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## NEWS RELEASE

### WADLOW FARM WIND FARM DECISION: SOUTH CAMBS' MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewable Energy Systems UK Ltd (RES)<sup>1</sup> has expressed disappointment at today's decision by South Cambridgeshire District Council to refuse planning permission for the Wadlow Farm wind farm, near the villages of West Wrating and Balsham.

The thirteen-turbine project would have generated electricity equivalent to the annual needs of around one third of South Cambridgeshire and reduced emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, by more than 67,000 tonnes per year.

Annette Deveson, Project Manager for RES, commented; *"We are very disappointed at the Council's decision. More than two years of design work and local consultation created a good quality, low-impact wind farm on the best site for a wind farm in South Cambridgeshire, which could have supplied electricity equivalent to the annual needs of one third of all homes in the District."*

As well as generating clean, green electricity from a home-grown and abundant source, the wind farm would have brought benefits to the community, including a community fund, local sourcing of labour and materials, and wildlife enhancement measures at the site, such as the creation of almost 100,000m<sup>2</sup> of new chalk grassland and over 5,000m<sup>2</sup> of new wildflower habitats.

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Speaking following the decision, Annette said; *“This is a huge missed opportunity. The Council has failed to recognise the support that exists for this project amongst local residents. The people of South Cambridgeshire are content to see wind farms in their neighbourhood because they recognise that if they are going to continue to use electricity then it is better that it comes from a clean, renewable and harmless source.”*

RES is confident that the wind farm has been designed carefully to minimise effects on the landscape, but the Council’s main concerns were visibility. However, too much weight was given to the vocal opponents of the wind farm and too little weight to either the experts who raised no objection to the scheme or to the significant contribution the project can make to regional and national renewable energy targets.

Annette concluded; *“Scientific warnings about climate change are becoming more serious and it the obstacles to action are not technological or financial, but political. We have to ask why South Cambridgeshire District Councillors have failed the people of Cambridgeshire in rejecting an environmentally friendly and beneficial energy generating scheme. People are concerned about the environment and about where their electricity will come from in the future. The Councillors must now explain to local people how climate change targets are going to be met if good quality and benign projects like this are turned down.”*

RES is considering whether to appeal against the decision.

## **ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:** 1. UK-based Renewable Energy Systems is one of the world’s leading wind energy developers. RES has been a pioneer in the growing wind energy market since the early 1980s. To date, the RES Group has built over 1,000MW of wind capacity across the UK, Europe and the USA.

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