

Garden power plan is no wind up

A RETIRED farmer is so desperate to go green that he wants to install a 40ft- high wind turbine in his back garden.

Ivan White (78) already has solar-powered tubes on the roof of his home in Green Road, Eye, near Peterborough, and now he plans to set up the turbine to provide him with electricity.

In addition, the environmentally-conscious father says the 12m tower will cut carbon dioxide emissions.

Mr White, who lives with his wife, Jean, said he had been toying with the idea for years, but objections in the past had put his dream on the backburner.

He said: "There are two main reasons for installing it. One is environmental, and the second is saving money on electricity."

The turbine will be mounted 58m from the nearest point of public access, on Green Road, and will be 120m from the nearest house.

Mr White added: "I've had one verbal objection from a woman, who just doesn't like them. She was imagining the turbine would be like those in a wind farm, but this will not be as tall.

"There is no noise. It will be down the bottom of my yard, so people will only be able to see it from one direction."

Mr White's plans are believed to be the first submitted to Peterborough City Council for a small-scale wind turbine.

Included in the planning application is an environmental impact report, produced by Segen Ltd, an independent power producer that distributes and installs the Iskra turbine Mr White plans to install.

It states: "The Iskra turbine's 12m-high tower is almost insignificant in comparison to other utility giants, being of a similar size to the small wooden power poles which are a familiar and accepted sight throughout rural Britain."

It also states the model is very quiet and designed to have low visual impact, with slender blades.

The council's cabinet member for environment and community safety, Graham Murphy, today welcomed the proposals.

He said: "I support any green initiative. I think it's a wonderful thing that someone is thinking outside the box to evolve their own ways of power generation.

"As I understand, it is one of the first domestic properties in the area planning to have a wind turbine."

>> The plans can be viewed in full at Bridge House and the town hall or at www.peterborough.gov.uk

Wind energy is key to goals

The UK has one of the windiest climates in Europe, and experts claim the form of renewable energy is one of the cleanest, most non-polluting and sustainable sources.

Wind energy is also expected to be an important element in achieving the Government's commitment to reducing carbon monoxide emissions to 12.5 per cent below 1990 levels for 2010.

However, some conservationists fear the Iskra turbine – although nowhere near the 67m structures given the nod to be constructed near March – could have a harmful visual impact, emit noise pollution, and its 5.4m diameter blades may be hazardous for birds.