

# CERES AND DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT & AMENITY PROTECTION GROUP



**A Group Dedicated To Providing Support & Advice to Those Concerned About The Proposal By EnergieKontor To Build A Wind Farm Between Ceres and Baldinne and to Direct a Constructive and Informed Campaign Against This Proposal**

## CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE NUMBER 1

**First things first!** A big thank you to all who attended the meeting in Ceres Memorial Hall on Friday evening 10th March, 2006. Many more would have come had they been able to. The Hall was filled to bursting point and this turnout was a demonstration of many in the community's concern at EnergieKontor's proposal to develop a wind farm on a site of more than 500 acres at Gathercauld, between Ceres and Baldinne, in the Parish of Ceres.

On Friday 17th March 2006 representatives of the group visited Sir Menzies Campbell, MP, at his consulting rooms in Cupar with a letter expressing our concerns, available details of the developer's proposals, and up to date press cuttings. He was sympathetic and advised that the creation of a 'Campaign Group' to contest the proposal from the outset was the way forward.

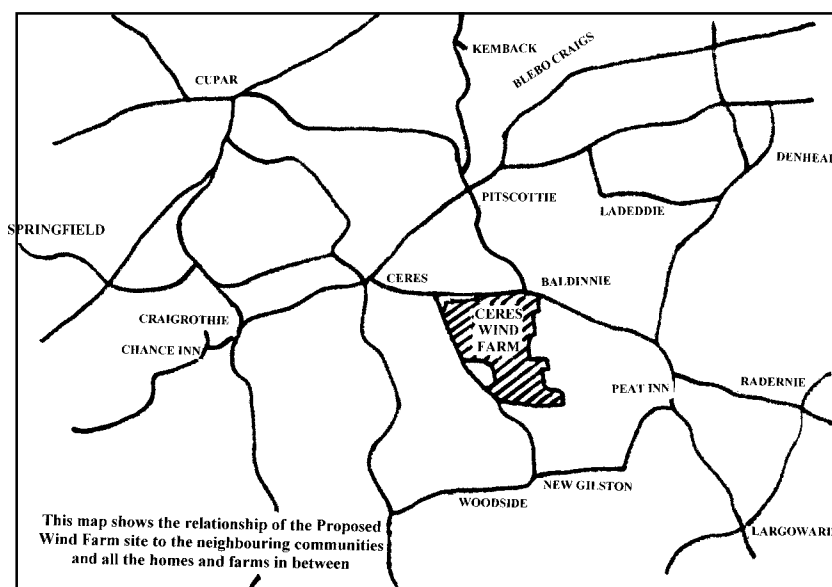
On Sunday 19th March representatives of the group visited Dun Law Wind Farm (an Industrial Wind Power Station in the countryside) to gauge firsthand, the visual and noise impact of Wind Turbines in action. It was an 'eye and ear opening' experience. When you see a wind turbine in the newspapers they are of course motionless; when they are working it is quite a different thing. This site was occupied by 22 turbines sixty metres high, not as high as the ones proposed for here. There is presently an application to double the size of the site.

On Monday 20th March 2006 representatives of the group visited Ted Brocklebank, MSP, at his office in Cupar. He is appalled at another threat of a Wind Farm in his constituency and will give our campaign 110% support. He has since written a letter of support, confirming his readiness to attend and speak at our meetings and will object to any application for planning permission. You cannot get better support than this!!

On Monday evening there was a Ceres Community Council Meeting attended

by more than 50 members of the community. The Wind Farm was of course on the agenda and the Chairman, Mr. Bob Scott, gave Graham Lang, a group member, the opportunity to address the meeting and Graham's remarks on the recent events were well received. The Fife Herald gave good coverage in their edition on the 24th.

