

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)
Subject: Open Floor Meeting 1
Date: 26 June 2019 21:11:12
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed the submission for the Open Floor meeting 1 by GREAT representing the villagers

Best wishes,

Lut Stewart

Vice Chair GREAT

Open Floor Meeting 1

Impact on businesses, including tourism

GREAT representing the villagers

In respect of this topic, it is important to note that the construction of the solar plant and the battery storage form Phases 1 and 2 of the project respectively with the solar plant development taking around 24 months and the energy storage facility potentially another 6 months. This means that this project will take at least 2 and a half years to build – not 2 years as most people believe. This is an unreasonably long period of time to inflict on villagers, businesses and tourists.

Having 2 distinct phases can only add to the disruption for the businesses, villagers, cyclists, walkers and tourists.

Two distinct phases allows the developers more flexibility but only adds to the disruption for the villages.

The operational activities are also extended for 12 hours every week on the site to allow for preparation time in the morning and clearing up time in the evening.

So, weekday activity on the site will take place between 6 am and 8 pm --there would also be an extra two hours for these supplemental purposes on Saturday mornings.

The primary route for traffic is from the top of Head Hill Road to the London Array sub station access road -- a distance of some 2 miles, and taking into account Cleve Hill and Sandbanks Road there are 12 quite diverse local businesses using this route. Many of these long established businesses have already experienced the inconvenience associated with all the additional vehicles during the London Array sub station construction. However, the scale of both light and heavy goods vehicle movements associated with this application is unprecedented in its scale and intensity. The businesses concerned include the following :

A plant nursery, a seasonal fruit stall, a transport service, a removal firm , 2 wholesale fruit farms, the Four Horseshoes pub, a storage facility as well as 4 smaller retail and leisure businesses

In addition there is Graveney Primary School , two further educational care facilities, an equine eventing centre , All Saints Church and the Village Hall-- all of these rely on good and unhindered access.

The villages have not forgotten the disruption that London Array development brought some 10 years ago and although many employment opportunities were promised only 1 local engineer benefitted.

The much more significant workforce planned for the Solar Park , a five fold increase of some 400 people, is going to bring no meaningful employment benefits to the village but the villagers will have to endure all the disruption associated with the commuting to the site.

The impact on the operation of the businesses can never be resolved and there will be clear conflicts with vehicular movements six days a week through the villages.

For instance, Langdon Manor wholesale fruit farmers require to operate on a continuous basis and rely on easy passage to be able to store, refrigerate and have packed fruit collected by lorries all day long every day of the week in the season. Also their sizeable workforce needs to be moved from one field to another and from one task to another.

Hilderbrands removals are very concerned as the company operates HGVs and says it is already impossible to freely pass with 1 HGV and 1 car in the stretch of road from their depot to the top of Head Hill Road. They said this is particularly difficult on the 2 areas of road that narrow where there are double bends. They also pointed out that they only work 9 to 5 so as not to disturb the villagers --- there is no such

consideration from the developers who will be operating from 6 am to 8 pm.

They expressed their concerns about the road as they report that this cannot take additional traffic and which would be further exacerbated when a traffic incident arises on the Thanet Way resulting in complete chaos when traffic funnels through the villages.

The school recognises that the construction traffic will not impact on their start and finish time but they are very concerned about the air pollution, the noise and vibration that the construction traffic will bring.

The other care and educational facilities are concerned about health and safety but also about safeguarding.

All businesses consulted report that these construction phases will have a negative impact on their ability to run their businesses , both operationally and financially.

What also needs to be considered is the home to work traffic and home to school traffic. The operating hours and the length of this construction work will impact on all villagers who work and young people at school, college or university. This is not only related to their transport in the morning but also in the evening – and of course this continues on Saturdays when the construction workers will not finish until 2pm.

In addition the many 100s of tourists that stay in the beach huts, the caravan parks and the many 100s of tourists that walk the Saxon Shore Way, visit Whitstable, frequent the Sportsman Michelin Star Pub, are engaged in bird watching, cycle on the cycle route, visit the touristic cities of Faversham and Canterbury will be hindered by the construction traffic and this will no doubt affect their experience of the area and will impact negatively on future visits.