

File Name: Open Floor Hearing Part 2.mp3
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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:28 - 00:00:09:02

Can we resume the meeting, please? Can everyone take their seats?

00:00:17:28 - 00:00:45:15

And the case team confirmed that the live streaming recording started. Please. Thank you. So we will now continue with hearing various representations. Can I just just make a reminder that there's no need to repeat points that we made before? You can simply agree with the representations that have already been made. All right. Could I ask Mr. Peter O'Grady? Speak, please?

00:00:59:09 - 00:01:03:15

If you're ready. It's my statements as a resident of William.

00:01:05:15 - 00:01:07:18

I'm also a chartered electrical engineer.

00:01:09:21 - 00:01:14:02

Only 35 years experience, not 37 like Simon. And.

00:01:15:24 - 00:01:22:02

That has included over 20 years of senior management experience in engineering operations and major asset management.

00:01:24:17 - 00:01:57:28

If someone came to me and said, look, the only way we can decarbonise is to cover miles of solar panels with miles of fields with solar panels. I might not like it, but at the end of the day, sometimes you've got to take a. A bigger perspective. That's just not the case here. There is an alternative. And some of it just doesn't pass a sense test. The UK's. One of the lowest areas of solar gain worldwide.

00:02:00:13 - 00:02:05:28

So the power that you get from a solar panel in the UK is about the lowest that you can get anywhere in the world.

00:02:08:11 - 00:02:16:12

It's just not the obvious choice for this region. To become the world's largest concentration of solar panels.

00:02:18:26 - 00:02:24:22

Which would be the case if the combined schemes in this region come.

00:02:28:12 - 00:02:43:27

And because the solar has such a low yield in the UK. The developer also seeks to over plant the project by putting more panels down, but limit their output to the size of the grid connection.

00:02:46:10 - 00:02:57:22

Now that means that it deliberately does not utilize its already meager 9 to 11% that solar gets from its capacity in the UK.

00:02:59:23 - 00:03:13:07

And as has been described earlier, solar is at its peak in the summer and that's when demand is low. And it's zero on winter evenings when demand is high and that matching of power matters.

00:03:16:13 - 00:03:24:19

The National Grid envisaged that in the summertime, when the surplus, that excess supply will simply be switched off.

00:03:27:02 - 00:03:30:28

And that further reduces the yield of these solar panels in this area.

00:03:33:12 - 00:03:36:21

The applicant doesn't care, particularly because they will be paid.

00:03:39:03 - 00:03:51:24

There is something fundamentally wrong where the economics of a situation. Like this. Make an imbalanced project like this financially worthwhile.

00:03:53:25 - 00:03:57:18

And that's completely aside from the impacts on the community.

00:03:59:10 - 00:04:14:26

I'm not against solar, by the way. In 2008. The Climate Change Act came into force, binding the government to decarbonization targets, and in the same year. We installed solar panels on our roof.

00:04:16:26 - 00:04:20:09

15 years later, there's a climate emergency.

00:04:21:27 - 00:04:32:20

In the country still has no program for retrofitting solar on rooftops. And we're staggeringly still allowing houses to be built. Without solar on rooftops.

00:04:34:15 - 00:04:56:05

That's your climate emergency right there. And yet the answer is not to drive. Use of roof space. Instead, there's an unholy rush to occupy vast swathes of otherwise productive farmland. With what would be. Solar panels that would produce globally low yields.

00:05:00:08 - 00:05:08:08

And it's at a time when land use in the UK is being understood to be under pressure like never before.

00:05:09:26 - 00:05:14:07

Ironically, much of that pressure comes from what we are doing to the climate.

00:05:16:00 - 00:05:28:01

The need for reservoirs. The changes in farming practice, rewilding, planting trees and restoration of peatlands. Growing crops for biofuels.

00:05:30:18 - 00:05:49:12

And that's before the demand for housing or recreation or economic development, or to improve food security, as we've also heard. It made me really look hard at what is needed to decarbonise. It is genuinely difficult. We do need solar as part of a plan.

00:05:52:20 - 00:06:15:29

We need to deploy solar in a way that acknowledges it is limited in its contribution in this country. And therefore we must minimize the impacts it has. Having 4.5m high panels across an area the size of a city in no way could be considered to minimize impact.

00:06:18:00 - 00:06:20:16

To? What do we need to do to decarbonize?

