

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Open Floor Meeting 2
Date: 26 June 2019 21:13:48
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed the submission for the Open Floor Meeting 2 by GREAT representing the villagers.

Best wishes,

Lut Stewart

Vice Chair GREAT

Open Floor Meeting : Topic for 22nd July

Impact on local residents

GREAT representing the villagers

Graveney as a village is quite unique in that it has around **100** retired people living next to the main Seasalter Road, including Vinson Close. The main stretch of road in Graveney to London Array is about 1 mile long. The concentration of people who have chosen to come and live in the village to spend their retirement is mainly situated in this area.

Villagers come to live in Graveney because this area is known to be very quiet, is close to the sea and has open countryside. For some it was a very popular holiday destination when they were young and also because for others their families came hop picking during the summer.

It has long been accepted that the countryside makes an important contribution to people's lives and leisure opportunities. Look for instance at the Duchess of Cambridge who designed a show garden at London's Chelsea Flower Show, featuring a woodland wilderness that highlights the benefits the natural world can bring to the mental and physical wellbeing of children and adults alike.(May 2019)

Having access to nature and the countryside promotes well-being, both physical and mental. The people of Graveney, surrounding villages, national and international tourists, bird watchers, artists, and ramblers speak with passion about the Graveney Marshes. In particular their enjoyment of the abundance of wildlife, birds, Public Rights of Way, the Saxon Shore Way, the tranquility of the marshes, the dark skies which are unique, the local heritage in its original setting, the opportunity to get some clean air and open space.

This proposed development would completely and permanently change the character and enjoyment of this area, the Public Rights of Way, the Saxon Shore Way and the local heritage could no longer be enjoyed against an over towering back drop of solar panels.

The villagers are very clear that they do not want to have to endure more than 2.5 years of their old age being woken before 6 am in the morning, when the solar plant traffic starts, then put up with this for a whole day until after 8 pm at night when it stops.

The quality of life will be severely affected every day, for the whole day, for the whole week, except for Sundays. The questioned being asked is asked why the villagers have to make these unacceptable sacrifices for the financial benefit of the developers.

Originally the construction of the solar plant was going to take up to 18 months. Now we know that the construction of the solar plant and the battery storage will form Phases 1 and 2 of the development 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 two and a half years to build. Many villagers complained that this would be an unreasonably long period of time to inflict noise, dust, disruption, air pollution and congestion. They remember the construction of London Array, and whilst the traffic was far less at that time, the hindrance continued throughout the day.

At the end of the day it is not even clear whether this solar plant is about exporting or importing electricity and whether anyone –other than the developers – will benefit from it.

Villagers are asking questions about the real and final scheme or why there is the opportunity to exploit “the Rochdale Envelope”. To many it appears that the developers are able to change, introduce and delete parts of the Development Consent Order application as they please. A comment made by one of the villagers was “who knows what their real intention is?” Other comments have centred on whether the developers will build and manage the solar plant themselves. This

has arisen due to the clauses in the DCO related to the sale of the planning agreements.

Where people believed that the duration of the solar plant was for 25 years, this has been extended to 40 years and now one of the developers advertises it as “lasting in perpetuity”. This is an unimaginable and unacceptable situation.

The daily operational activities have also been extended by 12 hours every week. This is to allow workers on site to provide preparation time in the morning and clearing up time in the evening.

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

As stated above, the primary route for traffic is from the top of Head Hill Road to the London Array sub station access road.

The primary school is also on this stretch of road and the 100 or so children will be hindered in their learning by the traffic noise, vibration, dirt and pollution . School staff have made it clear that the traffic noise and vibration will have a negative effect on the ability of young people to concentrate and therefore learn. It will also not be possible to open windows. Whilst it is recognised that the opening and closing times will not have additional construction traffic, the construction traffic will not stop during break times, outdoor play times or walking trips to the church.

A similar response was received by the father of the school for his autistic twins and the staff of the specialist home for young people.

Building a solar park in Graveney would no doubt be very profitable for the developers but it would come at an unreasonably high cost and price to pay for all the villagers and especially the school children, young people with disabilities and retirees.