

Tillbridge Open Hearing 16th October 2024

IPR 20049893

Andrew Johnson, resident of Glentworth Village

Firstly, thank you for allowing to speak today. I have several areas that I would like to bring to your attention for consideration within this application.

I have attended and spoke at three public hearings for solar applications close to me and naturally expressed my concerns at elements of the proposals.

In light of the previous responses, I am questioning the examining bodies due diligence process and the applicant's technical ability to satisfy the questions raised.

The applicant does not provide the mythology of their calculations – these are essential in understanding the proposals integrity.

Copying and pasting paragraphs from previous applications into this application is not acceptable, this displays a total lack of due diligence, contempt and disregard of others within the process. This point has been noted by the Secretary of State on the last applications!

I am seeking assurance from the inspectorate this will not occur in this application.

I believe we would all agree that this application in many areas is extremely technical and well above the average understanding of 99% of the attendees here today.

Nothing on this scale has been undertaken before and therefore no history to learn from. It is essential that the applicant and expectorant ensures that areas requiring specialist knowledge is sort from experienced, qualified independent representatives in that particular field and does not rely on generalist's opinions!

Previous questions asked by myself and others have been dealt with by generalists not specialists leading to many pages or a single line of written response without actually satisfying the questions posed – lip service I feel.

Would I be correct in saying that the examining body have a duty to ensure that due diligence in specialist areas has been correctly observed?

I would like to seek assurance this is the case and the examining body will only allow replies supported by truly independent specialists in these technical areas and not allow data that is obviously historic and therefore not fit for purpose within the application

Let's have reports that contain substantiable facts not guarded waffle that the application then can truly then be judged on!

The type of areas but limited to that I believe specialist impact statements and risk assessments need be applied too are; -

Impact on health and well-being of the local population and the surrounding areas during construction period and then once operational

Accumulative effect – with the other 2 applications (another in progress) already agreed how will this impact on all of us when joined up?

Impact on traffic management and emergency access – as an example one of the exists (B1398) is on blind bends in both directions in a 60mph limit, exiting is extremely dangerous as I found out!

Wildlife impact – the removal of the ability to roam and breed, fenced in, habitats removed.

Flooding impact – the area already suffers from heavy flooding as we are in a naturally flood plain re the river Trent

Business within the development – impact on their ability to continue trading, access etc

Decommission impact – how, responsibility off, financial obligations, land management post use.

Tourism and visual impact a few hedges and trees are not going to disguise the visual impact and the Jurassic Cliff features will be lost - or are we to offer solar tours as an alternative!

Long term impact on the human habitation of this area, are we heading for a wasteland?

The impact statements should also contain who deals with the financial aftermath of an incident should this occur

Financial impacts on residents, local businesses, house pricing – will they be saleable, yes but at a lower value?

A few other points

1, Suitability of location for maximising generation by solar – Lincolnshire hardly the sunshine state of the UK however great for wind!

There is a place for solar – roof tops like many other countries have successfully employed in planning strategy

2, Alternative studies for other power generation, - this area has many old windmills due to the constant winds in this area. I understand that alternative options should be considered as part of any application, have they?

There are also 2 decommissioned power stations across the river Trent (in Nottinghamshire) that also may also be suitable for the latest nuclear generation technology are these also included in an alternative study?

3, There is a long-established footpath from Glentworth to Harpswell where recently access has been disputed and signs removed. I understand that the council are dealing with this however needs applicant to explain.

Is it a coincidence that this footpath crosses an area the applicant wishes to secure for development – the loss naturally would not only be a loss for the Glentworth Village but all the walkers travelling along the length of the Jurassic Cliff resulting in now having to walk along the busy B1398 with no footpath.

4, The events around the world strangling food distribution and production places us in a very worrying position. The level of imports against what we produce is increasing and therefore does using very fertile land make sense, - has all brown and contained land being taken into account in this application?

The grading criteria of land dates back to the sixties and is acknowledged as being out of date with modern farming techniques. The analysis of the land should be based upon yield, this information is available and demonstrates the true output of the Lincolnshire's bread basket.

Food is quickly becoming a weapon of war as we are witnessing – decisions now will either reduce or increase our direct exposure to this threat

5, We have all witnessed the unfortunate incidents revolving around battery storage facilities. Should the affected local areas emergency plans be updating prior to installation and then amended once operational as the current one relies upon using facilities within the area?

6, Slave labour, whilst the project is called Tillbridge Solar the company hidden behind this is [REDACTED] a recent report on slave labour names this company 23 times.

Is it acceptable to use slave labour in the production of the solar materials that are destined to be used here - thought this was against world human rights and our legislation?

I have attached a recent report link for all to review.

[REDACTED]

I have owned several businesses and fought to financially secure its operational future. Tillbridge solar and others will be claiming a government subsidy when the energy is not required, therefore I question the size of the application as excessive power will not be required. I will attach a link on a recent report highlighting the current true cost for unconsumed energy to the UK tax payer for all to review.

[REDACTED]

I am fully in favour of moving the world to net zero and our country leading the way however we must consider impacts and alternatives seriously rather than accept company's fancy brochures that mask their true methodology and intentions.

Should this application be successful in the years ahead there will be a point of reflection on how we arrived here and the true consequences of a knee jerk reaction verses a sustainable workable model and the words "if only" will resonate across the barren landscape.

Thank you for listening to my points in seeking a fairer analysis of this application

Footnote, after the response from the applicant's solicitors I would like to add; -

A, Applicant representative: stated there was no concern for the health and wellbeing of the people effected! – absolute nonsense – no due diligence, where's the evidence of this statement!

B, Applicant representative: compensation / development fund contribution (100k figure given at presentation at Glentworth Village Hall) with 30000 people within the radius that's totally unacceptable

C, Applicant representative: employment, offering jobs to the local community, apprenticeships. The populations within the area are primally retired or self-employed people another token!

D, Applicant representative: decommissioning – at the hearing the the “land can return to farming use at the end of period”, where's the scientific support / details on this?