

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in The Old School Community Centre at 7.00 p.m.  
on Thursday 15 May 2014**

Present: Cllrs. Paul Bishop, Derek Blake, Margaret Godwin, Phil Gryce  
Keith Haisman, Gayle Mallows, Alan Parsley and Leslie Warmington  
County Councillor Mary Evans, Borough Councillor Alaric Pugh  
Claire Ebeling, Town Clerk  
Nine members of the public

**1 Election of Chairman**

Nominations were invited. Cllr. Blake nominated Cllr. Bishop. No other nominations. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. Gryce. Cllr. Bishop accepted the nomination, a vote was taken and all were in favour.

**2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of the Chairman**

Cllr Bishop and the Clerk signed the Declaration of Office.

**3 Election of Vice Chairman**

Nominations were invited. Cllr. Warmington nominated Cllr. Godwin. No other nominations. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. Mallows. Cllr. Godwin accepted the nomination, a vote was taken and all were in favour.

**4 Apologies for absence – Cllr. Loveday Perceval-Maxwell**

**5 To receive declarations of members' interests and consider requests for dispensation**

Cllr Haisman declared an interest in item 14 (ii) – Clare Swimming Club

*Section of the meeting open to the public:*

**6 Police Report – No report**

**7 Public Participation** – A member of the public asked for an explanation of *in camera*. Cllr. Bishop explained that an *in camera* item is an item that the press and public are not allowed to observe – and might include items such as financial matters that are commercially sensitive. A member of the public asked how soon the Country Park running costs will be available. Cllr. Bishop responded that a final offer had not yet been received and therefore no decision or recommendation will be received this evening.

**8 County Councillor's Report – See attached report.**

**9 Borough Councillor's Report – See attached report.**

Cllr. Pugh reported that he had received informal confirmation from Suffolk County Council that they have contacted the Planning Officer to inform her that they are not willing to approve the discharge of conditions for the Chilton Street Wind Turbine.

Cllr. Haisman asked for clarification on the process for the discharge of conditions and whether there is any opportunity for interested parties to present to a council or committee. Cllr. Pugh responded that he is pushing for a different process to be followed, but planning legislation does not require consultation or a public meeting. Cllr. Godwin asked if the planning officer can accept information from experts other than those employed by the applicant. Cllr. Pugh responded that one should not assume which rights the planning officer might use. Cllr. Pugh added that it may be worth engaging with the applicant on these issues.

Mr Trinder asked if the use of a helicopter could be suggested. Cllr. Pugh explained the relevant planning legislation.

Cllr. Mallows asked Cllr. Pugh if he would be willing to brief Clare Town Council on the Haverhill Masterplan. Cllr. Pugh responded positively but stated that it is in too early a stage at present. He explained that One Haverhill is working as an apolitical body managing the masterplan process.

*End of public section of meeting*

**10 Election of Committees and Representatives**

All councillors confirmed their approval to carry out the roles detailed in the attached table.

Non Councillor members were approved as

Keith Mison – Clare Combined Charities, Environment Committee Lay member, Tree Officer, Country Park Trustee-Elect

Olive Smith - Environment Committee Lay member, CHOC Trustee

**11 To approve minutes of previous meetings held on 17 April 2014 and 2 May 2014**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**12 To receive an update on actions from the last meeting**

The Clerk reported that all actions were complete.

**13 Clerk's Report** – see attached report.

**14 Finance**

i) **Presentation of monthly reports** – Cllr. Blake proposed the adoption of the monthly accounts. Approved unanimously.

ii) **Decisions required** –

a) Cllr. Blake proposed the investment of funds onto the money market (£200k for 6 months at 0.8% and £40k for 3 months at 0.7%. Agreed unanimously.

b) Cllr. Blake proposed proposed the approval of a donation of £100 to the Samaritans under Section 137. Agreed unanimously.

c) Cllr. Blake proposed the approval of a donation to Headway under Section 137. Agreed unanimously.

d) Cllr. Blake proposed the approval of payment of 50% of untaken holiday to the Clerk, RFO and CMO. Approved unanimously.

e) Cllr. Blake reported a meeting with a representative from the CYAC Committee who was reminded of the agreement that the track be checked weekly for safety reasons, ensuring that the area is litter free and that rights of way are left clear. It was agreed that the group will complete the Town Council form required of groups receiving funding before the next meeting.

