

Peter Wood ,Bishopton resident & chair of Bishopton Village Hall Association (20047761)

Byers Gill Solar

I object strongly to the above application, part of my grounds are -
I gave a verbal presentation at ISH 3 on Agenda item 4 on 15 October 2024.
This was followed up with a written submission .(REP4-021 supported by videos of floods at REP4 032 to REP4 039 inclusive)
These include a map of the flooding sites at REP4- 032, indicated by arrows & numbers which correlate to paragraph numbers in REP4-021

I also gave a verbal presentation at Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3), below is a summary of my statement.

I revisited the subject matter of REP4- 021 by reminding the Exa , that the applicant's Flood & Drainage expert clearly demonstrated a complete lack of knowledge of local flooding problems as they had merely carried out remote desk top assessments ,computer modelling etc

REP4-021 sought to show the actuality of our pre existing regular & serious flooding problems of which the Applicant admitted they had no knowledge.

In ISH 3 the expert's verbal responses were wordy, woolly and completely lacked substance.

In fact during ISH 3, the Applicants expert went as far as asking me ,through the Exa , that he would look again at our issues ,if I, could provide him with details of our local flood problems.

In ISH3 ,Exa gave them an ACTION ,to look again at our flooding issues.

I have monitored the Examination library submissions between 15 October & this week in the lead up to OFH 3

It seems clear that the only response the applicant has made to the Exa's ACTION on flooding is at REP5-018. This document has been slightly updated from the original document only at paragraph 3.7.3 & Table 3.3.

These amendments are an extremely superficial response which lacked depth to properly consider our long existing local issues, which were outlined in detail in REP4-021.

It is clearly accepted that by glazing over substantial proportions of fields with Solar Panels & by randomly breaking field drains during the construction process, water run off will be massively accelerated.

This will obviously increase our pre existing flood problems ,if the panels are installed.

It is obvious that if we presently suffer flooding from runoff from wide open fields full of vibrant growing crops , then no amount of proposed narrow grass/vegetation fringes surrounding solar panels will in anyway prevent our flood problems substantially worsening after construction.

Their suggestion that these grass fringes will in anyway help ,is typical of their remote arbitrary review process of the project.

In OFH3 the chair of Exa asked me if I could suggest any flood mitigation ideas that the Applicant could look at.

Two of the flood areas are directly adjacent to & below panel areas E & F.

They are very low lying ,& as explained in REP4-021, flood when water levels rise in Bishopton Beck , so that water backs up across the roads.

There is nowhere else for flood water to drain but into the already swollen beck.

If , for example pumps were somehow installed, to force water off the roads & into the stream , then this extra water would further exacerbate flooding further down stream.

The stream flows around the western edge of our village going north & east to Old Stillington, Stillington & Whitton villages , within a mile or so.

These three villages ALREADY have their own serious flooding issues which cannot be worsened.

East of Bishopton ,adjacent to panel area F is Mill Lane , named after the water mill at Bishopton Mill, next to Whitton village.

At times of heavy rain both ends of this lane flood , around the beck near the mill & adjacent to the school in Bishopton.

At these times ,along the one mile length, the residents of seven homes & riders of 130 livery horses stabled along it have their access severely restricted.

Residents vary from very small children through to the elderly.

Should there be an illness or a riding accident at times of flooding ,none are able to get out to seek medical attention & equally ambulances are also unable to get through.

If panel Area F is allowed to be developed it will severely worsen these floods ,this cannot be allowed to happen.

Surely in times of climate change & increased severity of rain storms & floods it is cannot be acceptable to consider approving a project that can only worsen existing flood problems.

I respectfully ask the Exa to reject this project proposal.

Peter Wood 28 November 2024