

Having attended the Open Floor hearing on 9th July I would like to make some further comments.

On the question of compensating the local residents for their loss the applicant referred to a community fund.

I did see a question about a community fund in the consultation questionnaire but that is not in any way the same as compensation for the loss of our countryside and value of our homes. In any case there was no inclusion of such a fund in the scheme submitted because it was not a legal requirement as the applicant pointed out which perfectly illustrates the applicant's attitude and presumably such a fund would never come to fruition unless it was required by law. I believe there is a framework to compensate residents in close proximity to wind farms but not solar farms. I suggest that no permissions should be granted for such massively damaging solar farms until there are proper systems for compensating those resident who are burdened with having it on their doorsteps.

I did not agree with the method of using questionnaire's for feedback about the proposal in the Statuary Consultation process as the applicant tried to only ask leading questions about their chosen topics. I therefore sent an email with my comments but do not know if it was included in the application. I have found the quantity of documents overwhelming and impossible to read through so I may be wrong but I have not seen individual comments from the consultation process included in the application. I attended the consultation events and asked why there was nobody making notes of our comments. I was told that they were there to answer questions about the scheme not to listen to our comments and I should make my comments by email. They were very dismissive of our concerns.

I was very disappointed by the number of attendees at the open floor hearing. It did not in any way reflect the local feeling of outrage there is in our community. We have had meetings previously about this application with hundreds of people attending and all objecting to it but the planning process is so inaccessible it is impossible for normal people to keep up with what is happening and too many documents written in longwinded language we do not understand. When a planning application is made to the local council every household in the affected area receives a letter telling them that the application has been made. We have not received any such notification in this case which excludes those who are not following actively online with the process. The planning process effectively excludes those who do not have technical expertise.

I do think that local people think that they made their feelings known during the consultation process and have not recognised that they have to repeat themselves to the planning inspectorate. There is confusion about the planning procedures which has resulted in an impression that the outrage is not as great as we see it on the ground.