

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Stonestreet Green Solar Project

If the proposed construction goes ahead, it will irreparably damage the village, its people, animals and environment. There are no benefits to the village and surrounding villages rather there are hazardous consequences.

Please see below for my concerns:

It is vital the land is not used on this industrial scale for profit. The land, animals and plants should be protected for the villagers, visitors and future generations. The village has a clear and robust neighbourhood plan which will benefit the village, ensuring people's wellbeing and enjoyment of the village in which the land and environment is protected, and all can thrive.

The proposed solar farm will be a disfigurement on the land. This is not good for people who live in the village and surrounding areas, impacting their wellbeing, visitors and future generations. This includes the killing of millions of animals and plants through this large scale project both in its construction and use.

People have the right to access ancient pathways and continue to use them. The diverting of them impacts people and animals' wellbeing, the shape of the land, including the peoples' rights to see and enjoy the land, preserve heritage and history without this being ruined and damaged by this proposed industrial construction.

The effect of the construction will severely impact the wellbeing of people, animals and the environment. Just the impact on roads will impact how people move around the village, not only in cars and other modes of transport, but their right to walk in safety, causing stress as they have to negotiate the dangers of extra heavy traffic. The roads are already under strain and there are daily occurrences of near misses with accidents avoided by the common sense and courtesy of most villagers, however at times there have been severe accidents. This kind of anxiety and trauma will impact on the villagers, their right to peace and wellbeing, including their right to walk and travel through the area and enjoy their environment.

The construction will also impact on villagers' wellbeing due to noise and light pollution.

It is well known the construction of solar facilities on areas of land imposes clearing and grading, resulting in soil compaction, alteration of drainage channels and increases erosion.

The loss of agricultural land which is a high proportion of the proposed solar farm is significant and will severely impact the land, environment, the village's heritage and negate any possible return to agricultural land.

Another negative impact is on the communities' value of their houses, with potential buyers not wanting to live in an area with such environmental damage and loss of attractiveness.

Again, this impacts on the community's wellbeing and their potential future, especially those planning to sell their property and downsize whilst wishing to remain in the area for their retirement. Or for attracting new villagers to the community.

The water required for cooling the systems on the proposed solar farm means high demand for water for cooling putting strain on water resources. There is also risk of chemical spills from the facilities which may result in the contamination of groundwater or the ground surface.

There is increasing evidence of the risk of fire from the batteries required for the proposed solar farm, with a major concern being that the danger for the village will be in being surrounded by the batteries.

It is also well-known heavy metals like Cadmium Telluride are used in the construction of the solar panels. Solar materials panels cannot be recycled well and are usually dumped in landfill. Making the panels needs caustic chemicals such as sodium hydroxide and hydrofluoric acid. The process uses water as well as electricity, the production of which emits greenhouse gases. Another major concern is solar panels come from China which is a country with many human rights violations. It is not environmentally friendly to get materials from that far away.

Construction of the solar farm will pose hazards to air quality. Such threats include the release of soil-carried pathogens and results in an increase in air particulate matter which has the effect of contaminating water-which obviously will impact on the East Stour River ecology. Another concern is the use of the land which is in a flood zone area.

Although current thinking is fossil fuel also kills millions of birds, studies also show solar farms kill birds. We need to take care of the land and animals, and wildlife and they will take care of us.

Yours sincerely
Dr Karen Wright

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