

Thank you for reading my comments which follow on from the open floor hearing on 3/12/24, and the issue specific hearing on 4/12/24. Please forgive me if I have misunderstood the process. I will be brief as I only wish to echo the concerns raised by the HALT group.

- 1) It is wrong to use prime farmland for solar panels instead of food, there are more suitable alternatives.
- 2) The reason given for using this land is its proximity to Drax power station. I would therefore ask why solar farms in Morocco and the Sahara are going to send energy to the UK? The Helios reasoning is financial and not in the best interests of this community.
- 3) Consumers pay more in the north for our energy standing charge. This is supposedly because it costs more to get here. With Drax so close and the threat of so many solar farms in the area why have we been told that there would be no financial benefit to locals?
- 4) The cumulative effect of so many solar farms will turn this area into a massive industrial estate. The value of our homes will fall, that is if anyone wishes to live here.
- 5) Our beautiful green fields will be covered in glass panels and surrounded by fences. There will be security lights and noise from moving panels and battery storage.
- 6) Our narrow lanes will be forced to accommodate HGVs, it will be dangerous to walk from our door (as we currently do). This traffic will damage the roads and verges. People who now walk, run, ride horses and cycle along these lanes will be forced away.
- 7) Mental and physical wellbeing will be affected
- 8) NATURE! There will be massive and, I think, unacceptable disruption to our wildlife. We have red listed birds here, and badgers. Owls and raptors hunt for food, strange noises will confuse their senses. Migrating birds fly over and will become confused as the glass looks like water. The total area of the farms does not allow nature a refuge.
- 9) SAFETY. The safety of locals is put at risk because of the construction traffic, and also the BESS (should a fire occur)
- 10) I am not convinced that Helios have the best interests of the community in mind, nor that of the environment. This being the case, how can I be sure that (if this is allowed) the construction will be done with due consideration? That the 'farm' will be cared for and maintained for decades? That our wildlife will not be harmed, their homes destroyed? And who do we contact with our concerns for the next 40 years when Helios may be long gone?

Thank you