

GRO/16525/1 – Mr C Colliass

Proposed alterations for a Micro Wind turbine attached to the side of the property. 7 Membury Way, Grove

1.0 The Proposal

1.1 This application was originally presented to Committee on 10 April 2006, where it was resolved that consideration of the application be deferred to enable further information on the noise implications of the turbine to be considered by the Environmental Health Officer. The original report to Committee and the resulting minutes are at **Appendix 1.**

1.2 Since the application was last discussed by Committee a revised plan has been received changing the position of the turbine. Although still located on the east elevation of the property, and measuring approximately 8.6 metres above ground level to the tip of the turbine blade, the structure has been moved 1.2 metres towards the rear of the property. The revised plan is at **Appendix 2.**

2.0 Consultations

2.1 An additional consultation response has been received from the Vale Energy Team in favour of the application, stating 'If installed properly they [the turbines] are quiet and free of any vibration...any detriment in terms of visual amenity is outweighed by the dual benefits of providing Co2 free electricity and also acting as a visual reminder that we have it within our means to do something about climate change'.

2.2 The Environmental Health Officer states 'In the absence of any more detailed information from the applicant or manufacturer, we will need to make a decision on the data available. Unfortunately the existing data is not sufficient for me to say with confidence that the proposed development will not result in a significant loss of amenity to local residents. Neither can I say with confidence that it would result in such a loss of amenity. It would appear that there are two options available:

1. Refuse the application on the basis of inadequate information.
2. Grant permission subject to a condition to control noise. Such a condition could read "The development hereby permitted shall not result in an increase in noise levels, above those already existing, at the boundary of the property, measured as $L_{A,eq(5\ min)}$."

It is possible with the above condition that a tonal noise problem could theoretically arise which does not result in an increase in $L_{A,eq(5\ min)}$. In such a circumstance it would be necessary to fall back on the Statutory Nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990'.

2.3 However, the above suggested condition is not considered to be acceptable as it is not known whether it can reasonably be expected to be complied with. As an alternative, a temporary permission can be granted to enable a reasonable assessment of the noise impact of the proposed turbine.

2.4 A copy of additional information received from the applicant regarding noise levels is at **Appendix 3.**

3.0 Officer Comments

3.1 Given the lack of noise data available for this specific turbine, it is not possible to consider fully

the potential noise implications of the proposal. Consequently it is your Officers' opinion that it would be appropriate to permit a temporary consent for the turbine of one year's duration so that the noise implications can be monitored from both a planning and environmental health perspective (see Condition 1 below).

4.0 **Recommendation**

4.1 *That temporary planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-*

1. *The micro wind turbine hereby permitted shall be removed on or before 30 November 2007 and the dwelling reinstated to its former condition.*
2. *MC20 Amended plans.*