

LUTTERWORTH AREA NEWS

'My shock at 120-metre wind turbines scheme'

A WALCOTE man says he is worried about plans to site a wind farm less than half a mile from his home.

Steve Money, from Poplars Farm, off Swinford Road, said he was shocked to discover at a public exhibition that a 120 metre-tall wind turbine could be placed less than 600 metres from his house.

The exhibition was being run by renewable energy firm Nuon, which is investigating a large area of land between Swinford, Walcote and Shawell to see whether or not it would be a suitable spot for 18 turbines.

Nuon has already built a 70-metre meteorological mast between Walcote and Swinford which will gather wind speed data for a number of months.

Mr Money says he is not enthusiastic about the prospect of noise and vibration caused by the masts. He added: "I wouldn't mind about this if I was convinced I was going to be saving the planet by having them nearby.

"But not all the figures seem to add up. It seems some of the dash for wind power is driven by the prospect of Government subsidies."

According to Nuon's website, the firm aims to submit an application for 18 turbines within the first three months of 2008.

Mr Money added: "I hope they have taken people's comments into consideration.

"As far as I am concerned there are several main issues including the visual impact, the noise and vibrations and also the effect on house prices."

Spokesman for Nuon Rob Fellows said as soon as the results from the consultation at the public exhibition had been collated these would be made available.

He added: "Nuon has not suggested there won't be a visual impact. By showing images and holding the public exhibition it was our intention to share as much information as possible with residents."

Mr Fellows said there was also no Government subsidy for onshore wind farms, although there is a support mechanism called the Renewables Obligation in which firms are paid for electricity they have already supplied.

Information provided by Nuon also said that wind turbines are monitored to ensure that they do not produce too much noise which would disturb nearby residents.

A map of where the wind turbines will be placed by following the relevant links under the 'Projects' section of Nuon's website, which can be found at www.nuonrenewables.com.

An independent website has been set up at www.misterton-windfarm.info by ward councillor John Everett to give people the opportunity to find out more about wind farms to make up their own minds about the proposals.

● What do you think? Email michael.whelan@harboroughmail.co.uk



● Greetings... Pam Burton and Liz Longhorn outside St Mary's Church in Lutterworth.

(Picture: Andrew Carpenter/001 199-11)