

Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr. M. A. McPherson, 1, Combe Crescent, Tel: 889 382

Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council is opposed to the appeal by Zephyr Investments for the Kirkby Moor Wind Farm to remain in situ until 31st March 2027 for the following reasons:

- The visual intrusion of the turbines can be seen from all parts of the Parish including a number of buildings of historical importance such as the Tudor Kirkby Hall Farm and St. Cuthbert's Church with its Norman doorway. It has had an impact upon the views from the southern part of the Duddon Estuary when looking north from Askam and Ireleth and those looking from Black Combe.
- The Duddon Estuary is an area of outstanding natural beauty but has been, and is being, spoilt by the intrusive nature of wind turbines. The removal of this farm would restore some of that beauty for the benefit of all.
- Being a Site of Special Scientific Interest it should be returned to its original state.
- When the application for the original Wind Farm was made the Parish Council was given to believe, that when the site came to the end of its life, it would be cleared of all of the foreign materials used, and returned to its former state. **There would be restoration and regeneration.** This has not been done nor has there been any attempt to do so. If the appeal is granted we will have to wait a further eight years for the turbines and the large amounts of concrete foundations to be removed. Even then we may be faced with another application for a further extension or a complete re-build.
- The recent application for an extension, and this appeal, in our view, is a betrayal of the assurances given in the original application some twenty-five year ago.
- Unusual flooding of dwellings in the Hamlets of Beckside, Marshside and Chapels has occurred since the Farm was constructed. Local knowledge blames the alteration of water courses due to the concrete foundations and cable laying. There is the possibility of continued disruption caused by flooding if this appeal is allowed.
- Parishioners and visitors have complained of the noise made by the moving blades especially when walking on Kirkby Moor. This has diminished their enjoyment of the area and they now no longer access this part of the countryside. It has become a “no go zone” for them.
- Local and overseas visitors to the National Park have stated “The Lake District is a beautiful place spoiled in parts by wind turbines!”

- The offer of extra money to be provided for the Community Fund does not impress us. Figures of grants to local organisations totalling £24,000 a year have been suggested in the leaflets distributed by the appellant. We feel that to mention this before permission for the extension is granted is something that should not have been suggested and should have no part in the appeals process. The fact that Zephyr Investments only want to keep the turbines of the Kirkby Moor Wind Farm running until the day onshore wind subsidies cease appears to be very mercenary and does not take into account the feelings of the local communities.
- The cumulative effect of these turbines together with the proposed route of the National Grid pylons would have a massive and undesirable impact upon the lives of the parishioners of Kirkby Ireleth.
- We would therefore request that the planning appeal be refused and that the owners of the wind farm remove all traces of materials foreign to the site and restore it to its natural state found before the original construction.

Then locals and visitors will be able to say:

“The Duddon Estuary is a beautiful place not spoilt by wind turbines!”

M. McPherson (Chairman, Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council)