

Firm reveals plan for wind turbines

AN energy firm has revealed plans for a wind farm on the outskirts of Rugby.

Pete Horton

Nuon Renewables wants to built 18 120 metre turbines - just eight metres shorter than the arch at Wembley Stadium - on land between the village of Swinford and Walcote next year.

The company says the wind farm would reduce CO2 emissions by 46,000 tonnes per year and help the UK reach its 2010 energy targets.

Wind speeds will shortly be measured using an anemometer mast which is being put up outside Swinford and the data recorded by it will be correlated with previous readings to ensure the site is suitable for wind

turbines.

The energy firm, based in Cornwall, says it will continue to listen to public opinion carefully as it draws up a formal planning application.

An exhibition of the plans was held at Swinford Village Hall Thursday and Friday. Almost 300 residents attended.

A brief look at residents' comments left at the exhibition revealed mixed feelings, including some asking why an off shore location had not been chosen instead.

Ward district councillor John Everett has set up a web-site www.mister-tonwindfarm.info to help people find information about the plans and said so far he had received a trickle of responses but was still waiting before he could more accurately gauge public opinion toward the wind farm.

But Steve Money, who lives in Poplars Farm in Walcote, contacted us this week to say he was dismayed at the plans.

"The scale of the development is astounding. The turbines will be 2.5 times the height of the electricity pylons that currently cross the site, or put another way, just eight metres less than the famous Wembley arch.

"Unless we oppose this development we will quickly discover we have a huge white elephant in our midst, contributing little to the reduction in global warming.

"It will add nothing positive to the local economy, but the vandalism to our countryside and negative impact on our lives will be irreversible."

● What do YOU think? Write or email your views to the usual addresses on page 10.