



Newsletter No. 1

28 September 2017

radeburwell@gmail.com

radeburwell.org

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST A POWER STATION IN BURWELL

Dear Residents

We welcome you to our first newsletter. Whilst it is a pleasure to write to all our community, the reason for doing so is unfortunately not pleasurable. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform residents of the village with regard to a proposed gas power station in Burwell and our objections to it. Many have heard about this through the Burwell community Facebook page, the two meetings organised or by word of mouth, but many are still not aware.

The second purpose of this newsletter is to explain plans for the power station, how to object to the plans and to list ways in which you can help the campaign.

What is proposed and by who? Why is it inappropriate?

The current proposal is for a 40MW gas-powered generator facility that would provide enough power to supply two large cities around the size of Cambridge or ~89,000 homes. This would consist of twenty 2MW units, with each unit roughly the size of a shipping container and containing an 89 litre piston engine (equivalent in total to 1000 car engines). It would act as a STOR (Short Term Operating Reserve) facility providing power to the national grid at times of low reserve, meaning that how often it would be running is unclear. It would be built on land off Reach Road next to the Meadows View industrial estate and the new Birches Tye housing estate. This site has both a gas mains pipeline and overhead pylon with nearby substation.

These units are inherently noisy (65-75dBA), and will be heard in the surrounding area; those being most affected will be people living and working near Reach Road. Current noise reduction features have limited effect for the residents nearby.

These units produce significant levels of nitrogen oxides (NO_x); both high average and peak NO_x levels are linked with respiratory health problems. Children and the elderly will be the worst affected by this. Legal limits apply of 40µg/m³ average and 200µg/m³ peak (18 times per year max). Current plans show that at 75% load the plant will exceed 250µg/m³. The NO_x also can cause acid rain as it mixes with moisture, worsening the decay of our sensitive clunch/chalk historic buildings in the village.

Noise, air pollution and vibration are also of concern to local wildlife, with bats and barn owls potentially being worst affected. The noise and pollution may also put people off living and working near the site. This area is currently one of the main employment areas in the village.

We therefore feel that this facility is not appropriate to be placed so close to housing and the village – or indeed any town or village – and would be better placed in a more remote area. Other inappropriately located power stations have been rejected by other towns/villages around the country.

How has this plan come to the attention of the village now at such a late stage in planning?

The plans were submitted in June 2017 and a villager's mother discovered the plans by accident on the East Cambs planning portal. Since then, he has – with the support of many villagers – tried to raise awareness. Those villagers have now formed a group, Residents Against Dirty Energy Burwell (RADE Burwell) to help spread awareness and organise objections against these plans.

What has happened since?

- 9th Sep 2017: An emergency meeting is held at Guildhall for residents to hear the plan and concerns are expressed by them as word gets out around the village.
- 12th Sep 2017: Large numbers of Burwell residents attend a Parish Council meeting expressing their concerns about the proposed development. The Council agree to stand with the residents in objecting the plans (consistent with the position of Reach Parish Council).
- 13th Sep 2017: A large meeting in St Mary's Church where residents listen to a presentation by John Clarke and colleagues, ask questions and express their concerns.
- 14th Sep 2017: Planning officer sends a letter to the developers explaining an extension of the planning committee date to November.
- 14th Sep 2017: The residents' campaign raising objections to the power station is formalised under the name RADE Burwell.
- 15th Sep 2017: The applicant asks for a further extension and so a planning committee meeting is now likely to be in December.

There are now over 150 objections to this plan on the ECDC website and this is increasing day by day.

The issue has been reported in:

- Burwell residents gear up to pull the plug on power plant proposal - Newmarket Journal 14 Sept 2017
- The Dotty McLeod Breakfast Show - BBC Cambridgeshire 14 Sept 2017 (2 hr 20 min into the programme)
- Power station capable of powering twice the size of Cambridge will ruin village - Cambridge News 11 Sept 2017

What happens now?

The Parish Council and District Council await the applicants' updated plans, at which point the Parish Council will respond to them and the District Council will review them at a planning committee in December. At this meeting we will have 3 minutes to state residents' objections. In the meantime, we are working hard on detailing our formal objections as they stand at present, reflecting the concerns of residents.

Where can you find out more and keep up to date on this developing problem?

Visit our website, radeburwell.org, which has much more information and links to key documents. If you need to contact us, email radeburwell@gmail.com.

What can you do to help?

1. Object to the planning applications on East Cambs planning portal: pa.eastcambs.gov.uk. Search for planning references **17/01071/FUL** and **17/01072/FUL**.
Make sure you submit your objections to **both plans**, and include your **name, address** and **postcode**.
2. You can also send in your objections by **email** to plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
or by **post** to: **Planning Department**
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange, Nutholt Lane
Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EE
3. Share your concerns with your councillors.
4. Sign the petition that will be coming around the village in the next few weeks.
5. If you have expertise in planning, air pollution, noise modelling etc. then please contact us.

The village has shown great community spirit in coming together in large numbers to help protect Burwell and its residents. There is a large weight of concern about this issue and we are morally obliged to continue to do our best in objecting to this proposal to achieve the best outcome for all of us.

Thank you for listening.