

RESPONSE OF ELVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL TO
PLANNING APPLICATION 07/02915 – WATER TREATMENT WORKS

D. We wish to object on the following grounds:

Although the application is for a temporary 50 metre mast, it is also an application for a mast as part of an “onsite wind generation” scheme and must be treated as such. Our response is worded accordingly.

1. Yorkshire Water’s Supporting Statement is inaccurate. Para 2.2 states the nearest residential area on Derwent Close is 0.83 km away. According to the site plan the distance to Derwent Close is about 450 metres. More importantly the nearest residential area is Riverside Gardens which is only 380 metres away from the proposed mast/turbine. Many other houses exist within a 500 metre radius. The village school is only 550 metres away.

2. The development will be much too close to residential properties and will have an excessive visual impact on the whole village. Homes are within 400 metres – a school only 550 metres away. The height of the proposed mast is just short of the highest point on York Minster! A visual impact assessment for the mast should be made before consent is given.

3. The existing landscape is of an open nature so the introduction of a mast/turbine will be a highly visible intrusion over a large area to many people. Have you contacted the neighbouring parishes affected: Newton on Derwent; Sutton on Derwent; Kexby; Wheldrake and Dunnington?

4. The site is not secure. Para 2.3.1.1 of Yorkshire Water’s Supporting Statement states there are security gates at the main entrance. These are often unlocked and open. There are no full time personnel on site. The gates, when locked, are operated remotely from Bradford by phone link. There are no personnel as security at the entrance.

5. Insufficient opportunity has been given for residents to comment. All residents in the north facing properties in the following streets will be subject to visual intrusion: Derwent Close; White House Grove; Beech Close; Hillgarth Court; Blacksmiths Close; Riverside Gardens; Riverside Close, Main Street (including the new Roxby Farm development). They should each be given the facts and the opportunity to comment.

6. It is now well documented that wind turbines generate noise, both audible and subsonic. There is a growing body of evidence from residents living near operational turbines that the effect is debilitating and destroys residential amenity. A paper by Dr. Amanda Harry in February 2007 entitled ‘Wind Turbines, Noise and Health’ details poor sleep, headaches and anxiety symptoms from people living between 400metres and 2.0 km from a turbine. All said it had adversely affected their quality of life.

7. Under certain conditions ‘shadow flicker’ and ‘strobe effect’ may affect residents who live in nearby properties and the pupils and staff at the village school. A paper by Barbara Frey and Peter Hadden in February 2007 investigates the effect of

‘noise radiation’ on health and concludes that a safe buffer of at least 2km should exist between turbines and family dwellings.

8. There will be an impact on the birdlife in the area if wind power generation is sited. The area is an important habitat for geese, barn owls and raptors. Research shows that these birds are particularly susceptible to collision with turbine blades. Has an assessment of the impact of the mast/turbine on wildlife been made?

9. In view of the proximity of Elvington Airfield, have the R.A.F., Elvington Park and Elvington Air Museum been given the chance to comment? The proposed mast/turbine area would be in direct line of the approach to the runway of the airfield – particularly busy on Airshow days.

10. Yorkshire Water has sited turbines at another Water Treatment works nearby – at Barmby Marsh, near Howden. The contrast with the proposed site in Elvington could not be greater. At Barmby Marsh there are only two properties within 2km. We would urge you and/or the planning committee to visit Barmby Marsh, walk to within 380 metres (you can use a public footpath to do so) and then imagine the effect of that turbine on a whole community.

11. There is an alternative. As a water company we would expect Yorkshire Water to make use of the water resource on its doorstep. At Howsham Mill (upstream) power is now being generated over an old weir. Similar potential exists at the east side of the weir at Sutton on Derwent (as previously suggested by Councillor Vassie in connection with the flood prevention scheme). And the power source would be more reliable than wind. The parish council is supportive of power generation from renewable sources – but only by schemes suitable to particular sites.

Even if City of York Council approves the application for a mast, we would urge you to indicate to Yorkshire Water that you are not minded to approve the siting of a wind turbine at Elvington for the above reasons.

David Headlam
Clerk to Elvington Parish Council

16th January 2008