00:06:22:24 - 00:06:24:15

We are a windy island.

00:06:26:07 - 00:06:34:26

National Grid expects that over 70% of our electricity will be generated by wind. By 2050.

00:06:38:06 - 00:06:40:24

We need to build more offshore wind.

00:06:42:10 - 00:06:48:21

And build the electrical infrastructure to power, to connect power to where it's needed.

00:06:50:23 - 00:07:08:20

We need to manage energy flexibility across the seasons to absorb intermittent renewable generation and to meet the peaks of winter demands and variability across days. Those are the two key battlegrounds for decarbonisation.

00:07:10:25 - 00:07:29:09

That's also the conclusions of the Climate Change Committee, National Audit Office, and. The Bays Committee, who all published reports this year. Assessing the progress this country is making towards decarbonisation. Our sector.

00:07:30:29 - 00:07:35:07

There's an ambition for 70GW of solar in this country.

00:07:37:03 - 00:07:56:19

And the adverse consequences of solar can be largely avoided by use of rooftop solar and the development of solar at smaller scale. This scheme will provide relatively little energy or decarbonisation benefit.

00:07:58:07 - 00:08:09:28

For all its many damaging consequences in terms of character on the region, landscapes, livelihoods, crop displacement, wildlife disruption. I could go on.

00:08:14:09 - 00:08:23:13

But at its most fundamental level. It's just wasteful and unnecessary. Okay.

00:08:26:12 - 00:08:27:24

Thank you, Mr. O'Grady.

00:08:30:01 - 00:08:33:28

Mr. Stiles, would you like to forward, please?

00:08:47:17 - 00:08:49:28

I'm sorry. If you press the button. There we are. Red button.

00:08:51:05 - 00:09:21:09

Good evening. Thank you very much. I'd like to make four points, please. And some may have been covered before. I believe, along with my friends and fellow villagers, that the four local solar projects that this inquiry and the other inquiries are being asked to consider are, in fact one project which has been divided into four, to cynically discourage you from being able to assess the impact of the whole project.

00:09:21:11 - 00:09:57:17

And that is the crucial thrust of my argument. I believe that to be immoral and if not immoral, it's intrinsically unfair to all parties concerned. Evidence for this assertion. The meeting. The open meeting, which was held in Glenwood, was informed by the presenter. The four companies all have directors in common. Thus, there's a very clear link. All four are using the same legal team, as evidenced by the meeting with Westland District Council, which they were expecting for teams to turn up and only one turned up.

00:09:58:15 - 00:10:09:19

All four are to use the same trench to reach the grid connections. How can that be? Four separate entities. It's one entity.

00:10:11:06 - 00:10:24:23

Those clear and reputable links exist. There is one company presented as four and the inquiry. The inquiry should have the power and the desire to consider all applications as one.

00:10:26:28 - 00:10:40:23

It's certainly there, Mr. Stiles. We need to be hearing that information that's important and relevant to our conducting the examination. So I've heard what you've said there. Can you move on to matters that are going to be important and relevant to conducting this examination, please? Certainly. Thank you.

00:10:40:25 - 00:11:20:27

But that is crucial. Think, think you're deprived of the ability to be able to consider the whole project. Okay. Number two, the fact that the same process is now happening four times over is extremely confusing to those of us to whom it's being done, particularly now, the inquiries appear to run concurrently, which makes even more of a nonsense of the notion of four separate projects one than one enormous one. It's really hard to understand and remember to which pieces of information one has responded, making it much more likely that errors in evidence will occur and therefore good quality argument will be missed, which is my point.

00:11:21:10 - 00:11:57:20

Is it possible that the evidence presented to one quarter of the inquiry could automatically be transferred to the other three? It would save the repeating. Food. Food security has been spoken about a lot. It's clearly a national concern. The war in Ukraine is merely one. One expected demand on UK farmland, which was not predicted in informal conversation at the end of the Glen. With meeting the representative, the land agent said there were bumper crops from the land in question last year, which was one a 1 in 25 year event.

00:11:58:05 - 00:12:20:18

Is it not just common sense that, given the uncertainties of climate change, that the heavier land with greater ability to withstand hot summers will be of greater value in terms of food production and therefore even more of a loss under the desert of solar panels. So not once in a lifetime at all, but every year a bumper crop will be lost.

