

I had planned to speak at the hearings on the 15th and 16th of October and indeed attended, however the opportunity to state my questions was not forthcoming due to the length of other discussions. This left insufficient time to raise my questions.

ISH 3 – Tuesday 15th October 2024 13.30

Commenting on Agenda item 4. Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy.

The village is already significantly and regularly impacted by flooding leading to impassable roads. On several occasions lasting days during the winter of 2023/24, only one road was available to access the village (Stillington end). The situation can only be exacerbated by the removal of crops and the installation of "Waterproof" solar panels. This will increase both the quantity and rate of surface-water run-off. Please explain how the current bad situation is not going to be worsened by the development. If measure fail, the impact falls on the lives of the local residents and the local economy yet again.

Specifically, when will the flood mitigation measures be put in place? I believe the mitigation must be fully installed before the development work starts otherwise the situation will get worse once crops are removed and panels are installed.

ISH 4 – Wednesday 16th October 2024 9.30am.

Commenting on Agenda item 4. Historic Environment.

I remain concerned and saddened at the anticipated negative visual impact from the development particularly when taken in to consideration with the other Solar farms approved or in the pipeline in the immediate local area. I moved to the village with my husband to raise a family in this idyllic rural setting. The scale and encroachment right up to the boundary of the village will devastate the visual value from many view points. This will have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the village community (and it is a tight knit community that pulls together in tough times) along the next generation such as my 4 year old daughter. Her school will be significantly impacted visually. There is also the negative impact on property values as the appeal of living in a rural village is diminished as a result.

Furthermore, I fear the approval of this scheme will become a political decision from individuals who may not be in power in 5 years. This project will have a 40 year legacy. Based upon the speed of recent approvals since the election, I am worried that it will be approved even if the Inspectorate recommends otherwise making this rigorous assessment process academic. What assurances can be given that this will not be the case?