

From: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
To: Comment Received from Public Access
Subject: 08 January 2024 04:30:18
Date:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0523

Site Address: Land At Rownall Farm Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire ST9 0BT

Comments by: Debbie Harrison

From:

Far Rownall Cottage
Rownall Road
Rownall
Staffordshire Moorlands

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: To add to my previous comments there are a few points I need to raise.

During the meeting I attended at Bagnall Village Hall regarding this development one of the two representatives indicated that it was very unusual for solar panel farms to be constructed in valleys and suchlike, they said that this is to reduce the visual impact on the environment.

This planning application most certainly does affect the visual impact.

The slope of a site can impact the energy output, this is due to the shade cover from the surrounding elevated solar panels and the developers should seek flat pieces of land.

Large areas are not flat.

Studies suggest in the UK that a distance of at least 300 metres should be between a solar farm and residential properties, other studies recommend for larger solar farms of up to 1,000 meters away from residential properties, this mitigates the impact such as glare, noise and also the visual impact.

This is not a small scale scheme and residential properties are close by.

Solar farms in England and Wales were researched in the UK and residential properties within 750 metres suffered from a significant reduction in price after the opening of solar farms. Conveyancers when ordering property searches say it is essential to cover these issues with an environmental search. Research suggests that solar farms do have a negative effect on the value of homes close to a development.

This will effect property prices.

The industry benchmark for solar panel life is 25 to 30 years, they drop in efficiency and energy production as they age.

This is for 40 years.

Rownall Farm planning statement says solar farms can maintain an agricultural output and accommodate grazing sheep on the site and this includes shelter underneath.

How would a farmer know if one of his flock was injured or dead, it wouldn't be seen under the solar panels.

Whilst solar panels do not emit radiation some of the equipment used in some of these farms does and maybe harmful to people and wildlife.

At the Staffordshire Moorlands Planning Committee meeting on 15th December the application to install the battery containers, transformers and inverters was passed. Some local residents spoke against the application however one of our local councillors spoke in favour and fully supported it, the committee chairman made a remark after considering the application on the lines of given the fact that the development is supported in principle it will be very difficult to argue against future proposals which will involve green belt land in the planning pipeline so this appears to me that our elected councillor is content to allow the green belt in our area to be destroyed.

I feel it is paramount the planning committee must visit the whole of this site to fully understand the full impact this huge development will have.

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