

Essendine Parish Council

Interested Party ref no; 20035993

Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH 2) Environmental matters Thursday 13 July 2023

Section 12 Part C Health and Wellbeing

Post hearing submission – summary of oral case put

July 25th 2023

Ellie Evans for the Applicant states “...the ES chapters do conclude some significant adverse effects are with respect to landscape and visual ...”

Miss Evans for the applicant stated that she and therefore the applicant considers the health and wellbeing affects to the population will be relatively minimal and therefore it is unlikely that there would be significant health effects.

Essendine Parish Council strongly dispute that it is unlikely that there would be significant health and wellbeing effects.

Below are two comments relative to mental health from Essendine residents that have been sent to Essendine Parish Council, the names and addresses have been withheld.

“For many, outdoor exercise is therapeutic. I chose to continue living here for this reason, suffering from Depression. Walking with heavy vehicles going past and beautiful views replaced by miles of solar panels will simply exacerbate mental health issues.”

“From a personal perspective, I have suffered from anxiety and depression since childhood 14 and part of my move to a more rural setting (I have one neighbour) was to be able to live in a more peaceful environment (after years in London) and focus my efforts on creating and maintaining my garden by way of therapy. I cannot begin to describe the impact that this proposal has had upon me, the idea of the roads being clogged with massive hgvs and trucks, delivering equipment for the build together with the noise of construction for over two years (E.g. pile drivers and wagons)married with the prospect of numerous workers in closer proximity fills me with dread, is affecting my sleep and is already encroaching on my mental health, before this has even become a reality.”

There have been many more conversations with Essendine residents confirming the proposed Solar Farm is affecting the health and wellbeing of Essendine residents.

Essendine residents have lived with this proposed horrific project for nearly two years and all of the issues that it is likely to bring which will negatively affect the residents daily living and rural activities.

Essendine has 354 registered voters plus children that live in the village. During covid we all saw mental health and wellbeing come to the fore and the one great amenity Essendine has is the vast open farmed countryside with public paths and small local roads. This amenity greatly assisted all of the Essendine residents to cope with and manage their mental health and wellbeing through Covid, Covid was a dramatic and traumatic event that effected all people in the UK.

The construction and operation of a Solar Farm is a dramatic and traumatic event that will affect all residents of Essendine and the surrounding villages and because of it proposed 40 years of operation, this time period will offer no real end to the dramatic and traumatic event.

Residents of Essendine are concerned for their mental health and wellbeing now and in the future, Miss Evans for the applicant talked about the wider population and the health and well being effects.

The wider population are not facing a 40 year Solar Farm operation with acres of Solar Panels plus a 2 year construction phase, Essendine is not the wider population we live in Essendine and our mental health and wellbeing are being and will be negatively affected.

End.