



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Reassuring Results for Turbines**

Over 150 people dropped in to Harbertonford Village Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September for the Totnes Community Wind Farm Community Open Day, an exhibition of information and visuals about the proposed two 2.3MW turbines at Luscombe Cross.

Residents were able to enter their postcodes into a program and be shown 3-D visuals of the turbines if they were visible from their doorsteps.

Approximately 50 people attended a noise workshop to present the findings of a noise assessment, incorporating measurements of existing noise at four homes varying in distance from the site.

Infinergy, who have just won two national awards for excellent work on community engagement, have believed since the start of the process that this small project will be of great benefit to the community, both financially through TRESOC, and as a big step towards energy security.

“We have applied resources to the consultation process for these two turbines that we usually reserve for our large scale projects” said Esbjorn Wilmar, Managing Director of Infinergy, who attended the noise workshop.

TRESOC are also 100% committed to TCWF. “This is our flagship project and we couldn’t be happier with the results of the consultants’ noise assessment,” said Ian Bright.

Hayes McKenzie ([www.hayesmckenzie.co.uk](http://www.hayesmckenzie.co.uk)), the noise specialists hired by Infinergy to assess the site, carried out the measurements over an 18 day period in September. In sharing their findings, Sylvia Broneske represented the worst case predicted noise levels, which is standard practice. This means that in reality predicted noise levels are expected to be lower than indicated.

Hayes McKenzie’s conclusion were:

- 1) No exceedance of the derived noise limits at any property for any wind speed or direction
- 2) Limits met by a good margin
- 3) Planning conditions will protect residents

Andy McKenzie then played typical wind turbine noise through two loudspeakers to produce a measured 40 dB(A) in the middle of the third row of the audience. A hand-held sensor was passed around so people could check the value. The turbine noise – the maximum noise predicted at the nearest house – was “amazingly only just audible” according to Jane Brady of TRESOC. Andy then made the point that Lower Bowden House residents would hear only half the level of the sound they were listening to, and added that if the recording had been played outside the hall, as was originally intended, the noise would probably have been inaudible over the noise from the river.

One resident commented that although her concern was constancy of sound, she found the presentation reassuring. In response to a suggestion that people listen to wind farm noise on youtube, Andy remarked on how unrepresentative that was due to the fact that speakers can play the sound at any volume. Written feedback on the workshop included: “Really important to outline the concerns relating to wind power. I think having a noise specialist present adds to the potency of the discussion. Very worthwhile in general.”

Infinergy will be making the scientifically-generated data available to anyone, especially those who still have any concerns, so long as the data is used for the purpose for which it was intended and is reviewed by an acoustics specialist.

After the presentation, Sylvia commented that Hayes McKenzie were very pleased for the community, “we don’t always see such positive results.”

A comprehensive summary including visuals and responses to written questions is available on the news section of partner website [www.totnescommunitywindfarm.com](http://www.totnescommunitywindfarm.com).

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