

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, I have been unable to attend the recent hearings that have been conducted at The Parsonage, Escrick, where possible however, I have followed live online.

I was not all together surprised at the amount of information that the Boom representatives had to "take away" in order to be able to respond to questions asked. This is much like the completely inadequate consultation period, I asked numerous questions that Boom representatives were unable to answer, the whole process was lacking in information to say the least, by way of an example, I was told that deer would not be allowed within the perimeter fencing because of the potential damage to the panels, however sheep would be ok, I asked one of the representatives why sheep wouldn't damage the panels, their response was that deer can run faster!

My home was visited on the 11th July by the inspectorate, I hope that the day highlighted the enormity of what this proposal will have on our beautiful corner of East Yorkshire.

The applicant has put much weight on their mitigation planting to hide the solar panels, however, when I have asked what they are likely to plant in order to conceal panels that rotate to a height of 3.5 metres they could not be specific. Whatever planting they use, it will take years for it to become established and potentially hide the vulgar panels and fencing. The buffer zones are therefore completely inadequate and will be ineffective for many years.

We live in an area of the countryside that suffers no light pollution, a rare commodity these days and probably a reason why we have such an abundance of wildlife, have Boom given any response to the affect that their security lighting is likely to have on the wildlife who presumably will trigger the lights to come on, in addition how much noise will the panels generate? I have had no clear answers on this from any representatives of Boom, they cannot say with any clarity how much noise will be generated, it is guesswork as the panels that are intended will be the first in the UK. My home will have these panels on three sides so it would be useful to me to know what the likely impact will be on my daily life but also another negative affect on the wildlife.

The mitigation zones that have been outlined are specifically for 2 or 3 species of birds (lets hope they get the memo) but what about the other abundant wildlife that will be affected, what mitigation measures are in place for the deer, hares, foxes, badgers, numerous species of owls, hedgehogs (endangered) bats (endangered) Fieldfare (red list) Curlew (red list) Lapwing (red list) Greenfinch (red list) Tree Sparrow (red list) Cuckoo (red list) the list goes on.

At the initial consultations, the panels were going to be 4.8 metres and then after time reduced down to 3.5 metres, why was this? There is a distinct lack of information regarding size or design of the panels to be used, any information I can find is full of jargon and as a layman difficult to understand.

Where are the panels coming from?, the only information I have been given is China, are they being sourced from Uyghur?, much has been published around the solar panel production and slave labour practices in Xinjiang. The UK's Modern Slavery Act requires companies with over £36 million turnover to report their efforts to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains. This includes companies producing solar panels linked to forced labour in countries like China. At the initial consultations there was talk of the solar occupied land being used for sheep grazing, I'm not sure if this is still the case but who will be looking after the sheep?

I have asked on several occasions questions regarding the decommissioning and removal of the panels, who will be responsible for this? Where will the decommissioned panels go? Can they be wholly recycled? What percentage will go to landfill? Who will be responsible for returning the land to agricultural land if indeed that will be possible?

I am obviously very concerned about the East Yorkshire Solar Farm because of the massive direct impact it will have on my family, it is quite literally on my doorstep. What is even more staggering is the number of other proposals within a 40 mile radius, the number of acres potentially to be lost to solar is simply breathtaking, some prudence and discernment needs to be applied as it has in Italy, embracing "common sense" after the government banned the installation of solar farms on agricultural land. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Melini said solar farms are threatening the nation's "food sovereignty". With this in mind, does the impact of massively reduced food production within the UK have any bearing? The land included within this proposal is productive year on year, it is ludicrous to remove it from production in order to introduce solar panels when their productivity is questionable to say the least, entire communities will be devastated and all profitability will go to a select few, the residents will not benefit in any way.

The entire community of Gribthorpe is against this proposal and I have in my possession a petition signed by 100% of the residents, I would be happy to provide the inspectorate with a copy.