00:12:22:11 - 00:12:52:16

These 4 in 1 projects will completely destroy services. Point for the 4 in 1 projects will completely destroy the centuries old view from the Lincoln edge, which is which is designated as an area of great landscape value and destroy the wildlife habitat. Meeting Glenwood again was told that deer fencing to keep the insulation secure, which destroys the habitat and therefore the wildlife. Solar panels work well on roof, on roofs.

00:12:52:26 - 00:13:18:07

They're non-intrusive. We have them on our roof, and people don't even know they're there. They do not, however, generate well in the winter when there are short days. And certainly they don't work at night. Therefore, this 7000 acres plus will work for less than a quarter of a year every year, when currently it is producing food directly or indirectly for 365 days a year.

00:13:18:25 - 00:13:19:12

Thank you.

00:13:22:00 - 00:13:22:15

Thank you.

00:13:24:17 - 00:13:25:02

And.

00:13:26:00 - 00:13:30:00

So Grady on behalf of Billingham parish meeting, please.

00:13:34:15 - 00:14:22:15

Good evening Margaret O'Grady. Chair. Filling and parish meeting. Filling parish meeting. Would like to make two observations. The first observation is that among all technical topics of environmental concern, what seems to be missing is any genuine consideration of people for the area in terms of benefit to the community, there is barely anything and certainly nothing to address having deprived people in the area of livelihoods and landscape. It is therefore not surprising that, as far as I can understand, there is scant support for the West Burton scheme or any other of the large solar scale projects in this region, and overwhelming opposition from every parish that has expressed a view representing 19 villages.

00:14:23:14 - 00:14:59:28

Government strategy papers and national policy statements all refer to the need to consider community impacts, and the Skidmore Review recommends that projects are not imposed on local communities. But the CIP process feels like a machine that the community has no real say in. The applicant has been through its consultation process, covered in detailed consultation report, which runs to 165 pages and many appendices. The consultation report describes in detail how people were made aware of what events were held and who was told and when.

00:15:00:22 - 00:15:55:06

The executive summary concludes that the applicant has considered and and complied with guidance and legislation, the applicant also concludes that they actively sought to take due regard to feedback. And yet, faced with question, how informative did you find our consultation materials? At 49%, the most frequent response was not informative. Having taken due regard, what did the applicant do to

follow this up faced question how supportive are you of our emerging solar project proposals which would generate clean, affordable and reliable renewable energy for the national grid with energy storage for when it is most needed? Faced with such a spectacularly loaded question, even then, 79% strongly opposed.

00:15:56:04 - 00:16:27:13

Having taken due account regard. What do the applicant do about this? Faced with the feedback, a common issue has been a request for solar panels to be installed on rooftops. The applicant answered, apparently seriously, that an assessment of commercial rooftops in the host authorities of West Lindsey and Bassetlaw district identified no rooftops or combined premises of any adequate area to facilitate a large scale solar project.

00:16:28:08 - 00:16:59:19

As if finding a ten kilometres square cluster of rooftops in a rural area was ever likely to be a credible proposition in their conclusions, the report, they reported that their activities resulted in a high level of engagement, and yet only a few hundred people visited the information events. By my estimate, less than 2% in the region. And even today, I still meet people who know nothing about the scale of the soul of development in our area.

00:17:00:18 - 00:17:44:21

The applicant also asserts that they have reduced the risk of potential confusion, and yet they are culpable of having contributed massively to the public confusion by having made two separate applications, one for cotton and one for West Burton, covering similar areas, sometimes with joint processes and even with parallel processes, all of which serves to confuse the community and fatigue any opposition. It is evident that the purpose of the applicant's consultation has purely been to tick the box of consultation, not to engage with the community at any meaningful level, to ensure that the project is not an imposition on the community.

00:17:45:28 - 00:18:17:10

The second observation is in relation to our experience of the process so far. Thousands of pages are produced by the applicant. We study them and we make what we feel are valid. Concerns which include the scheme along with the others in the region, is too large and would radically alter the character of the area. Panels are far too high and could never be effectively screened. The fragmented parcels of cotton and West Burton's schemes each dwarfed the communities they surround.

00:18:18:02 - 00:18:49:09

Development of this scale will last for years and be massively disruptive to the people of the region, as well as its wildlife. Despite raising these concerns, nothing changes. The applicant produces many more thousands of pages, most of which simply restate their original position and the process rolls on. And at every stage, the development submitted by the applicant has shown absolutely no sensitivity to the region or its people.

