concerns to my attention. My officials have liaised with the Planning Inspectorate to understand the background to the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan. I understand that the local planning authorities have yet to submit their Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate and have decided of their own volition to seek to identify areas that are suitable for such onshore wind energy development. I would like to reassure you that the Planning Inspectorate have not made rulings about the Local Plan's content or attempted to steer it in a particular way regarding onshore wind energy provision.

For the avoidance of doubt, the written ministerial statement on wind energy development does not include a requirement for local councils to identify suitable areas for wind energy development in their Local Plans. Nor does the National Planning Policy Framework, which says that local planning authorities should consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources where this would help secure their development. It is up to local planning authorities how they wish to plan for such energy infrastructure in their areas.

*Yours sincerely*

*James*

**JAMES WHARTON MP**



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**Gavin Barwell MP**

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Our Ref: 2640028

Dear Cllr Simpson,

26 AUG 2016

Thank you for your email of 9 August to the Department for Energy and Climate Change seeking clarification on allocating sites for wind turbines in Local Plans. Your email has been passed to this department and I am replying as Minister for Housing and Planning.

The new planning tests announced in the June 2015 Written Statement reflect our view that wind turbines should only get the go-ahead when local people have said they want them, and where. I can confirm that the statement does not require local planning authorities to identify suitable areas for wind energy development. Rather, and subject to a transitional provision, the statement sets out our view that planning permission should only be granted if the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a local or neighbourhood plan. We explained in the statement that, in applying the new considerations, suitable areas for wind energy development will need to have been allocated clearly in a local or neighbourhood plan. Maps showing the wind resource as favourable to wind turbines, or similar, will not be sufficient.

In addition, the National Planning Policy Framework does not include a requirement to identify suitable areas for wind energy development, but says that local planning authorities should consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources where this would help secure their development. It is up to local councils how they wish to plan for such energy infrastructure in their areas.

  
GAVIN BARWELL MP

