

# Country fears

**From: Mark Saxby,  
Wath, Ripon.**

THE construction of these 126m turbines referred to in your letters section would totally blight Ripon and its surrounding villages.

They would destroy the landscape and the incredible views enjoyed by tens of thousands annually. They would be a blot on the landscape for generations to come. But the costs are not just those mentioned above, they are those that are being experienced in every household in the country by soaring fuel bills in the region of £400-£700 as this Government tries to achieve a ridiculously ambitious renewable energy target.

More and more evidence

is coming to the fore and being published daily highlighting the fact that these vast turbines are going to be monumental white elephants costing every single taxpayer in this country dearly. They are in themselves and their construction highly environmentally unfriendly. Wind is not a reliable source of energy and because of this it does nothing to reduce the reliance on other forms of energy. If the Government is not careful its legacy will be that of destroying the countryside. There are several other energy solutions that make a lot more sense. These facts will prevail but in the meantime we must do everything to prevent these developments taking place.

## Concern at 'white elephant'

**From: Ann Kennedy,  
Melmerby, Ripon**

I SHOULD like to add my wholehearted support to Helen Clancy and her very passionate objection to the possible Ripon area wind-farm.

My understanding is that it would be sited as close as 300-500m to residential areas. Apart from the devastating effect of living so close to such monstrous turbines, the impact on the surrounding area would be appalling.

Windfarms are a total white elephant in my opinion.

## Turbines are inefficient

**From: Douglas  
Edwards, Maple  
Garth, Melmerby,  
Ripon.**

I WAS pleased to read the letter from Helen Clancey (September 23) in which she raised concerns about the development of wind farms. My pleasure was that someone in Ripon appeared to recognise the dangers to our countryside from wind farm development.

It seems to me that those in towns and cities have been somewhat uninterested in what is happening outside their immediate boundaries. There will be some who will argue that wind farms are an excellent alternative to our current power production methods. However they should know

the truth and before they jump to the defence of these wind turbines they should read the many websites where people are expressing very genuine concerns about this uncontrolled development. There are instances, some resulting in court cases, where people have been driven from their homes due to the noise levels. This is because greedy landowners have allowed access to land near people's homes.

Many countries such as Denmark, Germany, USA and Canada are now reversing their original love relationship with wind turbines. They have concluded they are inefficient and do not produce any energy when the wind does not blow.

The reason for the haste in our country is that the wind farm developers are given large subsidies and guaranteed prices for 25 years. This is a cost my children and grandchildren will have to pay. To build these turbines on land that is near people's homes and on beautiful scenery is wrong. The fact they then need pylons to run from the wind farms is blight on the landscape.

Finally, whilst I have found our MP Julian Smith sympathetic to helping local communities oppose development near residential homes, he and his fellow MPs have failed to challenge and change the current lax planning around wind farms.