00:18:50:08 - 00:19:25:20

The villages in this region are not affluent. They have few amenities. The one thing we do have is a tranquil rural setting with open views that have been shaped by agriculture for generations. It's where we walk, where we run, where we cycle, where we ride horses. It's where many of us work and it's where we live. The setting our villages have will be decimated by this development and others of the similar scale within closely concentrated areas.

00:19:26:07 - 00:19:57:06

And it doesn't have to be this way. We know the country needs solar, but every day more rooftops are built on houses and commercial buildings without any solar panels. How can that be a climate emergency that ignores the obvious place to install solar panels and instead results in the regeneration

of our environment? It makes no sense, and it makes people in our community weep with frustration that this relentless process is even allowed to march on.

00:19:58:24 - 00:20:29:27

As we are somehow seriously discussing throwing away productive farmland and a landscape the size of a city. The power when the sun shines. Throwing it all away for no power at all. When the country shivers on a winter's evening. Finally, there's a moral dimension here. If humanity wants to feed itself and provide power and decarbonize, then we cannot simply tear up our farmland and expect the countryside to feed us.

00:20:30:21 - 00:20:40:27

In the parched South Africa and India. When they can grow no food, they will look at us in disgust at our wastefulness and quite rightly so.

00:20:45:22 - 00:20:46:27

Thank you, miss, so greatly.

00:20:52:18 - 00:20:55:10

I'm at Mr. Callum O'Grady, please.

00:21:03:24 - 00:21:31:04

Hello? Didn't you hear me? Um, so I'm speaking from a different point of view. As a younger generation actually still wishes to live along among a rural environment in 40 to 60 years. Um, to engage in this process that I would not be aware of if it wasn't for my parents involvement in this and that other people have found hard to actually understand. Um.

00:21:32:26 - 00:22:14:15

These processes have been pitched during working days when, um, it is difficult to get time off and actually end up here. When this was last supposed to be on, I took the afternoon off work to be able to speak at the event, only for it to be cancelled at short notice when I was actually on my way home from work already. And my generation is arguably the most affected, and it does seem to be missed if you look around the room, and possibly with the resignation that this is happening and we have no say against the juggernaut and the unwavering march of the applicant and others of their nature at the level.

00:22:15:20 - 00:22:30:25

We will be living through the building of this at the ambiguous lifespan of it, to the uncertain removal and demolition of it, no doubt leaving the land and landscape not which of that we were born in and grew up with.

00:22:34:08 - 00:22:49:13

Thank you, Mr. Grady. I'm obviously the first floor hearing was cancelled because we didn't proceed with the examination at that point. But we are doing our best to make events as accessible as possible. Thank you, Mrs. Hepburn.

00:22:58:28 - 00:23:30:24

Good evening everyone. This is just a personal part, and I apologize if it's covering things that have gone before, which I fully agree with and applaud the people who have gone before me. But this is a personal one. I'm Perry Hepburn and living filling them. And I'm speaking on behalf of myself, but also other people who weren't able to attend here. Um. I speak as an individual concerned about the whole proposal or for projects.

00:23:30:26 - 00:23:56:04

And I'd like to note here that this venue is not appropriate to local population affected by the scheme. It's a lift to get here. I can't drive in the dark now. It appears it's only available to people who have cars and can drive. The last bus that leaves Lincoln for our area leaves at 5:30 p.m.. Just that you might like to note that.

00:23:57:16 - 00:23:59:06

Um, just to say I was.

00:23:59:08 - 00:24:32:16

Born during the Second World War, and we were all on food rations. Sugar until I was seven years old. We were not able to sustain our own food resources in this country. Then we were in debt to the USA for a very long time, very many years. That's why the country was really poor. My point here is that we need our land. This project or all the projects proposed to use prime crop growing land in our area and apologize here for going over what's gone before.

00:24:32:18 - 00:25:18:00

But this is my personal opinion and it's a very short little talk. The world's situation is in turmoil. We should not allow this to happen. Much better to use solar on buildings and brownfield sites. That's been proposed before. Another reason against this proposal is that the wildlife in this area is very rich and varied. I want daily with my dogs. I observe more because I'm retired. I'm 80. I've seen things in my lifetime. I've seen rare birds, marsh harriers, skylarks who have nested in the little duponts that the farmers have left in the middle of large fields with vegetation around, and deer who use those.

