

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Cranford Parish Council's response to planning application NK/2025/0167

Burton Wold Wind Farm (land adj), Wold Road, Burton Latimer, NN15 5PJ

Following consideration of the plans and documents submitted for this planning application, Cranford Parish Council wishes to object to this proposed development for the reasons outlined below

1. Cranford Parish Council is extremely concerned and disappointed that the traffic impact on Cranford, a conservation area, has not been considered. Additional vehicles on the A14 between Junction 11 and Junction 10 will generate additional noise, and pollution affecting the residents of Cranford every day. On the days when there are issues on the A14, affecting Junction 10 or Junction 11, such as accidents, emergency roadworks, slip road closures, drivers will use Cranford High Street as the alternative route to the A14, as they did in January and February this year. The latter incident resulting in the length of Cranford being gridlocked, as too was the A510 to Finedon.

In the planning application documents, there are many references to no issues with Junction 11, and it is stated that 'No mitigation measures are required on either the A14 itself or at Junction 11 as a result of the development proposals'.

For any proposed development seeking to use Junction 11 of the A14, let alone this significant one, the Parish Council would expect investigations into the impact of traffic in this locality in the event of issues on the A14. It should be remembered that Junction 11 serves rural villages, as well as providing routes to urban areas.

2. The land at Burton Wold has been identified for an energy park to add to the range of renewable energy technologies already present, as stated in NNJCS Policy 26 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.

As the wind turbines are already in operation and the solar farms have already been consented, Cranford Parish Council does not accept that the proposed additional development is for 'renewable and low carbon generation', which the Parish Council argues is the crux of an energy park.

3. Cranford Parish Council believes that this planning application does not accord with the policies in the Local Plan. For example, in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

- a. Junction 10a of the A14 has been identified as a key infrastructure project being directly related to the energy park.

However the developers are proposing to use Junction 11 stating that 'due to land ownership constraints and/ or topographical constraints, it is not possible to provide a direct connection to either the A6 or to Junction 10a on the A14 (should that come forward) from the site'

- b. Policy 11, Network of Urban and Rural Areas. For the rural areas it says that renewable energy developments will be considered under Policy 26.

Cranford Parish Council does not accept that this proposed development is a renewable energy development. The Parish Council argues that Policy 24 Logistics is a relevant policy for this proposed development. A policy which it doesn't meet!

- c. As a significant number of jobs are to be created by the proposed development Cranford Parish Council argues that Policy 23 Distribution of new jobs needs is a relevant policy for this proposed development. A policy which it doesn't meet!
 - d. As the proposed development is in a rural area then the Parish Council argues that Policy 25 Rural Economic Development and Diversification is a relevant policy for this proposed development. A policy which it doesn't meet!
 - e. Cranford Parish Council argues that Policy 13 Rural Exceptions is also a relevant policy for this proposed development. A policy which it doesn't meet!
 - f. Policy 26 states that 'Provision will be made for the removal of apparatus and reinstatement of the site to an acceptable condition, should the scheme become redundant and/or at the end of the permitted period for time limited planning permissions'.
Cranford Parish Council could not find any reference to this in the planning application
 - g. Policy 26 states that proposals within the Energy Park should be in accordance with a masterplan prepared in consultation with the local community and stakeholders and agreed by the local planning authority. As it now transpires that the masterplan has not been agreed by the local authority, then the proposed development doesn't meet Policy 26 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.
4. Cranford Parish Council is unhappy that a quote from its former chairman has been used out of context and without permission by the developers in their planning statement.
The Parish Council does not support the view of the developers regarding the second 'consultation' meeting. The Parish Council's issue with the consultation process was raised with the developers as part of the council's response to the revised draft Masterplan in May 2024.
5. Cranford Parish Council is concerned as to why the developers have referred to an agreed masterplan throughout this application whereas NNC are stating that the masterplan has not been agreed by the local planning authority.
6. On the planning application, it states that the Notice of the application has been published in the Northamptonshire Telegraph on 15.11.2024. However, the application form states that this must not be earlier than 21 days before the date of the application. Yet the date of the application is 14.03.2025. Cranford Parish Council sought clarification from NNC regarding this on 29th April 2025. but has not received a response.

Cranford Parish Council is frustrated that the issues it raised in May 2023 and in May 2024 with the developers are having to be raised again in May 2025.

Cranford Parish Council will provide a separate response to the EIA consultation for this application.

Pat Bird

Pat Bird, Clerk to Cranford Parish Council