

Knaith Parish Council would like to make the following comments:

1. We believe that the process and the application are fundamentally flawed and have been submitted in a way to make it difficult for interested parties to attend and submit any objections.
2. This is because deadlines for examinations are during the school holidays when the majority of people are either on holiday themselves or are looking after children at home. Hence they are unable to attend or make submissions to the examining authority.
3. The scale and number of schemes in such a short space of time makes it very difficult for interested parties to engage and ensure all deadlines and timescales are adhered to. If they were treated as one project this would streamline the process and make it a lot easier and also highlight the excessiveness of the combined projects. If this is NOT to be done then the examining authority must ensure there is significant time between each examination to allow interested parties to become involved, understand and comment on all the projects that impact upon them.
4. It is easy to see that with these proposals running at roughly the same time, confusion could prevent any opposition and cause the general public to lose track of where each one is in the process.

For example, at the moment

Gate Burton Energy Park is under examination

Cottam Solar Farm is in Pre-Examination

West Burton Solar Project has just completed registered interest

Tillbridge is in Statutory Consultation.

These four huge proposals are not the only ones in Lincolnshire (there are many more proposed for this county). But these are all within a few miles of each other!

That is why it will be difficult for residents to follow all of the projects with the different stages especially when all of the above projects will affect a lot of the same people/communities. It is an unfair proposal to expect realistically. Especially as mentioned the time of year, how much time is needed to ensure everyone understands everything and makes necessary representation to the deadlines.

5. Two schemes have been submitted by the same developer, Island Green Power.
6. Could a venue closer to the proposed sites not have been chosen for the meetings, such as Lincolnshire Showground which has free parking and is easily accessible? Lincoln City is a nightmare to park and can be difficult to navigate it is also expensive to park. This may deter people/community group representatives from attending.
7. We have also witnessed some confusion over the different projects with West Burton Solar Project and Gate Burton Energy Park getting mixed up with each other.

This current examination format would be very difficult for us all to follow and participate in, and so we feel we are being unfairly treated and ultimately discriminated against.

We feel the solar companies are relying heavily on the fact that ordinary people do not have the time or money to understand and maybe object to these large projects and this should not be allowed to happen. These four projects (at present) are going to massively impact everyone who lives around them and their views and objections should be allowed to be heard and counted, especially when it is apparent that the majority of the representations submitted are against the plans. This process and timeline at present does not allow for that to happen.