

My main objection to this project being granted is NOISE NUISANCE, and the extreme adverse effect it will have on the lovely rural village of Amcotts where I have spent most of my life. I did take the opportunity to make a verbal submission at the open floor hearing at Forest Pines on the 24th January 23, but feel that there was more detail that I could and should have put forward, I would like to do that here.

Amcotts has suffered noise nuisance from the Flixborough Industrial Estate since its inception as an Enterprise zone going back over three decades. Amcotts is a rural village and as a consequence has a low background noise level. This was confirmed in historical records going back to 1987 and a noise survey carried out by the then local authority, and since in an independent survey commissioned in 2006 due to more noise nuisance. I should stress that in my experience nothing has changed to alter that low background noise level which I have taken as 30db(a).

I have minutes of a meeting between residents and officers from North Lincolnshire Council dated 18th June 1997. These minutes mention that noise survey as well as historical data including the noise controls in place on the industrial estate at that time under a planning condition, planning ref 7/GBC5/13/83, which I have been told is still in place.

This condition states that " Noise emanating from operations or processes conducted on the site shall not exceed 55db(A) between the hours of 7am and 7pm nor 50 db(A) between 7pm and 7am as measured at the boundaries of the site". Yet in recent emails from North Lincolnshire Council I have been told that there is "ambiguity" as to whether or not this can be enforced.

The reasons for placing the noise restriction on the industrial estate according to planning ref 7/GBC5/13/83 was "to protect the amenities of residents in Amcotts and Flixborough" and "Because the site is relatively close to occupied residential properties who's occupants should not be subject to undue risk".

Yet noise nuisance issues continue to persist, as over the past 12 months I have on 214 days monitored the levels of noise emanating from the Flixborough Industrial Estate, at my property, and on each of those 214 days the level of noise has been at least 5db(a)+ above background noise level and on 95 of those days the noise level has been 10db(a)+ above background, the worst being on the 29th September 22 when the actual noise level reached 58/60 db(a). On 53 of these days noise has been of a frequency and tone that it has been audible within my home causing me stress and anxiety. Within my home I would liken that noise to the constant HUM from an amplifier. This can go on for hours or days at a time. Of course if I require a window to be open or am outside in the garden it is simply remains unpleasant and stressful! These noise levels are unreasonable and substantially interfere with the use and enjoyment of my home.

Why can the planning condition not be enforced to give protection to Amcotts and Flixborough as originally intended? If it cannot be enforced then why can't the current noise nuisance be assessed under BS4142 method of rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial areas? This clearly states that "a difference of +5db(a) is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact". "A difference of +10db(a) or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context", and that these differences above background noise levels are "likely" to draw complaints.

I have asked if, since 1997, any monitoring or enforcement had been done with regard to noise levels on the Flixborough Industrial Estate, or at Amcotts, and was told that subject to the provisions of the GDPR regulations (2018) data is deleted after a period of time. It was therefore not possible to determine the occasions since 1997 when monitoring "may have been undertaken". Would this data not be in the public interest or of importance when making assessments or decisions??

In light of the past history of and current noise nuisance at Amcotts is there not, in the apparent lack of up to date official and professional data on monitoring or noise levels emanating from the Flixborough Industrial Estate, justification for monitoring and assessment to be undertaken to establish anew a background noise level for Amcotts and for mitigation of noise nuisance?

After all the evidence is there!

THE FACT THAT AMCOTTS IS NOT MUCH MOOR THAN 200MTRS from the Flixborough Industrial Estate and wharf with a completely open aspect to the west across an expanse of water, which has a reflective effect on noise, should not be overlooked, nor should wind speed and direction. From experience mitigation of the noise envisaged during both construction and operation will, due to the proximity alone, prove a massive and difficult if not impossible task or could take years to resolve!

I understand that Solar 21 say that they will not undertake rail activity at night, which would include movements on the wharf because of noise! Yet they propose 24 HOUR working on that same wharf with ship movements and machinery involved in the HANDLING THOUSANDS OF TONNES OF RDF DAY AND NIGHT, AT ONLY 200MTR AWAY, WILL THESE OPERATIONS NOT INVOLVE ANY NOISE??

Solar 21 carried out a noise survey at Amcotts from the 12th to 19th April 21, but I feel that it is important to stress that noise nuisance problems were being experienced long before and during that period. The notes that I made at the time show that during this period their equipment would have picked up noise from both the wharf and industrial estate at levels similar to those I monitored at my property and consider to be a nuisance. Furthermore I have to question whether or not Solar 21 followed the correct procedure for establishing a background noise level for Amcotts as I understand that no noise monitoring equipment, at that time, was set up in Amcotts sufficiently far away as to not be affected by the source of noise nuisance from the wharf and industrial estate! I would wish to stress here that both the wharf and industrial estate are in the same direction, and that noise can and does come from either or both simultaneously!! These noise levels are not acceptable and are at levels that, I believe, would justify an assessment on behalf of the residents of Amcotts under BS4142, to as I have mentioned in the apparent absence of very recent data, establish anew the background noise level and to take any mitigating action should it be found that a "statutory nuisance" exists. This I feel should be undertaken before any noise data obtained or put forward by Solar 21 is even considered, as that data is flawed and unrepresentative of the noise levels Amcotts should, IN ALL FAIRNESS, be experiencing!!

In solar 21's ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY EFFECTS on Amcotts with regard to construction and operation (year 1 and year 15) they mention "high susceptibility to the project" and "overall sensitivity is judged to be high". With regard to nature of effect (magnitude) during construction, "overall magnitude is judged to be large". Level of effect during construction "overall, the level of effect is judged to be major adverse at viewpoint 1". Nature of effect (magnitude) during operation (year 1 and year 15) "overall magnitude is judged to be large at year 1 and year 15". Level of effect during operation (year 1 and year 15) "overall, the level of effect is judged to be major adverse at viewpoint 1 at year 1".

In fact looking at their Baseline Noise Survey appendix B, for example, noise levels are predicted to be at or in excess of those that I have experienced and are AUDIBLE WITHIN MY HOME, yet with regard to "Effect Significance", in their view, is "MINOR". And at "Charmaine" Amcotts noise levels in excess of 60db during construction, some 30db above my understanding of background noise level here at Amcotts; REALLY??, This survey makes truly ALARMING READING!

I genuinely fear for the Environment of Amcotts and for the Wellbeing of residents.

Brian Oliver.