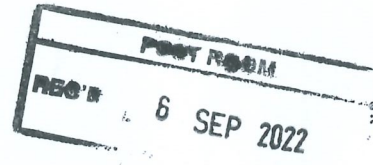


8 Heather View
Ball Green
Stoke on Trent
ST6 8BB

31st August 2022

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
The Planning Department
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
ST13 6HQ



For the Attention of Ms Jane Curley

Planning Application SMD/2022/0076 - Construction of a temporary Battery Energy Storage System on land off Bemersley Road, BALL GREEN, Stoke on Trent

In response to the latest information shared by Anesco I would like to formally ***add further objections*** to the above planning application.

Having failed to ascertain the character and importance of this site and the passion residents have towards our Green Belt, Anesco have sought to prolong the process by continually drip feeding spurious information, when challenged, in an attempt to support this development on Green Belt. Their responses to date have been questionable to say the least and in no way do they mitigate the genuine concerns of residents and the potential areas of concern identified by the Environment Agency regarding Construction Impacts, Noise, Land Contamination and Lighting:-

- From reading their updated Plan it is clear that nobody from Anesco has actually travelled the route they suggest to use. There exists a weight restriction of 7.5k along the route with a speed limit of 30 mph in place and not 40mph as they are claiming.
- They are describing a 'Just in Time' access system but fail to mention where exactly their HGVs will stop and wait.
- They will reduce the risk of mud on the highway but they fail to state how or, indeed, who will cover the cost.
- This route is extremely narrow in parts, is a main pedestrian area with many young school children using narrow pavements.
- Not only will this proposed route cause a major safety hazard as lorries navigate the narrow points of Norton Lane and the blind bends of Bemersley Road but it would also cause associated damage to the highways. Who will be funding this??
- The Environmental Health already state that the development is proposed for a quiet rural area. The Noise Policy Statement of England recognises the need to protect the low sound levels found in quiet rural areas, this development would compromise the intentions of that policy in this area. This policy therefore **MUST BE UPHOLD** regardless of what Anesco are suggesting regarding their statement that 'further consideration of mitigation is not warranted at this time'

- Inappropriate development of designated Green Belt within the city of Stoke on Trent

The NPPF clearly state ***“Government attaches great importance to green belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open: the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence”***

The very special circumstances as required by the NPPF paragraph 147 for the development in the Green Belt ***ARE NOT MET*** by this application. There are already Brownfield sites that have been identified particularly in the village of Ball Green, one just 850 metres away from this site, and providing absolute evidence that there are no special circumstances to justify proceeding on Green Belt.

As the NPPF clearly states ***“When located in the Green Belt, elements of renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed”***

With other sites available in the immediate location there are no special circumstances to proceed.

- The removal of hedgerows to create an adequate entrance for the use of articulated lorries is both an unacceptable loss and is also contrary to Staffordshire Moorlands Local Planning Policy (Sept 2020) which clearly states in Policy NE2 that it will protect established Hedgerows by retaining them, unless the need for and the benefits of the development outweigh their loss. As there are alternative sites available this proposed development does not outweigh their loss.

To conclude, I will re-iterate that Anesco **HAS MOST DEFINITELY NOT** carried out an appropriate level of consultation as they claim within their Statement of Community Involvement. Whilst Anesco may believe that they can ‘turn a pigs ear into a silk purse’ I for one certainly beg to differ.

I have herein made our objections known and we stand by every one of them. So far as the safety and inherent dangers of BESS sites are concerned we are no experts and therefore have no alternative other than to accept and support the findings/recommendations of those who are qualified experts on such matters.

In conclusion, I once again object to this application and respectfully ask that SMDC give your support to all objectors and reject this application accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Linda & Mike Brookes