

From: [Paul Taylor](#)
To: [East Yorkshire Solar Farm](#)
Subject: Fwd: East Yorkshire Solar Farm
Date: 12 December 2023 21:38:30

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To whom it may concern

Please find a copy of an email we have recently sent to East Riding of Yorkshire County Council

We can back these statements up with individual emails from those concerned if required

Regards

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Paul Taylor [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 8:55 PM
Subject: East Yorkshire Solar Farm
To: [REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Victoria Aitken [REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk>, Cllr Nigel Wilkinson [REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk>, Rt. Hon. David Davis MP [REDACTED]@parliament.uk>, [REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk>

Dear Ms Marshall

We represent a group of residents that are hugely concerned about the proposed East Riding Solar "Farm"

Our understanding is that the proposal is now at the acceptance stage with National Planning

In the last few days we have been made aware that part of this stage includes a "Statement of Adequacy of Community Consultation " which has to be provided by ERYCC and is within your remit.

I have no idea how ERYCC come to a conclusion whether the Consultation was adequate or not but I can assure you as far as the residents affected are concerned it was far from adequate and was very obviously just a box ticking exercise

We believe that Boom Power has lacked transparency and their communications with the local communities has been grossly inadequate.

If this goes ahead it will be one of the largest solar projects in Europe and will attract a great amount of media and political interest and therefore should be treated with great care and all parties must carry out their roles with due diligence.

VAST have organised a very quick survey among residents and some of the results can be seen below as well as several reasons why these consultations

were inadequate and should fail the Statement of Adequacy. If you require we can get all these residents to write to you directly.

We believe that BOOM have not followed the Adequacy and Accessibility procedure and have failed to do this on a number of issues as follows:-

- a. Not sending out their brochures to the wider community prior to the second Consultations. No one received them in Howden, Eastrington & Bubwith and many only found out about the Consultations from the leaflet that VAST members produced at their own expense and delivered to 4000 households. BOOM did put out a press release but in a Hull newspaper which has a very small circulation in this area.
- b. Failing to notify the whole community about their traffic management proposals (the letters were only sent out after the end of the second Consultation period – so pushed out ‘under the radar’). Only people who live right next to the sections of roads affected were notified but the whole community should have been informed as we will all be affected by traffic lights, road closures etc. Even those who live on lngs Lane were not notified and they will be subject to the most traffic movements! Everyone in the affected communities should have had a right to reply.
- c. Many people have complained to us that they have never received any acknowledgement from BOOM to their emails, completed forms or general queries. BOOM failed to respond at all in many cases and when they did they failed in most cases to answer genuine concerns, simply sending back generic responses which in a massive proposal like this should have been responded to on an individual basis. Please find quotes from some of the communications at the end of this letter.
- d. They have failed to give any information about soil sampling or acreage. In fact they have been extremely evasive. This information should have been made available at the Consultations. How can anyone make a measured decision without all the facts? It is important that we know what the soil gradings are particularly as the Government have said that in a development of more than 500 acres if there is over 20% of Grade 1,2, 3a land then it cannot be used for solar development.
- e. At all the Consultations all the maps that were used were very misleading because BOOM had effectively removed all dwellings and buildings thus giving the impression that very few if any people would be directly affected by the development. They also used out of date OS maps.
- f. They have been extremely evasive about BESS (Battery Storage) and about the possible use of OHC (Overhead Cabling) which is causing much concern in communities who live along the cabling route out to Drax.
- g. They have shown a total lack of understanding about the effects on wildlife, hedgerows, farming and flooding risk, failing to answer

questions about these aspects often giving completely wrong answers – i.e. there is no wildlife on these fields, curlews and skylarks are not found in this area, local farmers will just become sheep farmers etc. Where people have asked for answers to questions relating to these issues, answers have been inadequate.

Quotes from local residents:-

These are by no means all but just a selection of the comments we hear daily. The last one is a full letter VAST received today from a Howden resident.

“I haven’t heard from Boom since the first lot of Consultations so no idea what changes have occurred – if it alters anything for us or not....”

