



Richard Bacon, M.P.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTH NORFOLK

House of Commons
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Mr Richard Cooper
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27 March 2008

Dear Mr Cooper

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 2009/0369
METEOROLOGICAL MAST

I am writing in order to register my strong objections to the above planning application for a meteorological mast on land east of Seamere Green Road, Pulham St Mary.

As a resident in Pulham St Mary I am particularly familiar with the affected area and in my capacity as the local MP I have received representations from local residents who are very worried about the proposal. My objections are as follows:

- Given that the proposed mast is some 60 metres in height, it will necessarily have a major visual impact on a rural landscape which has been enjoyed by residents for many generations.
- There would be light pollution since the tip of the mast would need to be illuminated, even though the proposed site is in a rural dark area.
- The site is in open countryside and is much valued by the local community for its tranquillity and distinctiveness.
- The site will have a large footprint and this amounts to major development in a previously unspoilt rural landscape.
- A major industrial development of this type would scar the landscape and erode the character of the affected area, where the pattern of villages and fields dates back centuries.
- The nearby Tibenham airfield is a significant site in the history of aviation and the history of East Anglia. Also the airfield is the home of Norfolk Gliding Club and has been the venue for national and international gliding competitions. It should not be defaced by a major industrial development
- It is impossible properly to separate the merits of the above application for a meteorological mast from the proposed wind turbines. There would be no purpose whatsoever in applying for planning permission to install an meteorological mast unless it were part of a wider purpose to develop a wind farm and the application must inevitably be viewed in this context.
- On 24 March 2008, South Norfolk District Council rejected proposals for a meteorological mast at Tivetshall St Mary (ref. number 2008/0447/F) on the grounds that the proposal did not accord with policies ENV1, ENV8 and UTL13. Given the proximity of the two sites, I believe that the planning application for the meteorological mast at Pulham should be refused for the same reasons.

I hope that these points can be considered by the Planning Committee when it meets to consider the above application.

Yours sincerely, Richard Bacon
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