

Tillbridge Open Floor Hearing Tuesday 14 January 2025

Tuesday 14 January 18.00

My name is Dr Gillian Procter. I represent myself and Springthorpe Parish Meeting, a Parish of approximately 120 people who live on the North West border of the proposed Tillbridge Solar Factory in West Lindsey.

Between 1990 and 2020 I worked locally as a General Medical Practitioner providing services within the Community Substance Misuse Service and the Prison Medical Service as well as within General Practice

I wish to commend to this hearing the written report submitted by 7000+ Acres (and written predominantly by my colleague Dr John Parkin) in response to the initial Equality Impact Assessment on Human Health, Wellbeing and Noise compiled by Tillbridge Solar Ltd in their application for the construction of their solar factory.

The 7000+ Acres report highlights the gamesmanship engaged in by Tillbridge Solar Ltd in seeking to avoid any meaningful assessment of these issues, to wit

Firstly the piecemeal submission of the four sub-projects that compose this vast solar factory. Submitting them in this fashion failed to trigger a local Public Health Enquiry that a larger application would have triggered.

Secondly the pretence of their Health Equality Impact Assessment that appears to start and finish with an online search for problems. Every good medical investigation starts with an on-line search using professionally recognised, validated, detailed, medically specific databases. Theirs appears to have used a desk top Google search. Every good medical investigation then proceeds to detailed questions – what John calls a ‘deep dive’ – and new research if necessary to answer the questions. The Google search was where Tillbridge Solar’s research ended

Thirdly they failed to use a medically qualified professional to do the research as is usual: such a professional would have highlighted the first and second mistakes

Lastly as a consequence of all three previous mistakes they have missed the hallmark of deprivation within Lincolnshire: the submersion of small pockets of more extreme deprivation within communities of relative affluence. These are the populations most likely to be adversely affected by these huge developments.

There has been no targeting of specific populations to evaluate impact. It has been left to individuals to detail the changes – nay, the devastation they are likely to experience as a result of the proposed excessive industrialisation of our landscape in front of all of us.

The tenant farmer losing their livelihood who lives within our Parish

The distress of those with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder losing their calm quiet surroundings

The financial uncertainty facing retirees with savings invested in local property

The residents of precarious traveller sites that face flooding due to changes in runoff flow

The loss of greenspace to residents of Lincolnshire cities and those nearby without the county – Sheffield, Scunthorpe, Grimsby

If they wanted these issues raised these people have had to brave a technically challenging Inquiry process in a digitally challenged county to wear their hearts on their sleeves in front of all of us. Instead of being sought out and their problems mitigated. It would not be surprising if many have remained silent and that the vast amount of disadvantage remains buried

I commend the Inspectors for having insisted on a properly completed EqIA on our behalf.

What puzzles me is how Tillbridge Solar would ever be properly able to expand a desktop Google search to a professionally competent EqIA addressing real questions.

Their cynical disregard for proper process to date should condemn Tillbridge Solar Ltd to a refusal of their application.

I say again ' Please Mr Inspector, say No'

Gillian Procter January 2025