

Unique reference number: 20035512

Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council represent the views of our Parishioners who overwhelmingly object to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal.

Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council comments to the Secretary of State on the responses from the information request letter sent to several parties on the 13th March 2024.

Having read through the responses to the questions asked, our view is that since the end of the examination on 16th November 2023 when the inspectorate closed the examination to consider their recommendation, there have been no significant movement in terms of agreements to the questions that have been asked.

Cable crossing of the East Coast Main Line – Has an agreement been reached?

The short answer is no. There has not been an agreement reached. The response from the applicant is woolly at best! They say that ‘and it is anticipated that an agreement will be agreed and completed over the coming weeks’ well we are two weeks from the date of this response and still nothing. There is an arrogance in their response which has been typical from them to all concerned during this whole process. To underline the fact that an agreement is not forthcoming, Network Rail did not even bother to reply!

Side agreements with RCC and LCC Regarding Highway matters– Has an agreement been reached?

The short answer is no. The applicant has stated that their preference for an agreement would be to have one agreement covering both RCC and LCC, and again, the applicant’s response is full of ifs, buts and maybes. The response from the applicant does not align with the responses from LCC and RCC.

LCC state that negotiations are on-going, but there is not even a draft agreement. RCC have a number of fundamental issues and anticipate that an agreement is not likely to be reached in less than two months and even then, without significant amendments made by the applicant should they agree to make them. This timing would take it past the date that is set for the SoS to determine a decision.

Great crested newt license and impact assessment and conservation certificate. Has a license application been made and has an IAPC certificate been issued?

The short answer is no. The applicant answer’s the question again with woolly wording saying that ‘they are committed to being part of the district level licensing scheme’ so committed are they, that they have only just put in a paragraph in the new oCEMP to include them!

The applicant also provided information on ‘Community benefit fund’.

This a topic that the SoS did not ask about and is not even a material planning consideration. No community benefit fund even if it was a material item could ever compensate for the damage and disruption this application would bring to the local community. For the record, the applicant has previously stated that a community benefits package would **not** be forthcoming, which makes this offer seem somewhat suspicious.

We feel that this is a veiled attempt by the applicant to in some way 'encourage' the SoS by way of a sweetener to be more favourable to the application, disgraceful!

To summarise.

Throughout the whole process of this application the applicant has shown a complete disregard and arrogance to the local community, even during the hearings with the inspectorate and the represented bodies giving their evidence and objections. They have consistently failed to answer fully and truthfully questions asked of them on the many serious concerns that face this community that would come from this application.

The fact that they are unable (even after all this time) to provide confirmation of agreements in answer to the SoS's questions on this recent request proves that point.

The applicant's response to all questions is the same as it has always been, full of ifs, buts and maybes. The applicant, MPSF has shown that it is a company that promises much and delivers very little. They deliberately obfuscate in their responses, leading to not being able to trust anything they say.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Kentish – Chair Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council.