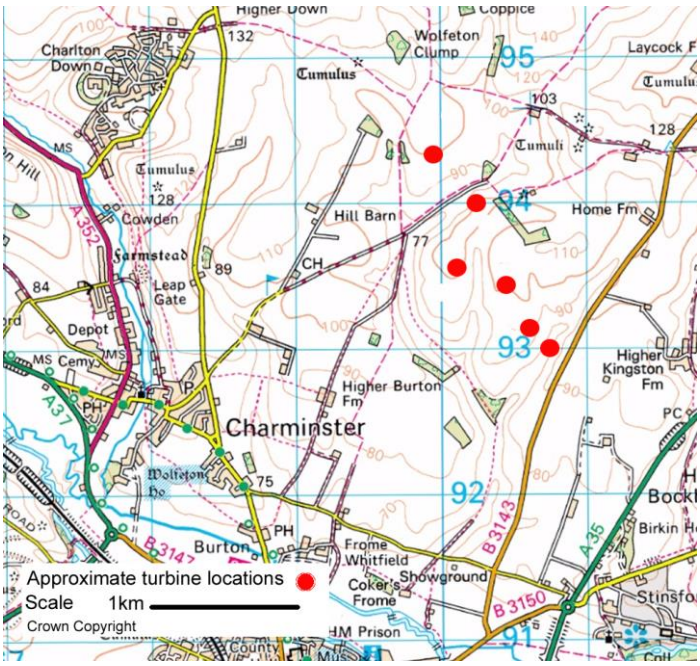
CHARMINSTER/CHARLTON DOWN WIND FARM SURVEY

Virtually all residents will be aware of the proposals for a wind farm to the east of the C12 (Old Sherborne Road) which have been prepared over the past year. The final planning application has now been submitted and the Parish Council (as a statutory consultee) and the wider community is being consulted by West Dorset District Council on the proposals by submitted by Broadview Energy.

The proposal in the planning application is for six large wind turbines 115m high (to blade tip) with the nearest turbine situated approximately 1.8km from the edge of Charlton Down and approximately 1.9km from the edge of Charminster village. Details are available from www.dorsetforyou.com or will be available to be viewed at Charlton Down Village Hall on Wednesday 5th November between 6pm and 8pm and at Charminster Village Hall on Friday 7th November between 12.30 and 2.30pm.



The Parish Council carried out a survey last year where residents were asked for their initial thoughts on the prospect of having seven 125m turbines adjacent to the village: the community was fairly evenly split between those for and against the proposal. Now the proposal is for one less turbine and they are 10m shorter.
Since then, the developer, protest groups and support groups have taken steps to influence public opinion. Information has been made available particularly on the main concerns of visual intrusion, noise, effects on wildlife and TV reception. Some people have also taken the opportunity to visit a wind farm.

The Parish Council needs to provide a corporate response to the consultation and in taking this decision parish councillors wish to be informed of the views of all residents. We would like all members of your household living within the Parish (age 18 upwards) to complete our survey. Even if you don't really mind one way or another, this is still useful information.

You can complete the short survey on paper, photocopy more copies, print off more from the website (www.charminster.info) or (preferably) fill it in online at www.dorsetforyou.com/410806

One important thing – only one response per person please. We are asking for names/addresses to make sure no one registers more than once but we will not be keeping a record of names and addresses.

If you feel strongly about the issue, you should also make a personal response to WDDC with your views.

Mark Simons, Chair of the Parish Council

THE SURVEY

Q1 The proposed six turbines (at about 1.9km from Charminster village and about 1.8km from Charlton Down) would be visible from parts of Charminster and Charlton Down (and elsewhere). Bearing in mind the information supplied in the planning application how would you feel about having this wind farm development close to our village?

Strongly support/support/don't mind either way/oppose/strongly oppose

There are a number of reasons some residents may support the proposals and these could include:

- you do not find the turbines are intrusive in the landscape
- the importance of having a broad based energy supply
- could help reduce the threat of climate change
- minimal impact on the environment
- helps meet renewable energy obligations
- improves the security of energy supplies
- minimal disruption to farming
- may provide local community benefits

Q2 If you support the wind farm proposals please list the reasons why:

Please be aware that the District Council, who will decide the planning application, can only take into account "material planning considerations" so if an objection is to be made it is important to focus on "material planning considerations" which can INCLUDE:

- Local and national planning policies
- Previous planning decisions, including appeal decisions
- Noise, odours, vibration, contamination, land stability and flood
- Layout, design and visual appearance of development including landscape impact.
- Loss of residential amenity
- Traffic and transportation issues
- Harm to the environment
- Effect on heritage assets – conservation area, listed buildings, ancient monuments etc.

Factors which are NOT normally material planning considerations include:

- Effect on property values
- Private views
- Moral objections
- Land ownership
- "there are too many already"
- Community benefits

Q3 If you are concerned about the wind farm proposals please list your main concerns?

Any comments you wish to make:

Name:
Address:

Age Band:
18- 24 25-44 45-64 65+

Paper surveys back to the Clerk's house (25 Strodes Lane, Charlton Down, DT2 9UB), Charminster Stores or Charlton Down Londis by 9th November. The online survey will close at midnight on 9th November. Only one slip per person please.