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To: Cottam Solar Project
Subject: Cottam Solar

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Hello, why isn't anybody listening?

In the wake of the recent Gate Burton Solar approval this Cottam proposal together with the two other schemes in the pipeline will have a massive impact on the local surrounding area with no consideration being given to the health and wellbeing of their adjacent populations. I'm extremely concerned that these solar developments when added together, are not being considered in a fair and pragmatic way. Representations are going unheard and the many objections not effectively answered.

The local population is not being adequately served by these planning hearings and their views are not being sufficiently considered. It has been all too complicated and given that the planning processes for all the individual projects have had different time frames and more especially since no one seems to have 'joined the dots' and recognised what the overall impact will be on the area.

We have now arrived at a situation where the overall density of the proposals for Tillbridge, Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam, Newton on Trent, and Sturton Le Steeple, all within our immediate local area, appears now to be approaching 75% coverage of the overall landscape. This is scandalous and clearly why there is such an overwhelming objection to these developments. After all there are far more appropriate 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.

The planning process for such massive developments should be with consent NOT imposition. As it is, 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 that will change people's lives in such a cavalier fashion.

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 more importantly unlike many other sources of renewable energy where their manufacture could benefit our economy, solar energy will only benefit the Chinese since we are 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 Uyghur 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, no one appears to be balancing their use with the impact and damage this will cause to the local communities some of which have existed for a 1000 years.

Our village Brampton is even mention in the Domesday Book! Whilst nobody will question the need to ultimately drive to zero emissions it should, never the less, be achieved in a fair and considerate way for everyone and not as in our area where we are being forced to carry a disproportionate burden on our shoulders.

Please give serious consideration to the above comment.

Yours faithfully

Richard Farley

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