



**Stansmore Hall Farm,
Tickhill Lane,
DILHORNE,
Stoke-on-Trent.
ST10 2PJ**

21st March, 2015

Tel: 01782 393410.

The Planning Officer,
Planning Department,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
LEEK,
Staffordshire Moorlands. ST13 6HQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

APPLICATION NUMBER: SMD/2015/0088
APPLICANT'S NAME: Rochester 007 Limited – Mr. James Wallwork
LOCATION: Land at Heywood Grange, Tickhill Lane, DILHORNE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Installation of Standalone Solar PV Modules and
Associated Infrastructure

We have instructed Mr. T. W. Parry of Messrs. Hinson Parry and Company to act on our behalf regarding the above planning application and he has lodged a letter with the Planning Department setting out our concerns about possible damage to our private water supply if this application is successful.

However, we have now had the opportunity to read the reports accompanying the Planning Application and in addition to our worries set out in Mr. Parry's letter, we now have additional concerns. We are appalled that the section entitled "Historic Environment" listed as paragraph 3.2, page 6, of the Environmental Considerations Statement, glosses over and ignores the various historic buildings in this locality which add to and enhance the village. Let us not forget that Dilhorne was listed in the Domesday Book and the village church was built in the 11th century.

The report gives the impression that Dilhorne is an inferior district as it is classed as being in a less favoured area and therefore no-one will be bothered or affected anyway. In fact, the way that the report reads seems to suggest that the solar farm development will be of benefit to the area and this highlights how the report lacks credibility.

We are not newcomers to the area – we purchased **Stansmore Hall** in May, 1963, and we have lived and farmed here ever since. This is the name that appears on Ordnance Sheets, but we use the name **Stansmore Hall Farm** for our agricultural business - they are one and the same property.

Stansmore Hall Farm is a Tudor building and paperwork from the Historic Buildings Council confirms it was built between 1598 and 1604. It is listed as Grade 2*, which

means we are not permitted to alter either the **internal or external appearance** of the property. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have occasionally inspected the site to ensure we have not contravened this ruling.

For the last 52 years our main priority has been sustainability and conservation, including planting of 100 acres of woodland (part of which borders the Solar Farm land), being in Environmental Stewardship Schemes and abiding by the regulations this necessitates. We are proud that in 2000 we were awarded the Ashley Trophy for Farm Conservation in all of Staffordshire, especially as this was the first time it was awarded to a North Staffordshire farm, **even though it is classed as a 'less favourable area'**.

To be frank, we are furious that, having farmed Stansmore Hall in harmony with nature and conservation for 52 years, that this rural vandalism is even being considered on our north western boundary. Please note that our house is less than a quarter of a mile across the fields from the planned Solar Farm and if it goes ahead, we shall be confronted with it within a couple of minutes of leaving the house.

Has consideration been taken of the fact that there is a public footpath that runs from the recreation ground in the village, across the fields to our farm and then to Tickhill Lane, which is used extensively by walking groups and hikers? Judging by the number of these walkers who find their way into our farm yard to take photographs and ask questions they fully enjoy the experience of walking in this pleasant, historical area.

We feel the Planning Application reports have not fully appreciated the uniqueness of this unspoiled area of the Staffordshire Moorlands, with its ancient woodlands, and have not taken into account the number of people who enjoy this very special corner of Dilhorne. We hope that our views, made not only on our behalf, will be taken into account when a decision on this Planning Application is finally made.

Thank you.
Yours faithfully,

M C. and V.L. Brassington,
Joint owners of Stansmore Hall Farm, Tickhill Lane, Dilhorne.