

Hello, Hello is anybody listening?

I am extremely concerned that the West Burton solar energy development and indeed along with all the other similar proposals, are not being considered in a fair and pragmatic way. The process doesn't appear to give any appreciation or understanding of what impact all these projects will have on our countryside and their associated local communities. The local population is not being adequately served by these planning hearings and their views are not being sufficiently considered. It is all too complicated and far too extensive given that the planning processes for all these individual projects, which are at different stages, are being considered concurrently. It is virtually impossible to keep abreast of all the proceedings. However I suspect this is intentional in the vain attempt to minimise objections.

The planning process for such massive developments should be with consent NOT imposition. As it stands, it is forcing local communities to rally around themselves in an attempt to defend their historic way of life against the onslaught of moneyed big business supported by all their representation. Frankly it is reprehensible that they are considering such far reaching proposals to people's lives in such a cavalier fashion.

We have now arrived at a situation where the overall density of the proposals for Tillbridge, Gate Burton, West Burton and Cottam 1, within our immediate area, appears to be approaching 50% coverage of the overall landscape. This is scandalous when there is clearly such an overwhelming objection to the proposals. After all there are far more suitable alternatives to achieve this Nations drive to zero emissions than destroying 15,000 acres of fertile farmland, and which should continue to be employed for providing food for the nation.

When will the Government wake up and realise that generating solar energy at this latitude is just one big con. a money making exercise. The companies blatantly shout about their schemes providing energy for say 200,000 homes, yet whilst this may be achievable for perhaps a few days in midsummer, what will they generate in the middle of winter or even most of the year? Why can't we see some power outputs from existing solar farms before carpeting vast swathes of agricultural green belt and creating industrial deserts.

Finally and very topically unlike other sources of renewable energy which are advantageous to our economy, solar energy will only benefit the Chinese since we totally reliant on them for the importation of solar apparatus. Seemingly they have the monopoly owing to their access to certain raw materials and the fact that much of it is also manufactured utilising the Uygur population as forced labour. This also comes at a time when our relationship with China is somewhat stretched through malicious Cyber activity so it would be even more disastrous to shackle ourselves with an ongoing commitment to solar energy.

Whilst I fully appreciate the attractiveness of the existing grid connections, due cognisance must be given to the impact and damage these proposals will have on local communities some of which have existed for a 1000 years. Our village Brampton is even mention in the Domesday book!