

Dear Sir

There is now a groundswell of opinion that wind turbines not only destroy the lives of those living near them but also desecrate the beautiful North Devon countryside. In fact, people are now talking about greed not green energy.

I live in Shebbear and a planning application has recently been put in by Shebbear College for a wind turbine – much to the consternation of the local population who do not want their lives ruined by this huge industrial-sized machine. Torridge District Council's Wind Energy Policy recommends that there should be 600m between a turbine and nearest inhabited building – presumably because they consider that to be a safe distance. Unfortunately, it is only a recommendation and not a statutory requirement. In Shebbear, there are two schools and a play school which sit within this 600m distance and I am greatly worried by the effects that this will have upon the children who attend them. In my professional capacity in education, I have undertaken significant research into the factors which encourage learning and those which do not. Of course, we all know the difference that a good teacher can make but we must also consider the environment in which learning takes place. Wind turbines make a noise which has, variously, been described as 'grinding, grating, thumping and whooshing'. This is hardly going to encourage young people to learn – in fact, we all know that it's more difficult to concentrate when there's a noise in the background. The futures of our children are being sacrificed by those jumping on the green energy gravy train.

Yours

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