Attention Tom Grant

On 13 Feb 2024 the Reporter published a news article that WDC Planning Committee were of a mind to greenlight an application by Mr Harris Smith (DC23/177/ FUL) to erect a 43 m high wind turbine (250 kw) to the East of Beechwood & Wheatcroft Private Housing Estate. The nearest house being only 450m from the proposed location of the turbine. On 14th February the planning committee voted to have a continuation of the application, inviting Mr Harris Smith to appear and answer questions himself,  as his representative on the day was unable to satisfy the committee as to the intended purpose of the turbine’s energy.

On 13 March 2024 Mr Harris Smith and an associate presented themselves (arriving some 20 minutes late) to the planning committee answering several questions, but not satisfying the planning committee of the turbine’s necessity to be erected in a green belt. Decommissioning had not been fully considered by the developer. The developer’s lack of knowledge on the construction duration and extent of disruption it would cause to the local residents was notable, as access would be through the private housing estate and on unsuitable roads for heavy construction traffic. No plan of access or delivery plan had been made in the application. Previous unauthorized planning permission had already seen some 15 or so 20 tonne lorries deliver hard core for an unauthorized access track. WDC issued an enforcement notice to remove the track and reinstate the ground, on appeal the Scottish Government Appeals Board upheld WDC enforcement notice.

Local residents on line objections/comments totalling 161 and the professional presentation on behalf of BWRA by Harry Scamell and his daughter Jane, went a long way to redlight this planning application causing the applications continuation. Mr Jack Kennedy the nearest resident to the proposed turbine also made a presentation. This development did not prove justifiable circumstances to meet WDC local development criteria, which resulted in a rejection of Mr Smith’s application. Mr Smith has the right to appeal this decision.

As a reporter reader I would like this report published as an addendum to your February 13th 2024 article.

Your “Greenlight comment caused due concern and distrust of the Planning Application Procedure outcome. It had those who objected doubting the process un necessarily.

BWRA Chair

Tom Neufeld