

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	06/09/12
Originator	J Squires
Originator's Ref (if any)	CONS/ADJ Cousland Equestrian Centre
Document Title	Consultation Response to Midlothian Council: Planning Applications for 2 Wind Turbines at Cousland Equestrian Centre, by Cousland.

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Monica Patterson
Designation	Ex Dir - Services for Communities
Date	10/09/12

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Executive Director (Services for Communities)

**SUBJECT:** Consultation Response to Midlothian Council: Planning Applications for 2 Wind Turbines at Cousland Equestrian Centre, by Cousland

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Members of an objection to planning applications 11/00401/DPP and 11/00402/DPP on which this Council has been consulted by Midlothian Council as adjoining planning authority.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the objection to Midlothian Council planning applications 11/00401/DPP and 11/00402/DPP because of the adverse impact on landscape character and visual amenity as detailed in the proposed letter of response attached as Appendix 1.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Midlothian Council has received two planning applications for single wind turbine development at Cousland Equestrian Centre, by Cousland, Midlothian. The proposed three bladed turbines are 45.7m to blade tip, on a solid tower. The sites are within 200m of the East/Midlothian boundary and are therefore visible from East Lothian, the nearest properties in East Lothian being at Backhill, Carberry.
- 3.2 The Supplementary Landscape Capacity Study for Smaller Wind Turbines does not apply to these sites as they lie within Midlothian. However, as it is so close to the boundary and within the same landscape character area as defined by the study, the same considerations in landscape and visual terms should apply.
- 3.3 The applications are each for a wind turbine of 45.7m to blade tip. The turbines are of a scale which is inappropriate to the landscape character

and pattern of the area. The proposed turbines would be seen in context with existing electricity pylons and overhead cables which would result in undesirable visual clutter which would be detrimental to the landscape character and visual amenity of this locality.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial - none

6.2 Personnel - none

6.3 Other - none

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 East Lothian Supplementary Landscape Capacity Study for Smaller Wind turbines [http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/206/planning-advice\\_and\\_guidance/1130/renewable\\_energy/3](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/206/planning-advice_and_guidance/1130/renewable_energy/3)

7.2 Planning applications 11/00401/DPP and 11/00402/DPP to Midlothian Council available on [http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/161/planning\\_and\\_building\\_standards](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/161/planning_and_building_standards)

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<b>DATE</b>	6 September 2012

## Appendix

Our Ref: CONS/ADJ

Your Ref: 11/00401/DPP; 11/00402/DPP

Date: 06 September 2012

Duncan Robertson via email to [Duncan.Robertson@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Duncan.Robertson@midlothian.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Robertson,

### **Applications for wind turbine development at Cousland - 11/00401/DPP and 11/00402/DPP**

I refer to your recent consultation on the above planning application for 2 wind turbines to an overall height of 45.7m at Cousland Equestrian Centre. East Lothian Council **objects** to this application on the following grounds.

The proposed turbines are of a scale which is inappropriate to the landscape character and pattern of the area. It is also our view that these proposed turbines would be seen in context with existing electricity pylons and overhead cables which would result in undesirable visual clutter which would be detrimental to the landscape character and visual amenity of this locality.

East Lothian Council has approved a Supplementary Landscape Capacity study for smaller wind turbines in December 2011 (SLCS). The application site, although in Midlothian is situated in close proximity to the East Lothian boundary. Our SLCS found that there was capacity for wind turbines of no greater than 20m to blade tip if associated with farm buildings in this adjacent character area, due to significant effects likely to occur across a range of sensitivity criteria (these include scale, clutter, visibility). Our study also stated that any such turbines should avoid exacerbating the visual clutter of existing transmission lines and masts evident in some parts of this character area. As this site is so close to the boundary we feel the same constraints apply to the application site. We note that your landscape capacity study does not support turbines of this height in this location and makes a similar comments relating to the issue of visual clutter. These issues are apparent from the visualisations supplied by the applicant for example Nos 2 and 6.

Yours sincerely,

[ signed J Squires ]

Ms J Squires

Planner, Policy & Projects

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