

Summary of my speech at the OFH on May 17th @7pm

Thank you for letting me speak. I am a resident of Essendine and I will from my house actually see on the horizon the solar panels that will surround the whole of the village.

Just as an interest I started to market my property for sale and one of the first questions the Estate Agents (King West) asked was whether I will be affected by the solar farm which of course I had to say yes

We have already heard about the massive size of the farm which really concerns me because it will surround the whole of the village 200 plus acres and 530,000 solar panels. You could with a 200,000 sq ft commercial building get 2.2mw of solar power so with 159 of such sized buildings that would equate to the same output as mallard Pass.

Also why cant such farms be built on old brownfield sites. Can I draw your attention Chelveston Renewable Energy Park which is an old airfield on the Northamptonshire/Bedfordshire border. This park uses a combination of solar, wind and hydrogen power in a much smaller area of Mallard Pass and will eventually equate to 66% of Mallard Passes output.

Many of the side roads where I live are used by walkers cyclists and horse riders. I am actually a cyclist myself and no real data has been provided by the developer of how these users will be affected as no studies have been done. These roads are at week ends used by such users.

Indeed one of the main construction roads will be the road from Essendine to Uffington and it appeared that this will be closed and is a road much used by cyclists and traffic using the road as a cut through to Peterborough and avoiding the A1. The road is certainly not suitable for HGV traffic or are the other minor roads. This road will be the main road and site to issue deliveries to 9 main sites across the site.

I am also concerned about the amount of traffic and particularly the route that comes through Great Casterton and then onto Essendine. Great Casterton has 2 schools and a very dangerous existing cross roads that will be used by such traffic.

The traffic plans also seem to be very general in terms of volumes of traffic throughout the 2 year construction period. If you actually look at other solar farm applications like Sunnica and Cleeve Hill/Project Fortress fully detailed figures were given of the traffic during the construction period in terms of peaks and troughs. The developer has just given averages. I also question the working hours of 7am to 7pm- what even in the winter months when its dark. How will they be working. Will they have lighting? It does not seem to stack up.

We have also heard about the noise of the plie driving which we will suffer as a village for 2 years let alone the traffic works that will happen. How long will they go on for. We are just left in the dark.

My other concern is the end of life of these panels Where will they be disposed? By whom ? Who will the developer be at the time and will they still be in business. If they are not in business who will be responsible for removing them and reinstating the land to farmland that it is presently.