00:25:19:14 - 00:25:32:04

And has bowls in the fields, and very many bees and other insects in the hedgerows. Butterflies. These will not still be here if the project goes ahead. They can't possibly survive.

00:25:33:25 - 00:26:04:19

Solar panels on my roof. Great. When the sun shines. But nothing is snow-covered or on dark winter days. And this is when power is most needed. It's not a very efficient use of green energy, as I know it's been said before. Propose we turn to wind power? The government is allowing this on land now in this area has countless old windmills which we once used. So there's a lot of wind around. The wind does blow here. It's an alternative green option.

00:26:04:21 - 00:26:36:04

Not ideal, but acknowledged. The need of is a need for green energy for us all. But if we allow this inefficient form of green energy project to go ahead, our children and future generations will blame us all for the sake of easy money investment from those that care not for us as people, but only about acquiring money and wealth at the back of all this. Thank you for listening, ladies and gentlemen. And it's in your hands now.

00:26:36:22 - 00:26:38:00

Thank you very much, Mr. Hepburn.

00:26:40:18 - 00:26:43:02

Mr. Cresswell, would you like to come forward?

00:26:59:17 - 00:27:00:23

Is that on? Yes.

00:27:02:25 - 00:27:16:26

All right. Given, as you've asked, that we don't repeat. And as I'm one of the later speakers. I've been. Editing and taking out whatever I can. And what I wanted to say was, I'm here.

00:27:18:24 - 00:27:20:03

Heartfelt plea.

00:27:22:08 - 00:27:36:15

Just wanted to take it from an angle of history. Past and what impact that will have. Attention on the future, as noted by the young man and the lady who has just spoken.

00:27:38:04 - 00:27:39:09

So I'm a resident.

00:27:41:03 - 00:27:52:19

Of West Lindsey District. Puppeteer for 20 years and previously in other parts of Lincolnshire. So am from this beautiful landscape.

00:27:57:09 - 00:28:21:18

I believe the best place for solar is at a micro level within private homes and public buildings, surrounded by appropriate battery storage. These proposed projects serve only to increase the profits of large energy corporations. And will not give the benefits to those of us who live in Lincolnshire.

00:28:24:10 - 00:28:33:25

Given the significant impact of these projects. Thought it was worth reminding everyone of some of the events in history. That have shaped this landscape.

00:28:35:17 - 00:28:41:18

Our current landscape was established over 10,000 years ago, shaped by glacial mass.

00:28:43:17 - 00:28:59:21

It's retracted to changing climate conditions. Our understanding of history shows that this land has been inhabited and impacted by countless historic events, some of which I would like to share with you.

00:29:01:12 - 00:29:12:03

The earliest inhabitants were the hunter gatherers of the Neolithic period. Followed by small scale settlements, the Bronze Age and Iron Age communities.

00:29:14:21 - 00:29:26:27

Then there was no significant impact of the Romans who built large scale infrastructures, towns and. Major roads established across our county.

00:29:28:23 - 00:29:46:00

The Norman conquest of England resulted in the mate making changes to a landscape where the buildings of churches and cathedrals across towns and villages. Although in my view these are beautiful structures. That enhance our landscape.

00:29:47:18 - 00:30:06:19

In our modern era. Perhaps the more negatively impacted structures of our landscape are the Trent Valley power stations built in the 60s. With the massive cooling towers and power lines dominating our horizons.

00:30:08:15 - 00:30:27:15

Connected to these power stations. It is now proposed that we use this land or our land in Lincolnshire to accommodate thousands of acres of solar panels, which will certainly not enhance the beautiful Lincolnshire landscape. Would rather destroy it.

00:30:30:28 - 00:30:42:03

If allowed to go ahead, this bad historic event will have the worst impact on our land for time immemorial, it won't be reversed. We know that.

00:30:45:07 - 00:30:59:02

A sign or a point is a repeat, but it does relate. To the good use of agricultural farmland being transformed to an industrial landscape after centuries of food production.

00:31:00:27 - 00:31:19:22

In his recent published book, Edge of England, the Irish born author Derek Turner quotes. Lincolnshire is notable chiefly to agronomists and economists. Has a high functioning.

00:31:21:11 - 00:31:38:04

As sorry as a high functioning version of Ukraine. Sometimes even called. The breadbasket of England. The question I pose. Do we really want to live? Limit our ability to produce food.

