

Item 11 Development Committee 6 December 2023

Update on Possibility of Planning Permission being Sought for an Onshore Windfarm at Walshaw Estate in Wadsworth, Hebden Bridge

Cllrs S Martin, S Press and Assistant Town Clerk, Mrs S Miles attended the first meeting of the Parish Forum set up to discuss this on 13 November 2023.

It was reported that the Parish Council Conference had had a presentation from Cavendish Consulting about the proposals and that the initial scoping document is on the Calderdale Council website for consultation. The scoping document consultation is the pre application stage. It is expected that the application will be submitted in Spring 2024.

It was stated that although the proposed development is wholly within the Wadsworth area, it will impact surrounding councils as the transport requirements will be substantial on the road infrastructure and it will be visible for many miles.

The key issues include heritage as the land is historic 'Bronte Land', damage to the blanket bog and the impact on the steep and narrow local roads of lorries carrying large loads. It was also stated that the proposed £75m community benefit over a 30 year period would amount to only £150 for each local household in fuel poverty.

It was agreed that the information in the scoping report is insufficient to make an objective decision on the proposal. It was decided to formulate questions to send to Cavendish Consulting about the proposals on the following topics:

- Access/transport (potentially 15,000 lorry journeys carrying concrete plus the movement of the 70 metre blades on steep and narrow roads)
- More detail on the costings for the work
- Biodiversity and the environment
- Justifying the carbon budget (including damage to the blanket bog which stores carbon)
- Heritage
- Flood mitigation
- Disposal at the end of life
- Employment
- What will the experience in the area be during the construction period?
- Visual impact
- Road safety near the turbines as it is proposed some will be near the road

The next meeting of the Parish Forum will be Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.30pm at Wadsworth Community Centre.

Susan Miles
Assistant Town Clerk
15 November 2023