

**CONTROVERSIAL: ENERGY FIRM SUBMITS ITS PLANS**

# TURBINES AT WIND FARM MAY BE UP TO 410ft HIGH

**A controversial plan to build a wind farm with 410ft high turbines has been submitted for approval.**

The project by energy firm Nuon Renewables is proposed for farm land north of Swinford, near Lutterworth.

The company has scaled back the development to 11 turbines from the original 18 after holding local consultations.

It is likely to take three months for Harborough District Council to make a decision and will involve wide-ranging consultation.

If it is given the go ahead, it will be a year before construction starts on site.

The project is opposed by the Swinford and

by **TIM HEALY**

Walcote Windfarm Action Group, which claims the scheme will have an over powering impact on scenery.

Company spokesman Rob Fellows said: "Nuon is applying to Harborough District Council for planning permission to build an 11-turbine wind farm on land close to the villages of Swinford, Misterton and Walcote. It has been reduced from the original proposal for 18 turbines."

He said following extensive consultation, the revised proposal would provide clean electricity for approximately 14,000 homes.

Project manager Ben Gowers said: "Following extensive research and assessment, we believe this is a good location for a wind farm taking full account of the site constraints and the dialogue we've had so far."

The company staged an exhibition in Swinford last year attended by 282 people

and urged people to contact them with comments. Reaction to the project was mixed from the people who attended.

Dawn Money, spokeswoman for the windfarm action group, said: "Most people did not think it was a possibility. Now the plans have been submitted people are voicing their opposition."

"The area at 500ft is one of the highest in south Leicestershire. So the turbines will dominate the visual landscape."

"The turbines will be 410ft tall. That is seven times the height of Swinford church. The 230ft test weather mast is already on site and can be seen clearly from local villages."

Lutterworth district councillor Geraldine Robinson said: "I am totally opposed to the project. It will be a blight on the landscape of a very attractive expanse of countryside."

The action group is holding a meeting in Swinford village hall, on Wednesday at 7.30pm.