f) Cllr. Blake proposed the unbudgeted expenditure of £1,300 for the repair of the churchyard path. The PCC is not able to contribute. Approved unanimously. It was agreed that a meeting should take place with the PCC to put in place a 4 year plan in order to avoid unbudgeted expenditure in future.

g) Cllr. Blake proposed expenditure of £100 for insurance for the Swimming Club. Approved unanimously.

h) Cllr. Blake proposed the approval of the use of £150 previously earmarked for CCTV to monitor HGVs through Clare to buy either dongles or an external hard-drive to download images of lorries travelling through the Town. The CCTV is not required as the Bell have now installed it and are happy to provide the images for use in the campaign against HGVs. Agreed unanimously.

CYAC

**15 Correspondence** - see attached report.

**16 Planning**

a) **DCON(A)/12/1208/LB – Wind Turbine Site, Chilton Street – Application to discharge conditions 2) aviation lighting, 4 turbine details, 7 construction management, 12 television reception, 13 blade and hub details and 16 interference mitigation**

Cllr. Godwin reported that there have been many responses from within the community and other local councils objecting to this application. Letters have been sent to St Eds, a Facebook page has been set up and a petition has been circulated. Cllr. Godwin proposed that the Town Council response be to object to the application and that the attached document (circulated in

Clerk

advance by email be attached to the response). Approved unanimously.

It was agreed that the document be sent to all who sent Clare Town Council a copy of their own objection and on the Clare website, and to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Cllr. Bishop thanked Cllr. Godwin for her work on this response.

- b) **DC/14/0356/HH – 26 Bridewell Street – Erection of extension to provide first floor accommodation as amended by drawing no 8987/14/3 (reduction in size of extension)**  
Cllr. Mallows proposed that the response be no objection because the Planning Committee concerns regarding the height of the building have been addressed by the revised plans. Agreed unanimously.
- c) **DC/14/0783/TCA – Well House – (i) Fell one conifer tree, (ii) Reduce height of one Holly and (iii) Fell one Apple tree**  
Cllr. Gryce proposed that the response be no objection because the application represents good tree management. Agreed unanimously.
- d) **DC/14/0766/TCA – Café Clare, 1 Well Lane – Fell one Holly tree**  
Cllr. Gryce proposed that the response be no objection. Agreed unanimously.
- 17 To receive items for decisions required by Town Council Committees and Working Parties**  
None
- 18 To receive items for the next Chevron**  
Cllr. Evans requested that the Broadband meeting in Stansfield be publicised. Cllr. Gryce will attend.  
Items to be included: UK Power Networks advice in a power cut, request for CLASP drivers, Opening dates of Clare Swimming Club.
- 19 To complete and approve the annual return for year ended 31 March 2014**  
Cllr. Blake confirmed that the Finance Committee had reviewed the document and proposed that the annual return be signed by the Chair of the meeting in line with policy. Approved unanimously. Cllr. Bishop and the Clerk signed the documents.
- 20 To receive agenda items for next meeting**  
To approve a Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme
- 21 To receive an update on Clare Country Park**  
Taken *in camera*.
- 22 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**  
Confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

## HIGHWAYS

### Maple Hill Turbine

As you are aware SCC highways has rejected the proposal by the developers of the Maple Hill wind turbine, contained in their transport plan, that all the construction traffic should cross Baythorne Bridge and travel through Clare.

The 18 abnormal loads proposed include vehicles with axle weights of 17 tonnes while SCC assesses the capacity of one of the arches of the bridge at 14 tonnes and another at 12 tonnes.

The developers are looking again at their plans.

In the meantime, I compiled a dossier of concerns about the proposed traffic plan which I submitted to Alan Thorndyke, head of the highways network, before he went on leave last Friday.

I based the document on the transport submission drawn up by Cllr Godwin for CTC's case to St Edmundsbury, the submission made by Iona Parker on behalf of STOC and my own observations.

The officer leading on this for SCC passed my document to the St Eds planning officer ahead of her meeting with her head of service earlier this week.

Mr Thorndyke gave me an undertaking that his team will keep me informed of any amendments to the plan proposed by the developers and any meetings proposed by them.