00:31:41:14 - 00:32:05:28

And finally, as guardians of our land, are we comfortable that future generations look back and critique uncritically on our poor stewardship? We have the responsibility to make the right decision, not condemn large swathes of our country to the solar industrial complex. Thank you.

00:32:07:21 - 00:32:21:02

Thank you, Mr. Cresswell, and appreciate that you've edited your your statement there. If by all means, submit the full version to us later on. Thank you. At Mr. Johnson. Would you like to come forward?

00:32:31:24 - 00:32:37:27

Good evening. Andy Johnson and a local resident started off with 50 pages.

00:32:39:19 - 00:32:44:04

And but many thanks to the previous speakers, I'm down to a few lines.

00:32:45:21 - 00:33:17:06

What I would like to do is to focus on impact statements and how they're produced, and how they are used by the applicant. I've digested several of these applications. The information provided on impacts have been solely based upon the individuals applicant application and flowered with with oh, sorry and flowered up with the use of outdated material. I wish to propose that the impact reports are provided in a slightly different basis.

00:33:18:04 - 00:33:55:27

Firstly, a combination impact statement detailing the potential total effect across the four sites. This is then to be joined alongside the applicant's normal statement. Secondly, any material that's submitted has to be up to date and not historic. Looking at some of the information prior. This is so out of date from the research that I've taken. I cannot find any documentation to support various areas due to the combined scale.

00:33:56:09 - 00:34:27:05

There's nothing ever been produced to cover this. Items that I believe should be included, for example. Two. What's the impact on that? Employment. Tourism. House prices. Community health

and welfare. What about the long term existence of these communities? Will they be here in 20 years? Very questionable.

00:34:29:02 - 00:34:32:08

Its reinstatement after decommissioning.

00:34:33:24 - 00:34:37:25

What's happening there? Wildlife and the list goes on.

00:34:39:22 - 00:35:05:19

It's very important that documents like this assist us many good selves in making the decision based upon it. Currently, they lean heavily towards the applicant. This needs to be reviewed and independent researchers. Um, looking at these particular areas. Thank you.

00:35:08:18 - 00:35:17:19

Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And obviously when you submit your statements, the applicant will have the opportunity to respond to the various questions that you've you've posed that.

00:35:19:07 - 00:35:24:25

So moving on. Finally think to Dr. Parkin.

00:35:36:22 - 00:35:37:09

Thank you for.

00:35:37:11 - 00:35:48:17

Giving me the opportunity to have my say today. I plan to keep this brief and and to the point, given that I'm the last person speaking tonight.

00:35:50:11 - 00:35:58:16

Um, I'm a resident of one of the villages who will be affected by the West Burton scheme. We are discussing in the open hearing today.

00:36:00:10 - 00:36:32:12

Having heard speakers from the two previous open hearings that being gay, Burton and recently Cottom, I was struck by the number of residents who stated how these schemes would affect their mental health and being. It is due to their concerns that I felt that I needed to address you today in this open hearing. I'm a retired general practitioner and still work for the Lincolnshire Integrated Integrated Care Board, with over 30 years experience of health in Lincolnshire.

00:36:33:00 - 00:36:37:06

In fact, I am the clinical lead for this area that you're talking about.

00:36:39:02 - 00:37:28:16

Having read the documents on human health and wellbeing. Most of this is described in terms of of the construction and the decommissioning phase. There's very little around the operator cycle of 40 years. That's the 40 years that we have to. That we have to endure looking at these structures in our fields. I feel this needs to be addressed. In particular, I'm concerned as to the cumulative impact which may worsen health inequalities, marginalising already identified areas where deprivation exists, such as in the town of Gainsborough, which has not been mentioned at all by name with any of the documents presented by gate, Burton and Island Green Bar.

00:37:30:01 - 00:38:06:06

They refer to West Lindsey, but they don't take into consideration Gainsborough. This has the potential to impact on the work of the the work the NHS is doing around the core 20 plus five in addressing health inequalities within Lincolnshire. Also, depression is increasing in our communities and the impact of changing our environment will only worsen this. It is well recognized that green spaces are beneficial to mental health and well-being. Our loss of the countryside will manifest in grief, which has direct impact on physical and mental health.