“Sent our challenges on booms website but as yet nothing back” “We also did not get anything about the roads and changes”

“Not had anything from them since we argued our point at the meetings.”.....”Also they couldn’t answer our concern regarding the hedges/trees they’ll supposedly put in to hide the panels”

“ We’ve never received any notification about road changes. Yes we received the brochure and filled in the form and sent back, never had any confirmation that it was received though. We live on Ings Lane (Spaldington). At both the Consultations we attended none of the questions could be answered and were just generic replies, we tried to ask the same questions differently (as not sure they really understood what was being asked) to be told the exact same thing!. I even told them about the skylarks in the fields where I ride to be told they aren’t there!....”

“I asked them if they were going to source sheep if the famers didn’t and they said it was not their problem. I asked how long the hedges would take to grow to shield the view of the panels and they said they had no idea. They also had no idea which hedge plant varieties would be planted or who would maintain them.....”

“I haven’t received any acknowledgement after sending the form to Boom”

“We’ve not heard anything from boom since earlier this year, we live in Brind, Had no idea about any road changes or anything. A friend went to the consultation, and they couldn’t comprehensively answer any questions. It is also clear to me they’ve no idea what wildlife lives in our area that will be detrimentally affected”.

“Nothing about road changes or had any information. I did write to my MP and to the Council against the project but never received a reply”

“Not heard anything from Boom about road changes, first we heard was when posted on VAST FB page. Have had nothing from Boom since the first consultations. I have written to them but had no response. When I asked questions at the consultation any answers sounded like they were scripted and everyone you spoke to gave you exactly the same spiel which never did answer the questions I asked.”

“If it wasn’t for you guys (VAST) we’d all be in the dark”

“We haven’t received any notification of the changes after the Consultations finished. We

have 2 Boom brochures which the previous owners had put to one side for us as we only moved here (Spaldington) in June”

“Not heard anything about road changes. Considering we are on the corner and would be affected by both roads, we have received nothing. We have had a copy of the brochure dated May 2023 which we received in the post in early May. We have written to Boom and had answers, Nothing back from the consultation on the website (not even an acknowledgement). Asked the Ecologist if they would be refreshing data from Woodland Trust and NEYEDC for any new records, he said not due to cost of making such requests and they had their own team collecting data; landscape – did they have the visualisations of what the sites would look like from various public footpaths – she (Boom Rep) said they would be done later – they never were”

“We asked several questions... One was re noise at our premises as the estimated noise level was in the village centre. None of our questions was answered”

“Asked lots of questions at both consultations, their experts lacked all knowledge of a solar farm. Filled in questionnaires sent emails all responses had the same stock answer. They said they had too many responses to answer individuals, Did not get any straight answer to any question”.

“BOOM have done nothing (other than holding a consultation at the Shire Hall - which still received no promotion, it was purely just your leaflet drop that alerted us) in Howden to notify residents of the Solar Farm plans. I only became aware of it through yourselves. Point one: no notification about road changes. This may be because we're in Howden, and they don't believe we'll be affected/impacted by it all - we will be - by all the traffic attempting to find other routes, and by all the traffic/machinery brought in via the motorway.

Point two - never had any information through the door from BOOM. I attended the consultations at both Bubwith and Howden, and picked up brochures from there. (only heard about the consultations via yourselves on VAST page)

Point three - I completed and submitted the survey/questionnaire straight after attending the consultation at Howden, and never received any reply from BOOM, not even an acknowledgement that it had been received and objection noted.

Point four - asked many questions at the Howden consultation, but no one there from BOOM had any answers.

Asked about the size of the panels, and was told they didn't have a manufacturer lined up yet, so they couldn't tell me the size.

Asked about the maintenance/cleaning of the panels and they couldn't give me an answer other than they should need no maintenance other than a once yearly check!

Asked about the size of plants that would go back in to replace established hedges, and they couldn't give me an answer, except to say that they would be 'new'.

Was also told by them that - 'there isn't any wildlife on these fields, and that putting up the panels will help bring wildlife to the area.'

So never mind the owl that has flown along side me as I've ridden, or the deer we regularly see, or the many kites and buzzards... etc etc

I also asked about safety, fire hazards, output, flooding, access, noise (both during the construction of and then once all completed) and many other issues, none of which I could get a decent, or even for some, any answer to at all.

Please let me know if there is anything I'm able to do to help. I feel BOOM are not at all bothered about the impact this will have on us for many years to come, and are extremely calculating, especially now, submitting this so close to Christmas and the holiday period”.

An early response would be appreciated

Regards

Paul Taylor
Chairman VAST