

It is apparent that the format of this procedure has been contrived so as to minimise representations from the local people who are destined to be greatly affected by the Gate Burton Energy Park. This scheme represents but a quarter of the total area planned for solar energy in NE Lincolnshire so I question why Gate Burton is being considered in isolation? The total area covering some 10,000 acres will be a massive intrusion into people's lives and their views should not be cast aside by making it difficult for them to participate by forcing them to make four separate representations.

The location of the hearing, the timing during the holiday period and the complexity of the matter make it difficult for many to be engaged in the proceedings. This has become a very one sided affair, on one side highly organised and well funded professionals against, quite frankly amateurs, with no previous experience in such matters but who are fighting against being put in a life changing situation.

I question why the local populations health and well-being and in reality their lives are being treated with such disdain and overridden by these proposals. Through the Government Planning procedure, their fate is being controlled by people who have no connection, thought or appreciation of the area, the outcome of which could have disastrous consequences for their future lives. We supposedly live in a democracy, not I hasten to add an autocracy, yet these are the very actions that one would expect to prevail in China or Russia where the state knows best and the consequential impact on the community is of no concern.

If these schemes are of such National Strategic importance then the developers should be forced to compensate all those who have properties affected by the proposals otherwise these businesses are profiteering at the expense of the local population who will see their properties devalue. As it stands they are not even required to undertake mitigation work in advance or ensure there is adequate screening prior to commencement. It is absolutely scandalous that a few unscrupulous development companies can destroy so many established lives without being held to account.

Creating industrial scale solar farms should be left to typically North African desert situations which are already devoid of populations and wildlife and where there is unlimited sun but certainly not in the Northern latitudes of, 'England's green and pleasant land'. More especially since there are more appropriate less intrusive and other low carbon alternatives available. West Burton has already been earmarked for Nuclear Fusion Power.