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14/4/24

Dear Sirs,

I wish to register my objections to the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

The motivation behind the scheme is obviously a chance to make money with no concern for the residents of the area who will have to live with a monstrosity for the foreseeable future and for some of us for the rest of our lives . The size of the proposed scheme will destroy the countryside covered and blight the surrounding area for some distance in every direction.

Any other scheme, even of more moderate size would be carefully considered for many years before being granted planning permission. The scale of this is far beyond even the likes of a new industrial estate .

A scheme of much lesser size would also be mitigated with infrastructure improvements and substantial contributions towards the local services and amenities and I see no mention of such in the prospectus.

The new permissive footpaths don't really anything by way of amenities and who really wants to walk alongside and see all around, thousands of 3.3m high solar panels from these or the existing walks we have . Setting the panels back 15 metres from paths isn't going to improve the outlook and no doubt there will be miles of security fencing erected as well. It will be like taking a walk through an industrial estate.

What exactly do they mean by potential mitigation and enhancement areas ? Are they or aren't they and what will be done with them ?

I understand that eventually the land may be returned to agriculture . Even assuming all the foundations are removed it would surely take many years for any kind re establishment of the soil and eco system.

They talk about lessening the visual impact. How long will it take for new hedges to grow tall and thick enough to do this ? In the meantime the panels will not only be obtrusive as objects to look at but they will also cast the glare of reflected sunlight on the days where there is enough sun to power them. I also wonder what the sound will be like when it is blowing a gale across the panels and around the legs they stand on.

I understand that although the scheme has the potential to generate 350 MW of energy and power potentially 92,000 homes , in fact on average , solar panels are only about 11% efficient in our climate, and are one of the least cost effective ways of producing green energy. Why not use wind turbines , with a smaller scale of solar panels working in conjunction with them so that if one is not producing the other may be . Wind turbines while still being visually obtrusive can generate more energy for a given land usage and could therefore reduce the scale of any development.

There is no mention in the brochure that I could see about the effect of absorbed heat on the local climate . These things must become pretty hot in the sunlight and must surely effect the local temperatures .

The land under the panels will harden and dry out and lose the ability to absorb heavy rainfall. As we have seen in January this year , the Glen valley is already prone to fairly severe flooding, affecting crops, animals and some buildings, and a more rapid run off will only increase the severity of flooding.

How much cleaning do the panels need and where will the water or chemicals come from and be disposed of to keep them clean enough to be effective ?

Where will all the panels be made ? More than likely, China where labour is cheap , so will be of no benefit to our manufacturing economy and needs shipping half way around the world to be delivered with all the drawbacks of cost and pollution. There is also concern about the use of slave labour in the mining of the minerals required for production which Canadian Solar does not seem to recognise or address.

What materials will be used ? Is the manufacture a clean process and can all the waste and decommissioned panels be cleanly recycled in this country ?

The brochure is full of nice buzz words telling us how much we need this and what will be done so we won't really notice or be bothered by it, but how many of those who are involved in proposing to impose this scheme on us would say yes to it if they were on the receiving end ?

The scheme is I believe , just a money making opportunity for all those involved in its' proposal , driven by a company that is more interested in profit than the environment or the wellbeing of those whose lives they effect .

I sincerely hope that common sense prevails and the proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm are turned down.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Worrall