

Good evening Mr Chairman, Members of the Planning Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Daniel Badcock, the Project Developer responsible for Kelmarsh Wind Farm on behalf of E.ON Climate and Renewables.

Members of the Committee - I respectfully urge you to approve Kelmarsh Wind Farm.

This application is the right development, in the right location at the right time. Wind power is an effective technology available in this region to make a significant improvement to energy security, affordability and combating climate change.

This location is ideal for a wind farm and is necessitated by the local need of the Kelmarsh Trust. This proposal will contribute long-term guaranteed revenue that is vital to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of Kelmarsh Hall and its park and gardens.

Ensuring the future conservation of an important local asset is very much in the local community interest. New renewable energy infrastructure is a vital necessity. There is a significant shortfall of renewable energy in this region. We in this room are responsible to act now.

The Planning Officer's report finds our proposal acceptable with regard to all Heritage Assets other than some parts of 'the Kelmarsh asset'. The report confirms the findings of the EIA that our proposal is fully acceptable with regard to all other material considerations.

This is clearly a well designed scheme. Disproportionate weight is placed on the effect on only a small proportion of views from the gardens and parkland.

Insufficient weight has been given to the substantial benefits of our proposal on the long term conservation of 'the Kelmarsh asset'. The significance of 'the Kelmarsh asset' as a whole will not be harmed. The Planning Officer's recommendation is based upon flawed and biased advice which relies largely on rhetoric.

This advice lists all the designated heritage assets in Kelmarsh, but no account is provided of how these will be harmed. In fact many of the features listed will not be affected. The truth is that turbines will not be visible from the majority of the gardens around the Hall and not at all from the Hall itself or from most views towards it.

This project will make a significant contribution of clean, sustainable energy for our economy - the equivalent of around 8 thousand UK homes each year. Every one mega-watt-hour of safe, affordable energy will contribute to our quality of life in a way that does not make us dependent on foreign sources of fossil fuel - offsetting around 15 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

We pride ourselves on being a responsible developer and I can assure you that we would fulfil our commitment to being a good neighbour, just as we do every day with our 17 operational wind farms, where the local communities are our best advocates.

This project will bring improvements to habitat and biodiversity, upgrading of the track for riders and restoration of the old Laundry building for use as a public education room.

The construction phase will provide opportunities for local sourcing of contractors, materials and labour and we will provide an annual community fund of 28 thousand pounds for local community projects. The vast silent majority of Daventry constituents are fully in favour of Onshore Wind.

Once again, I respectfully urge you to approve Kelmarsh Wind Farm. Thank you for listening. I am at your service should you wish to ask me any questions.