I have spoken with team and they produced a table of issues from the proposals requiring detailed examination and will be seeking the advice of several of their colleagues in SCC on matters such as structures, noise, vibration and abnormal loads before finalising their report and entering discussions with the applicant.

I have spoken with Mr Thorndyke about the possibility of officers making a site visit. I am keen for this to go ahead but must make it clear while Mr Thorndyke is happy for a representative from CTC to attend such a visit, along with me, there would not be a general invitation to CTC/ Clare residents as he does not want such a visit to turn into a lobbying exercise.

### Vehicle Activated Signs

The county council is allowing communities to buy their own vehicle activated signs to control speeding and I am organising a meeting for interested parish councils with our road safety manager, Mike Motteram, and Anthony Smith from the local highways team for 7pm on Wednesday 25 June at Wickhambrook Village Hall – in the pavilion. (Wickhambrook Memorial Hall, Cemetery Rd, Wickhambrook Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8XP)

Please could representatives planning to attend make sure they read the information about the scheme before attending - <http://www.suffolkroadsafe.net/assets/Road-Safety-in-Suffolk/Speeding/VAS-Councils-process-for-purchasing.pdf>

### Re-Surfacing programme

I have passed on to highways the concerns raised by residents, notably Peter Loup, about the outstanding drainage issues that should be resolved while the resurfacing project is underway.

### Persimmon Homes construction site and drainage on Nethergate Street

As you will be aware when SCC finally threatened Persimmon with enforcement action they very quickly complied. I have asked Lucy Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive, to ensure that SCC is much more robust in future when dealing with developers who start work without fulfilling their obligations regarding the site entrance and parking of vehicles. If we did this, I believe that we would soon gain a reputation across the construction industry for being tough on non-compliance.

I am also pleased to report that the highways team has also undertaken to arrange a CCTV survey for the additional pipe section along Nethergate Street.

### **Highways Contract**

SCC's committee had a thorough investigation of the highways contract at its recent meeting. Changes are being made to relax the over tight controls to allow a more sensible regime for accounting for work. The work gangs are making progress on clearing the backlog of potholes. I spent a morning at the KMG depot on Wednesday where councillors were given a demonstration of filling potholes.

### **Better Broadband**

I know we all have concerns about the speed of our broadband and the pace of the roll out of the better broadband programme. I am arranging a public meeting in Stansfield Village Hall (CO10 8LP) with the team leading the project. It is on Wednesday 11 June, 7.30pm – do please come along if you can. Please could you promote this in the Chevron.

### **Clare County Park**

A letter containing a final offer from SCC has been sent to your negotiating team. However, I was unhappy to learn this week from Cllr Haisman that there are still some unresolved issues. I have asked that these are dealt with as a matter of urgency. Bryn Griffiths and I are due to meet Cllr Haisman and Mr Bray on May 20.

Mary Evans, Clare Division, Suffolk County Council

## Attachment to minutes – Item 6, St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor's report

This is a monthly report on activities conducted by Alaric Pugh, Borough Councillor for Clare, on behalf of the whole community, following the election on 5th May 2011. I am delighted to have been elected to represent Clare and work hard to uphold the interests of the town at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. I am Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Transport and Planning. The committees I sit on are: Development Control, Rural Working Party, Sustainable Development Working Party, and I Chair the Growth Steering Group and am a Board Member of One Haverhill. I attend Dedham and Stour Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Project Board Meetings and have shared delegated authority for aspects of Clare Country Park managed by St Edmundsbury. My chief role is to ensure Clare and its residents have a voice at the Borough Council table. I expect to be in attendance at Town Council meetings and will be happy to answer any questions from councillors or parishioners after my report. I run a surgery between 9.30 and 10.00 am on the first Saturday of the month for residents whose questions cannot be addressed at the Town Council Meeting. I can be contacted at other times: my mobile phone number is: 07930460899 and email [alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk](mailto:alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk)

Training undertaken since last report  
None

Civic events/business  
Visit to Magna Carta  
Mayormaking

### Meetings attended (excluding Majority Group meetings)

Cabinet Planning twice	Cabinet
Development Control	Ec Dev Briefing
BID for Bury	Meeting re Newmarket development
Meeting with Chair of One Haverhill	Meeting the new head of Planning and Regulation
2nd meeting with the proposed future mayor re economic development	
Annual Meeting	Annual Town Meeting
Parish Conference	Meeting re Tree Belt
Haverhill Area Working Party	