We learned at that meeting that on Monday, February 27th, the Ceres and District Community Council were invited to be represented at a meeting at the Rugby Club in Cupar, hosted by EnergieKontor. Two representatives of the Ceres and District Community Council attended the meeting. Also invited to the meeting were Ian Smith MSP, Andrew Arbuckle MSP, and representatives of Fife Council Planning Department & Infrastructure (Roads) Department. Unfortunately the Fife Council representatives apparently had difficulty in finding the venue and arrived at the meeting just as our MSPs and the Ceres and District Community Council representatives were leaving, so we have no meeting dialogue from the Council to report. There was in effect two meetings. This was of course before we got to know about EnergieKontor's ambitions to develop the proposed wind Farm. If this was the developer's opening shot in their 'softening up' process it was ill judged and poorly managed.



On Monday 24th March 2006 representatives of the group visited Ian Smith MSP and he said he would pass our concerns to the appropriate authorities.

While the group and many of those on both sides of the debate are broadly in favour of an element of renewable energy coming from the wind the general view is that the Ceres site is too close to too many households and that it would greatly damage a landscape described in Fife Council's present Area Plan as “ **an Area of Great Landscape value where the Landscape Quality is to be retained Policy Number E16, ED7. It is also covered by Countryside, Rural Character to be Safeguarded, Restrictions on the type of development to be allowed Policy E11, E13 –E15, E20 and H4** “ The environment would be damaged during construction and the visual amenity over a large area would be adversely affected. This landscape cannot absorb these huge structures.

At the Ceres Memorial Hall meeting on the 10th March 2005 those attending saw for the first time, the EnergieKontor Proposed Wind Farm 'Project Information Sheet and Consultation Invitation' and there was immediate and justifiable concern over the first paragraph on the last page of the 4 page document referring to “feedback”. The advice was to write to the company to request more time to give due and informed consideration to the proposal. That was correct and we know a good number have done that.

Extract from Graham Lang's address to the Community Council meeting:

I have received legal opinion from a QC informally on this document and the most important relates to this paragraph. The first sentence reads “the feedback we receive will enable us to focus on what environmental effects need to be looked at”. The word “effects” gives a presumption of consent (Planning Consent). They are not asking for objections and by writing to express other concerns you have of course, not objected to their proposal, but are giving the developer an opportunity to address these concerns and improve their position in a later planning application.

There is no requirement to reply at all. If however you do not think the site is a suitable location for a large industrial scale wind power development, you could write and say that, or that you would object to any plan to develop the site for that purpose.

If you have already sent a response, you might now like to write to EnergieKontor referring to your response, and stating that you wish to qualify this response with the following statement

**“comments on my concerns do not remove my statutory right to object to the proposal”.**

Also on “ Feedback” the developer offered to let Fife Council and SNH Scottish Natural Heritage know our views. We think you should make your views known directly to your Councillor, MP MSPs and SNH rather than have EnergieKontor act on your behalf. All contacts details are on the back of this newsletter

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#### **COMMUNITY COUNCILS:**

Representatives of our group will be contacting all Community Councils in the immediate and wider area to discuss with them the impact such a development would have in this part of Fife and beyond.

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#### **COMMUNICATION:**

It is our intention that every member of the community should receive a copy of the Newsletters as they are published, and initially these will all be delivered by hand. The Newsletter will also be available on our Website [www.cadeap.org](http://www.cadeap.org). If you have access to the internet then you can download it or receive it by email. It would be helpful if those who wish to receive it in this way let the campaign office know by email or via the website and that will save us time in delivery and printing costs. Please help us by emailing us at [info@cadeap.org](mailto:info@cadeap.org) and you may care to give us a note of your postal address and telephone number so that we do not duplicate deliver.

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#### **NOISE:**

The noise factor is acknowledged to exist and is a problem. The latest generation of wind turbines is widely acknowledged to generate significant levels of noise. Simple decibel measures fail to address the complex noise pattern emitted by the low frequency, low level aerodynamic and mechanical sound from gearbox, turbines and blades. The Scottish Executive guidelines are permissive about the volume of noise people beside wind farms should have to endure, especially through the night when we are all entitled to expect a bit of peace and quiet. Infrasound has been detected at distances up to six miles from a wind turbine and can cause severe health problems to susceptible people.

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#### **VISUAL AMENITY:**

Detrimental visual impact on individual houses and communities over a wide area.