00:38:07:11 - 00:38:41:28

There is also a potential to impact on social care within our communities if these team schemes go ahead. And I've outlined that in a written representation for 7000 acres. We have predominantly more older people living in our communities who potentially could be further isolated, therefore making them more vulnerable. The qualitative data within the documents refers to honest data from 2011, which is not satisfactory to inform a well balanced view as to how these schemes make us feel emotionally, physically and mentally.

00:38:42:21 - 00:39:20:25

I am therefore asking you to consider addressing this by creating a session on health and wellbeing within the examination process. Looking at the implications this and the other schemes will have on the people who live in this area, focusing on the 40 year impact. In fact, I'm surprised that no health impact assessment has been provided given the cumulative effects of all the schemes in such a concentrated area and the impact it will have on people. This should have been carried out in partnership with Public Health and the NHS, who work within our communities, and you have in-depth knowledge of the health issues that exist within this area.

00:39:21:16 - 00:40:00:12

I would like to see this requested and completed as a single document across all the schemes as one scheme of this magnitude, and I stress again that being four schemes, not five combined together as one would have necessitated this document as key to the environmental impact assessment for your examination and crucial to advise the Secretary of State. Using a desktop search to assess health, in my view, is not satisfactory. A health impact assessment would put the local health and wellbeing needs and priorities into plan for better decision making by putting people at the heart of the process.

00:40:01:06 - 00:40:33:02

I'm also aware that there is currently a public health opinion around these developments, and should a health impact assessment not be carried out, this should be incorporated into a session on health if permitted as part of this examination. Okay Burton. Document reference to potential workforce of 2000 contractors for all the proposed schemes coming into this area. To put it into context, one full time general practitioner equivalent looks after approximately 2000 patients. Our services are already stretched to capacity.

00:40:33:10 - 00:40:56:16

How will this be addressed and resourced? Finally, I was stunned to hear that 1.4 billion was paid back to electricity supplies last year to switch of supply. I would hate to think that schemes like this would be paid for being non-productive, where that money could be used much more effectively in levelling up communities in our towns such as Gainsborough. Thanks for listening.

00:40:58:17 - 00:40:59:11

Thank you very much. Dr..

00:41:02:08 - 00:41:03:05

And once again, I'd.

00:41:03:07 - 00:41:13:22

Ask that you submit your your statement at the appropriate. Thank you. So so that completes all of the submissions from the parties that indicated that they wish to speak at this evening.

00:41:14:25 - 00:41:15:27

Before we ask.

00:41:15:29 - 00:41:25:21

The applicant to respond. Is there anything else that anybody in the room wishes to or online indeed wishes to raise, which is within the scope of this open floor hearing this evening?

00:41:28:11 - 00:41:35:13

So the room, first of all, anyone indicating anybody online that wants to say anything in the scope of this meeting.

00:41:38:28 - 00:41:52:14

Okay. Thank you. So I will now turn to agenda item four, which is the applicant's response to representation, and invite the applicant to indicate how they would wish to respond at this stage.

00:41:54:24 - 00:41:55:11

Patrick.

00:42:02:26 - 00:42:47:01

A clever trick for the applicant. We wanted to start just by thanking everyone for attending the open floor hearing this evening, and we have been taking very detailed notes of all of the comments that have been made, and particularly the very clear and detailed submissions that have been provided on a wide range of topics and will be responding to those in writing at deadline one. And the applicant does appreciate that the application consists of a large volume of material, and a wide range of questions have been posed this evening about whether certain impacts have been considered by the applicant, and where answers are contained within the application.

00:42:47:03 - 00:43:20:24

Materials that are available on the website will provide clear cross-references, so that it is easy for people who have participated this evening to find the relevant information that addresses their concerns. And as mentioned, we have heard of a wide range of different topics. For example, technical information about the role of utility scale solar projects, how they relate to decarbonization and achieving net zero.

00:43:20:26 - 00:44:00:00

The efficiency of solar generation generally and impacts on food security. And note that we obviously do have the issue specific hearing tomorrow that will cover a number of the points raised in more detail, particularly in regards to generation and the role of energy storage, the site selection process that's been undertaken. And so for those people who maybe can't attend the specific hearing tomorrow, obviously the recordings will be made available so people, if they wish, can listen to the more detailed technical information that's going to be provided tomorrow.

