

MRS SUSAN MELANEY

Registration I.D. 20048579

Open Hearing 4

26th November 2024 6p.m.

BYERS GILL SOLAR FARM

I have listened to some very eloquent speakers, today and at the last hearing. Some have quoted facts, some have been very technical, some have spoken about our Conservation Village and highlighted environmental concerns and the effect on our wildlife.

You have listened to all the above, but for me this is why we are here.

I have never seen or know of a Solar Farm so near to residential properties.

So near to people's homes.

The first Solar Farm in the U.K. was constructed in November 2012, in Leicestershire between the runways of a former military airfield.

According to the latest Government Data, (September 2024) there are currently 1,336 operational Solar Farm in the U.K.

There are 142 under construction, 1,957 are awaiting construction and another 684 submitted applications, hoping to join the Solar revolution.

If they all overcome the planning and building process, we will have more than 4,000 Solar Farms on these shores. Without doubt there will be many more to come.

Fifteen of the 684 submitted applications are within a 4km radius of our villages.

One of which is Byers Gill Solar Farm, the reason we are here today.

My first thought when I heard of Byers Gill Solar Farm was, "OK, solar technology, inefficient as it we need to secure our countries energy."

"Is it really going to impact our communities, our lives, is it really that bad?"

It really is that bad.

I have never seen or know of a Solar Farm so near to residential properties.

So near to people's homes.

So, we are here opposing what we are seeing and hearing from RWE.

What is going to be installed? There certainly seems to be no restrictions on the closeness to properties or boundaries, or limits for us to question.

RWE boasts "BESS unit will be no nearer than 300mtrs???"

No nearer to what? Homes, fences, boundaries? There is no clarity here.

Our long awaited, hard fought for Children Playground, from the entrance gate to the fence, where on the other side will be Solar panels is 85mtrs. With an average footstep of 0.7mtrs, that is only 121 steps.

A school that will be surrounded by Solar panels.

Homes surrounded by Solar panels.

Equestrian land, belonging to my neighbour (AREA F). Where I walked from the yard to the fence beyond which the fields will be covered by Solar panels and BESS units. 129mtrs, 185 steps.

At the time the fields were full of wheat, the land RWE are quoting as being poor. How I wished I had a camera.

All the Solar Farms I have seen, and I have driven to look at, are miles away from residential property, schools, playgrounds. They are on farmland where farmers have chosen to have them. That is their choice. That is their right.

It is not ours.

Our Villages and Communities have No Choice.

OUR VILLAGES AND COMMUNITIES HOWEVER, DO HAVE A RIGHT.

WE HAVE THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF POSSESSIONS.

WE ALSO HAVE THE HUMAN RIGHT TO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE.

IN THE MAD RACE TOWARDS NET ZERO, ARE WE REALLY GOING TO DESTROY COMMUNITIES AND DEVASTATE LIVES.