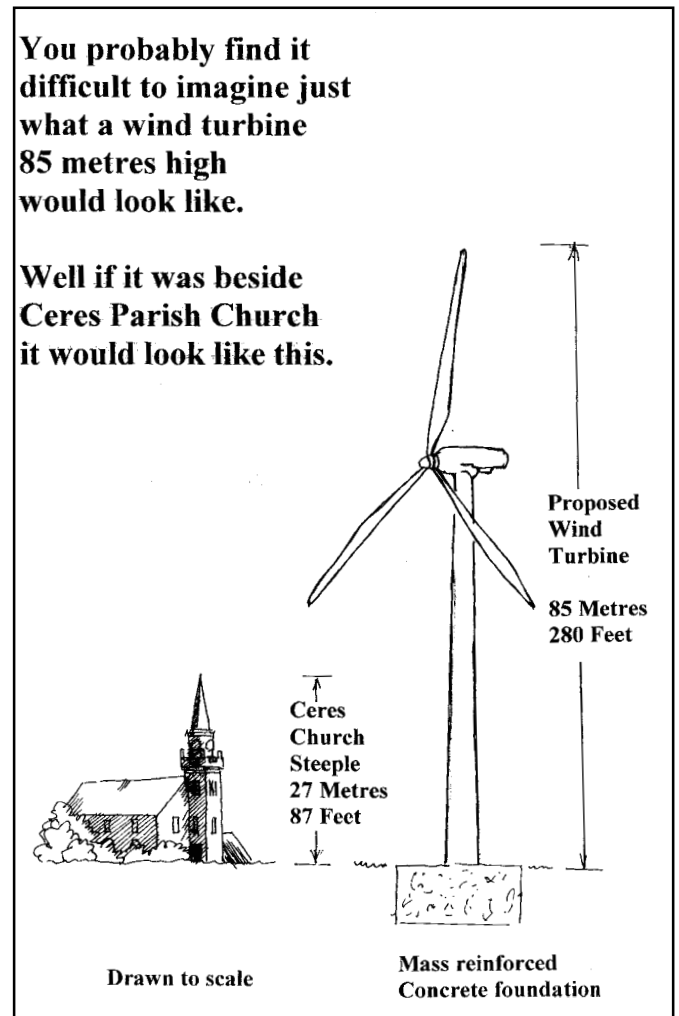
## LOGISTICS:

A number of people have asked how would they get the turbines to the site. They wonder if there would be damage to our roads, water services and the infrastructure in general. We can anticipate how the site would be developed and you can draw your own conclusions as to what sort of damage and inconvenience would result.

We understand that the Turbines have to stand on massive steel reinforced concrete foundations which in turn are best on or attached to existing rock. If the rock is not there then sub bases of material quarried on site, or if not available on site, quarried elsewhere would be trucked in. The concrete in each base, could easily, we are informed, be 1,000 tonnes. At the present time the nearest functioning Ready Mix Concrete Plants are at Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and Newburgh. If there is sufficient good quality gravel on site then a batching plant could be set up. Otherwise all this material needs to come by road and then the truck has to turn round and leave the area so every journey on to site is another journey away from it. If it were batched on site, as well as gravel concrete also requires sand and cement. Multiply this by 13 turbines and you could have at least 13,000 tonnes of concrete plus other quarried materials being delivered to the site. A network of Access and Service Roads have to be built to get the erection cranes to each turbine and to service them when they are up and turning. These roads require quarried material, maybe quarried on site or imported from elsewhere.

What about the turbines ? They would possibly come by sea to Rosyth or Methil from a UK manufacturer or most likely from a company like Vestas Wind Systems in Denmark. Rosyth is where the Clatto Turbines would have arrived. There they would sit on the docks from where they would supply the site as erection proceeded. This will cause traffic chaos in the towns and villages on the selected route to the site. Erection is best carried out in good weather so the developer would probably want to schedule to do the work in the summer during the holiday time. What a welcome for our summer visitors. This could represent about 50 juggernaut journeys to the site along whatever route the developer is allowed to use. There are no easy ones and the disruption would be on the same massive scale has been experienced where other sites have been developed.

