

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
SECTION 77**

CALLED-IN APPLICATION BY GLYNDEBOURNE PRODUCTIONS LTD

**PLANNING APPLICATION FOR AN 850KW WIND TURBINE
COMPRISING A TUBULAR TOWER 44M HIGH, A THREE BLADED
ROTOR WITH A DIAMETER OF 52M, OVERALL HEIGHT 70M, AN
UNDERGROUND CABLE TO GLYNDEBOURNE, CRANE
HARDSTANDING AREA**

**PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE TEMPORARY (ONE YEAR)
INSTALLATION OF A 50M HIGH METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING
MAST AT MILL PLAIN, NEW ROAD, RINGMER, EAST SUSSEX**

GLYNDEBOURNE WIND TURBINE

**Proof of Evidence of
Sir David Attenborough**

21st January 2008

**Planning Inspectorate References: APP/P1425/V/07/1201986 & 1202273
Local Planning Authority References: LW/07/0077 & 1080**

- 1 I was born in 1926. I took a degree in Natural Sciences at Cambridge University. After National Service, I joined BBC Television in 1952 as a trainee producer. After a few years of producing a wide variety of general programmes I specialised in making natural history documentaries. In 1965 I was appointed Controller of BBC2 and in 1969, Director of Programmes. In 1973 I resigned from the BBC staff and returned to making wildlife documentaries which I still do. I am a past President of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the British Association for the Advancement of Science, a Vice President of Fauna and Flora International and a Fellow of the Royal Society. I live in Richmond, Surrey.

- 2 In 1999, as part of the BBC's programmes to mark the beginning of the new millennium, I was asked to make two hour-long documentaries to be called *The State of the Planet*. I have spent most of my working life making natural history films so I have seen first-hand how human beings have destroyed much of the wildernesses of the world and the species that live within them. In the course of making these new programmes, however, I became aware for the first time of the way that the world's climate is now changing and of the possibility that humanity's activities have contributed to those changes.

- 3 In 2006, I returned to the subject with a second pair of programmes that focussed particularly on the newly perceived danger of climate change. I interviewed climatologists and other scientists who made it clear to me that not only is there now no doubt of humanity's involvement in climate change but that if we continue in the way we have been going, in particular if we continue to generate power by burning hydrocarbons, then we ourselves and the natural world in general will be facing catastrophe. Action is imperative.

- 4 I therefore greatly applauded the plan by Glyndebourne Opera to erect a wind turbine to help power its operations. I have been visiting Glyndebourne Opera since the 1950's and am well aware of its pre-eminent international reputation. That such a celebrated institution should pay such regard to its environmental responsibilities seemed to me to be wholly admirable, demonstrating as it does that some communities really do take the ecological challenge seriously and do not simply utter pious words and leave it to others to take action.

- 5 It is difficult to predict in detail the effect that climate change might have on Sussex in the coming decades. Some species of animals and plants are likely to disappear from the countryside and be compelled to move northwards to avoid the warming conditions. Others that are now largely restricted to continental Europe will doubtless move to our shores. But the larger picture cannot but be very alarming, with rising sea levels, increasingly severe storms and the dislocation of ecological relationships on a major scale. These changes can only be minimised if people everywhere recognise their communal responsibilities.

- 6 I am familiar with wind turbines. I have visited some that are already in operation off the coast of Kent and I have recently seen great numbers of them in the countryside around Vienna. I know, of course, that Glyndebourne lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Having visited the proposed site, I noticed that it is close to a place where, not so long ago, a windmill once stood. I suspect that were that windmill still in existence, many of us would regard it as a welcome feature in the essentially domesticated Sussex landscape and would speak passionately in favour of its protection. That, surely, is because most of us have a care and affection for the past. I certainly have. But I also have a care and affection for the future. A wind turbine, with its graceful lines, collecting energy from the environment without causing any material damage, is a marvellous demonstration of the way we can minimise our pollution of the atmosphere if we wish to do so. It would help protect not only the countryside we have known for centuries but also the wider world beyond.

D.F.A
21st January 2008