### Forthcoming meetings before next TC Meeting:

Site visits	Development Control
Locality Officer meeting	Cabinet and Cabinet Planning
Joint Cabinet	Apex Panel
One Haverhill Board	Haverhill Masterplan x 5
Markets Development Meeting 2 Suffolk	Economic Development liaison with Babergh/Mid-
Car Parking strategy	Others TBA

Voting record - recent items with some significance to Clare community:  
None

### Current Clare issues involvement/resident requests to take forward:

Various local planning queries about the Granary and land East of the Granary  
Locality budgets and the work of the new Locality Officer  
Meetings: re lorries, wind turbines, and Clare Country Park all with contact with TC

### More generally, I am currently working on:

- planning update with TC
- regularly monitoring the on-site performance at land East of the Granary
- the dissemination of a Six Point Plan for Jobs and Growth in West Suffolk including the website and twitter account @westsfflkgrowth - now live
- the creation of an Inward Investment Pack for West Suffolk
- transport and skills strategies as they affect West Suffolk

- innovation in rural transport solutions
- better use of the mayor for Economic Development

**NEWS:**

- locality budgets - approved first expenditure awaiting further instruction
- Town Centre Masterplanning for Haverhill about to begin
- awaiting news on development re Planning Enforcement

Many of these items will have further information provided at future Town and Parish Conferences.

**Next surgery which will be held on Saturday 7th June.**

**Attachment to minutes – Item 10, Election of Committees and Representatives**

	<b>Paul Bishop (Chair)</b>	<b>Derek Blake</b>	<b>Margaret Godwin (Vice Chairman)</b>	<b>Phil Gryce</b>
<b>Town Council Committee/ Working Group roles</b>	Environment Community	Finance Environment	Finance Planning/Highways	Environment Community Planning/Highways
<b>Town Council Representative</b>		Country Park Trustee-Elect Ancient House Museum	Country Park Trustee-Elect Community Resilience CYAC SALC	Community Resilience
<b>Other Community Roles</b>			STOC member	Town Recorder Friends of Clare Library
	<b>Keith Haisman</b>	<b>Gayle Mallows</b>	<b>Loveday Perceval-Maxwell</b>	<b>Leslie Warmington</b>
<b>Town Council Committee/ Working Group roles</b>	Community Planning/Highways	Planning/Highways Community	To be confirmed	Finance
<b>Town Council Representative</b>	Press officer Country Park Trustee-Elect	CPFA		
<b>Other Community Roles</b>	Chairman of SVCS Clare in Bloom volunteer	CLASP CHOC		



## **Attachment to minutes – Item 13, Clerk’s Report – May 2014**

### **Information:**

Cllr. Loveday Perceval-Maxwell’s Register of Interest Form has been forwarded to the Monitoring Officer at St Eds and been accepted. New contact details will be produced shortly for the noticeboards and website. SALC has also been informed and I will send Loveday the details of the Councillor training course.

Following agreement that funds earmarked for the Nuttery should be used, I have been ordered some trees on behalf of Keith Mison (Hawthorn, Hazel, Hornbeam and Spindleberry totalling £127.49). A new blade and guard for the strimmer and a spade have also been purchased for use in the Nuttery and Cemetery.

Cllr. Godwin, Keith Mison and I will be attending a presentation by Year 3 and 4 at Clare Primary School on 21<sup>st</sup> May on sustainable living in Clare.

### **Planning decisions**

DC/14/0100/HH – 12 Hermitage Meadow - Erection of (i) single storey side link extension between dwelling and outbuilding (ii) new porch (iii) Conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation

Decision: Application approved

DC/14/0355/LB – 7 High Street – Replacement of 4No wooden sash windows and external wooden door with UPVC at rear of property

Decision: Application refused

DC/14/0454/TCA – Hope Cottage, 13 Market Hill - Fell 4 conifer trees

Decision: Application Approved

**Attachment to minutes – Item 15, Correspondence:**

**Items for action**  
(all circulated to Town Councillors)

Stephen Kimminau	Letter to St Eds re West Suffolk Councils and Clare Castle Country Park budget. Response from Sarah Stamp. <b>Action - Response agreed. Clerk to send.</b>
Olive Smith	Confirmation of willingness to stand as lay member on Environment Committee
M Andrews	Letter regarding parking <b>Action – Cllr Haisman to draft a response. Clerk to send.</b>
Friends of Clare Library	Request for permission for a stall on Market Hill on Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June to raise funds. <b>Action – Approved unanimously. Clerk to respond.</b>

