



PRESS RELEASE

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Sustainable Newbury – Wind Turbines

The Sustainable Newbury group of Newbury Town Council has recently carried out an initial consultation with local residents on views relating to possible wind turbines and a community growing project adjacent to Monks Lane, within Newbury Town Parish.

The results have now been analysed with the following summary findings. 550 letters were distributed and 119 responses were received, a return rate of around 22%. There is much support for wind turbines from local residents, but not so close to their existing houses. A 3:1 majority of the local residents who expressed an opinion were firmly against the sites shown in the consultation.

The Sustainable Newbury group will now consider the next steps, but it seems unlikely that the windiest site within Newbury Town Parish can be used. It is hoped that the registered support for wind turbines can help the drive to find other sites for wind turbines / community growing within West Berkshire as a whole. To that end, a public meeting to discuss the issues will probably be organised, with relevant expert attendance.

Cllr Martha Vickers, Chairman of the Sustainable Newbury group said “The results are disappointing as we were really keen to progress a significant wind turbine project within the parish, following the success of the solar panels on the Town Hall. But we understand the concerns of local residents and hope that over time, an increase in wind turbine projects across the country will help to allay their concerns”.

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Stan Green, a member of the Sustainable Newbury group said “A lot of hard work has been carried out in investigating the possibility. I guess it was a bit pioneering to investigate a site so close to housing, but over time, as other energy sources are depleted, we may be forced into such radical action, for the sake of our descendants. We really believe that the impact on local residents is not as great as they fear, but do respect their views, which is why we sought them at a very early stage of the project”.

END

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