

Dear Sir,

Shebbear College have recently applied for planning permission to erect a 46m wind turbine on land adjacent to the College. I am concerned about the potential adverse health effects that this development could have on the pupils of the school, some of whom are boarders, and residents of Shebbear.

There is now good evidence that wind turbines induce adverse health effects on individuals working and living close to them. These effects include sleep problems, headaches including migraine, dizziness, nausea, anxiety, depression and tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Sleep deprivation in itself can lead to exhaustion, mood problems, lack of concentration and learning difficulties.

Researchers who have considered the evidence recommend a minimum distance of 1km, and a number suggest 2-2.5km, from wind turbines to the nearest residence, school or hospital to keep the potential adverse health effects of the turbine to a minimum. The Shebbear College application shows that the kindergarten is only 250m from the base of the proposed turbine, the girl's boarding house 350m and all the College buildings are within 400m. The whole village of Shebbear from the church to the College including the Community School is within 1km of the base of the turbine.

The Headmaster and Governors of the College need to consider the following question: should their priority be to the healthcare and wellbeing of their pupils, for some of whom they act as in loco parentis, or for the negligible benefits that a wind turbine will have on global warming?

Yours sincerely

Dr. Richard Tiner MBBS FFPM