00:44:01:00 - 00:44:34:04

I would just like to point out that a non-technical summary has been submitted, which is application reference app Dash 0308, and that does provide a summary of the assessment of the impacts of the scheme, particularly on matters such as flooding and ecology that have been raised this evening. It also provides information about compliance with relevant legislation, particularly in relation to protected species, hedgerows, etcetera.

00:44:35:12 - 00:45:05:21

Should that be granted, the applicant will have to comply with the requirements set out in schedule two to the draft DCO and for the benefit of those here this evening. That includes a range of management plans that will have to be approved by the local planning authority. That deals specifically with some of the issues that have been raised this evening, particularly in relation to drainage, landscaping, energy storage, safety, decommissioning, ecology, etcetera.

00:45:06:15 - 00:45:50:06

Failure to comply with the requirements of those management plans is a criminal offence under the regime, so there is confidence can be had that those plans will be complied with. The other point we wanted to make. Note that people have been asked to submit a summary of their responses this evening. In writing, a lot of figures and statistics have been provided this evening, and it would be very helpful if the sources and references for those figures could be provided as well, just so that we can provide a more detailed response, particularly in relation to the technical submissions that were made, that would be very helpful.

00:45:51:08 - 00:45:57:12

That's all we wanted to say for this evening, but the full responses will be provided in writing. Thank you. Thank you.

00:45:57:22 - 00:45:58:09

Ms.. Broderick.

00:45:58:11 - 00:46:08:05

And the point about references and statements that are submitted and in IPS could make a note of that. That would be helpful. Thank you.

00:46:17:24 - 00:46:23:05

Thank you. So that brings us on to agenda item five, which is to close the hearing.

00:46:24:11 - 00:46:25:21

If you have spoken today.

00:46:26:00 - 00:47:02:06

As we've said, it will be very beneficial and helpful if you could provide a written statement of the points made by deadline one, including those references where applicable and where available. There's no need to wait for the issuing of the letter if you have that ready to go. As many of you have read from pre-prepared statements, they can be submitted. The recording of the hearing will be published on the project web page as soon as practicable. Please, please do contact a member of the case team if you don't know how to find the project web page.

00:47:03:03 - 00:47:21:19

There may be further opportunity for open floor hearing later in the examination. If you wish to speak at that session, then please do let us know by deadline one. If we don't receive any requests by that point, then obviously we may decide not to hold any further open floor hearings.

00:47:23:20 - 00:47:30:05

We have now covered all of the items on the agenda. Are there any final points anyone would like to raise?

00:47:32:04 - 00:47:32:19

How?

00:47:36:02 - 00:47:37:16

I'm sorry. If you. Would you come.

00:47:37:18 - 00:47:40:20

Forward so we can. We can hear you on the recording, please.

00:47:42:12 - 00:47:43:07

So you need to speak.

00:47:43:09 - 00:47:45:04

Into a microphone. Sorry.

00:47:53:12 - 00:47:53:27

The.

00:47:53:29 - 00:48:28:09

If I hadn't had somebody come with me tonight, I wouldn't have come purely because it feels unsafe. That's how I feel driving here, having to park, walk along in the dark in a city centre that I'm not really that familiar with these days. So I just wonder. A lot of people probably can't come because of the transport issues and the time of year and the darkness. So I wonder if other venues nearer where people actually live can be looked at.

00:48:29:08 - 00:48:45:23

Thank you. Yes. That mean that has been noted through this afternoon's preliminary meeting. I think we have undertaken to take away that message, which has been received loud and clear, and we will be looking for venues away from Lincoln. The future meeting.

00:48:53:11 - 00:48:54:05

Mr. Agreed.

00:48:56:23 - 00:49:15:10

Just a point of clarification. The the applicant referred to a document as a non-technical summary for us to refer to is that can you remember which number document that was because. The non-technical somewhere I think I've found is 99 pages long. Is that is that the document that we're looking at?

00:49:15:20 - 00:49:24:13

That sounds correct. Think it was referred to and I'm happy to be corrected as AP 308 okay.

00:49:24:15 - 00:49:29:03

Thank you. Yeah, it is also okay. A mere 100 pages long. Thanks.

00:49:31:24 - 00:49:39:25

Thank you. So I'll just check online. Is any attendee online wish to make any further point?

00:49:41:28 - 00:49:57:04

Think things like all that remains for us to do is really to say thank you for your assistance and putting your points to us this evening and during the session this afternoon. So it is 846 and the open floor hearing is now closed. Thank you.