

March 25, 2024

Councillors reject officials' advice to object to wind farm

The Scottish Borders Council Planning and Buildings Committee voted to object to the Greystone Knowe wind farm ([link to map](#)) application – against the advice of the council's planning officials.

The result means that the objection tabled by Scottish Borders Council will result in a public local inquiry which will ultimately make a decision on the application.

If the councillors had not defied their officials' advice then it was likely the application would have been approved by the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit.

The Greystone Knowe site is 2km from Heriot and 2.5km from Fountainhall. The windfarm, if ultimately approved by following a public local inquiry, would see a development of 14 turbines up 180m in height. Stow and Fountainhall Community Councils lodged a formal objection to the scheme to the Energy Consents Unit.

The planning committee councillors voted 4-2 in favour of objecting on the following basis. This was proposed by Councillor Neil Richards : “The proposed development would be contrary to policy 11 of the NPF4 (the national planning framework) and ED 9 of the Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan. The scale, height of then turbines would be of such an imposing nature they would overwhelm the local community and landscape, having an unacceptable adverse impact on the local community and residential amenity and a significant landscape and visual impact. The project design and mitigation has not demonstrated how these impacts will be addressed.”