**Items for noting**  
(copies available from the Clerk on request)

CHOC	Annual Report
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## Objection to DCON(A)/12/1208

Clare Town Council requests confirmation from the Case Officer that any recommendation to discharge these conditions outweighs the impact on the health, safety and amenity of residents, their homes and businesses as well as everyone who uses the facilities which Clare provides.

Clare Town Council objects strongly to the Discharge of Conditions on the following grounds:

### 1. The Traffic Management Plan is Flawed and Incomplete

When application SE/12/1208 was originally approved in May 2013 for a turbine not exceeding 78 metres in height, the exact model was not known.

The turbine selected is EWT DW54.

The applicant has omitted the Minimum Road Requirements necessary to transport the components of the selected turbine. We are happy to supply the information.

Emergya Wind Technologies BV DIRECTWIND 52/54

*"Specification: - Transport, Storage and Crane Guidelines"*

Minimum Road Requirements:

Clearance Width:	5.7m
Clearance Height:	4.6m
Minimum Bend Radius:	20.0m
Maximum Axle load:	15t.

**The Swept Path Drawings which accompany this application have been created using a vehicle 2.645 metres wide. There are no drawings to demonstrate how vehicles 5.648 metres wide (Turbine Generator), 3.720metres wide (Counterweight truck) or 3.675metres wide (50metre Tower Bottom Section) will navigate the identified pinch points.**

Traffic Management Plan, (TMP) Page 18, point 6. States:

*"... A detailed route assessment will be carried out in advance of the abnormal load deliveries...."*

The route must be assessed prior to commencement of any works to confirm the suitability of roads which were included in the original, approved application based solely on a deskbound assessment. Having spoken to Mr Collett of Collett Consulting (who prepared the swept path drawings for the Abnormal Loads) at the time of the original application last year, he was of the opinion that road closures might not even be necessary. This assumption demonstrates a complete lack of local knowledge of the proposed route and is a grave error.

In the Application and Environmental Documentation submitted with the original application, page 30, reference 1.69, 6<sup>th</sup> bullet point states:

*"Cross bridge (narrowest point is 4.75m allowing delivery of all components) and follow A1092...."*

The bridge at Baythorne End is an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Listed Building (English Heritage Building ID 114082). It is a single lane, humpback bridge with 3 arches, tested to the SCC standard of 40tonnes. The

Construction Management Plan, (Appendix 4, Abnormal Load Dimensions and Weights, page 38) shows an example of a 500Tonnes telescopic crane with a total weight of 128.99Tonnes. The rear three axles show a combined load weight of 49.12T, the central three axles show combined weight of 46.52tonnes and the front two axles 33.35Tonnes on a vehicle length of 21.395 metres. Page 44 shows the turbine generator load width of 5.648 metres, considerably wider than the narrowest point of the bridge. It is essential that the risk of serious damage, or worse, to this ancient bridge is not underestimated.

The turbine blades will be transported on a vehicle almost 30 metres in length. Both Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council are aware of the damage to listed buildings and infrastructure in Clare already caused by HGV traffic, and normal sized, articulated vehicles regularly gridlock the town attempting to negotiate this route.

Reference to the Minimum Road Requirements as stated by Emergya Wind Technologies BV shows Baythorne Bridge is incapable of supporting these loads and the route through Clare is incapable of accommodating vehicles of this size and weight.

The "Anticipated Vehicle Movement Schedule" (TMP, Page 31) lists the total number of Delivery Lorries and Vans as 424. Given that there will be return journeys, (as some of the figures quoted are odd numbers); this would increase the site traffic to approximately 850 vehicle movements during construction.