How do you bring 30 metre sections by road. A huge tractor unit at the front, the long section of turbine and then a bogey or a self steering unit at the end. A juggernaut maybe 40 metres long. A normal flat bed is about 16 metres. Look at the map of Fife and see the most likely route. Towards the end of the journey they would most likely come through Largoward and Peat Inn to the site entrance near Baldinnie.



## WANT TO HELP:

The Developer, EnergieKontor is a large well funded and resourced company. In contrast the campaign to preserve our environment and amenity comprises volunteers, working when they can, with limited resources. Given this we will need your help do things such as:

- distribute newsletters and leaflets door to door;
- gather signatures on petitions;
- organise a letter-writing campaign to Councillors and MSPs;
- organise and manage fund raising events.

At the same time, if you were willing to locate an anti-wind farm poster in your fields, garden or window. this would really help to raise the visibility of our campaign against the proposed wind farm development and our profile in the community, and this is what we need to do. Many wind farm developments appear almost as a complete surprise to the communities that are most effected and it is our job to raise the awareness of the EnergieKontor proposal and help you make an informed decision as to whether or not you would like a huge industrial development on the site in question. In a democracy if more people do not want a wind farm near Ceres than do then the proposal should be withdrawn.

Any additional ideas you may have to increase the reach and effectiveness of our campaign to stop this wind farm development now, before EnergieKontor files a planning application with the Fife Council, will be greatly appreciated.

**We need the help of everyone; we cannot afford to be complacent if we want to make sure this development is stopped.**

## **DONATIONS:**

Please support the Campaign.

All contributions to the costs of our campaign will be much appreciated, and receipt will be issued for all donations. Cheques should be made payable to CADEAP and sent to:

The Treasurer,  
CADEAP,  
Westermost, Coaltown of Callange,  
Ceres,  
Cupar, Fife.  
KY15 5LD.

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS [www.cadeap.org](http://www.cadeap.org) GO ONLINE NOW AND USE IT REGISTER YOUR OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL, GIVE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND VOLUNTEER TO GIVE A HAND. THE SITE EMAIL ADDRESS IS [info@cadeap.org](mailto:info@cadeap.org)

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## **WHO TO CONTACT AND WHERE DETAILS**

### **Your local Councillor**

Councillor Marilyn Whitehead, Fife Council, County Buildings, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5HS.  
Tel: 01334 829219 Fax: 01592 416789 Email address : [cllr.marilyn.whitehead@fife.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.marilyn.whitehead@fife.gov.uk)

### **Council Officials to whom you should make your concerns known :**

Keith Winter, Chief Planning and Development Officer, Fife Council, Fife House, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 5LT  
Tel: 01592 416294 email: [keith.winter@fife.gov.uk](mailto:keith.winter@fife.gov.uk)  
Alastair Hamilton, Lead Officer, Development Services, Fife Council, County Buildings, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4TA  
Tel: 01334 412785 email: [alastair.hamilton@fife.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.hamilton@fife.gov.uk)

**Scottish Natural Heritage**, 46 Crossgate, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5HS :Telephone 01334 654038  
Contact : Lisa Duggan by phone, letter or email on [lisa.duggan@snh.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.duggan@snh.gov.uk)

### **Your Member of Parliament:**

Sir Menzies Campbell MP, The House of Commons, London, SW14 0AA

### **Members of the Scottish Parliament at Ministerial Level who have a direct interest**

Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP, First Minister, Nicol Stephen MSP, Allan Wilson MSP, Malcolm Chisholm MSP, Ross Finnie MSP, Tavish Scott MSP, Patricia Ferguson MSP, Andrew Kerr MSP.

### **Members of the Scottish Parliament**

Ian Smith MSP, **our North East Fife Constituency Member**

Andrew Arbuckle MSP, Ted Brocklebank MSP, Bruce Crawford JP, MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Tricia Marwick MSP, Brian Montieth MSP, Mark Ruskell MSP.

**The address for all MSPs is :- The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP**

**Emails can be addressed to :-** [firstname.lastname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)