## **2. The Unacceptable Risk of Damage to Listed Buildings in a Conservation Area**

Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states:

*"....the local planning authority, or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses."*

Nethergate Street, Well Lane, Market Hill, Church Street, Callis Street, and Bridewell Street form the heart of the Conservation Area in Clare. Over 100 Listed Buildings dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century flank the route. Many were constructed with timber or stone foundations, built of daub and wattle (later lath-and-plaster) with exposed beams, pargetting and jettied storeys. Several have substantial cellars extending under the pavements particularly in Well Lane where damage is already documented as vehicles negotiate the blind 90 degree bend. Of particular concern is the risk of damage to utilities. The main gas pipeline, water and sewerage pipes run under the carriageway and pavement parallel with Well Lane before crossing Station Road and continuing along Market Hill where connections also cross the road. We understand there is also a large, possibly Georgian, culvert crossing Market Hill and another well was recently discovered in Well Lane. At the time of writing, National Grid has not been consulted on this application, nor have Anglian Water or BT Openreach despite the numerous utilities concentrated in this stretch of road. There are also several unidentified access points in the road.



View showing some of the utility access points in Well Lane

### 3. Inaccuracy

Clare Town Council is concerned that the photograph accompanying the Swept Path Drawing for the pinch point - DCON(A)/12/1208 Part 3, (Well Lane) - is taken on Market Hill and does not show the actual pinch point in Well Lane or that the carriageway is just 4.2 metres wide with listed buildings dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century opening directly onto pavements on both sides. It is therefore not a true representation.



This HGV is 2.6metres wide and negotiating the pinch point in Well Lane.

18 abnormal loads are proposing to negotiate this route where instances of building strikes, infrastructure damage and damage to parked vehicles are already regularly recorded. Turbine blade

replacement and regular maintenance will require abnormal loads to transit this route regularly over the 25 year life of the turbine with the potential for damage every time.

#### **4. Omission of information**

**There are no explanations nor swept path drawings to show how abnormal size and weight vehicles will negotiate the return journey (and reverse angles) on the route, particularly in Well Lane where engineers and representatives from Suffolk County Council have already witnessed the vast majority of vehicles using the pavement to negotiate this blind, 90degree bend. No indication is given for the time required by these abnormal loads to navigate the route from A1017 to Chilton Street.**

**We could find no definitive information on liability in case of loss or damage, both actual and consequential, and require these be made publicly available.**

#### **5. Lack of Precedent**

Clare Town Council has been unable to trace any previous abnormal sized load of these lengths, widths, heights or weight accessing the A1092 or B1063 either across the Baythorne Bridge or through the Clare Conservation Area.

#### **6. No Alternative Parking for Residents' Vehicles**

Many of the Listed Buildings on both sides of the route from Baythorne End through to the turbine site in Chilton Street were obviously built without garages or driveways and have doors which open directly onto the pavement. As is well known to both SCC Highways Dept. and SEBC Planning Dept., Clare has a very real on-street parking problem with as many as 180 cars parked on the narrow carriageways at any one time. In effect this proposal reduces most of the proposed route through Clare to a single lane and will require all on-street parked cars to be removed for the duration of the transit through Clare of the abnormal sized loads. There is no easily accessible, alternative parking option for the many residents who need access to their vehicles at all times of the day.

#### **7. Impact of Road Closures on Residents, Businesses and Visitors**

Clare Town Council could find no reference to the impact of necessary road closures on residents, deliveries to and from Clare's businesses, loss of customers for our businesses, on visitors, Emergency Services vehicles, public transport, school buses and those commuting for employment. The town is a designated Key Service Centre and any closures of the A1092 and B1063 will be of major concern to everyone living in the area, including those who use our health services and need to visit doctors and the pharmacy. These are the fastest routes to West Suffolk Hospital and Addenbrookes Hospital for the surrounding district. The consequences of lengthy delays and congestion caused by diverting all traffic onto narrow, rural roads to accommodate the abnormal load deliveries needs to be fully justified. Temporary road closures could well result in "stacking" of HGVs and other traffic in both directions with the inevitable chaos when the roads re-open.

#### **8. Loss of Amenity**

The proposed timing of deliveries from 0700 Monday to Friday and from 0800 on Saturdays will result in loss of amenity considerably earlier than these times for residents living beside the delivery routes. The site working hours should not start before 0800 Monday to Friday and 0900 on Saturdays.

Clare Town Council requests a full Risk Assessment of the proposed route be carried out by Suffolk County Council before the commencement of any construction work, to identify and mitigate the consequences of diverting all traffic, especially Emergency Service vehicles, as a result of road closures and diversions during construction.

Clare Town Council requests confirmation from the Case Officer that any recommendation to discharge these conditions outweighs the impact on the health, safety and amenity of residents, their homes and businesses as well as everyone who uses the facilities which Clare provides.

#### Conditions 12 and 16 Television Signal Interference and Mitigation

Clare Town Council objects to the Discharge of Conditions 12 and 16 on the following grounds:

### **1. Impact of Signal Reflections and Scattering on Television and Wireless Services**

DCON(A)/12/1208 page 54 Figure 2 - Scatter Zones Created by Reflecting and Refracting Surfaces is an edited version of Figure 4 shown in OFCOM document "Tall Structures and Their Impact on Broadcast and Other Wireless Services" published 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

As the applicant has chosen to use data from this document, we include the following information from it:

*"The zone may be larger, particularly if the development is sited on much higher ground than the surrounding areas, as may happen with a wind farm."*

The OFCOM document goes on to say that reports have been received of reflection effects affecting broadcast television up to 20km from the structure.

DCON(A)/12/1208 Page 64, (Freeview) states:

*"Due to the position of the proposed Wind Turbine and the terrain around the site, the actions of the moving wind turbine blades may cause disruption to the reception of some Sudbury Freeview services in several areas around the site."*

The application diagram illustrates the areas of the Forward Scatter Zone and includes parts of Chilton Street in Clare, an area from the Red Lion in Great Wratting to The Plough at Hundon and a large part of Kedington, including Cordwainer Close, Westward Deals, Westend Lane, Barton Drive, Rectory Road, Risbridge Drive, Kings Hill, School Road, Mill Road, Silver Street, Stourmead Close and parts of Dash End.

Vision 2031 - Kedington- designates RV13A, Stourmead Complex, as a site for future development of 65 dwellings. It would appear this site is completely within an area identified as likely to be affected by interference on Television transmissions from moving turbine blades. Similarly, RV13B Limes Cottage and adjoining land earmarked for another 40 dwellings could also potentially be affected.

The Discharge application does not address mitigation measures for future new properties built within the affected areas during the 25 year life of the turbine.

OFCOM Document Annex 1 :

*"...the impact on reception is solely on account of the rotating turbine blades. As the blades are moving objects, in terms of both their rotational speed and orientation, their effect is variable and hard to predict."*

*"Reflection effects vary with the rotation of the blades and the orientation of the nacelle. A further complication is that the strength of the reflected signal is dependent on the length and area of the metallic components inside the blade."*

DCON(A)/12/1208 states:

*"When all considered, the proposed wind turbine development is likely to have an adverse but manageable short-term effect on upon (sic) television reception for local residents."*

If the Forward Scatter Zone is extended to include the 10km radius identified in the original Planning Application SE/12/1208, (just half of the potential distance quoted in the OFCOM document), then this area could include a far greater number of affected residents than those living in the areas mentioned above.

Page 50 states:

*"Normal practice is for the turbine to become operational and then if any interference is reported, an investigation will take place...."*

The minimum information required by the turbine operator to log a complaint is extremely detailed and could prove too complicated for some residents. Will the opportunity to log complaints be available at all times to accommodate shift workers? Investigation of any complaint will be by an assessor appointed by the developer who will determine whether it is valid. Given the acknowledged difficulties involved in predicting effects caused by rotational speed and orientation, the option to dismiss any claim is heavily weighted in favour of the assessor.

## **2. Loss of Amenity and the Removal of Personal Choice**

DCON(A)/12/1208 Page 67, Table 1 shows possible interference for Freeview viewers in areas around the site. Residents have already selected this viewing platform from personal choice. If they lodge a complaint of interference, and if their complaint can be validated by the turbine operator, residents may possibly be offered the alternative Freesat which does not transmit all the channels available on Freeview. It is inconceivable that this solution could be acceptable to SEBC Officers. No matter how promptly a complaint is investigated, the loss of amenity would be unacceptable. In addition, a time limit of 12 months within final commissioning of the turbine for investigation of any complaint could severely impact on some of the most vulnerable members of the community and does not take into account the impact on future homes.

Clare Town Council objects strongly to the removal of personal choice and loss of amenity to facilitate the discharge of these conditions.

For the reasons stated above, Clare Town Council objects to the Discharge of Conditions associated with Application DCON(A)/12/1208.