

Bagnall Parish Council OBJECTS to the application. SMD/2024/0019
Newfields Farm, Proposed BESS site.

Further to our two previous submissions further advice has been provided in the interim which the Parish Council consider is particularly relevant to this case.

Bagnall Parish Council notes the content of recent correspondence from the RT Hon Karen Bradley MP who states “....*only last week I joined Sir Gavin Williamson Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ in order to discuss applications in South Staffordshire with the Chief Fire Officer.*

At that meeting the Chief Fire Officer, Rob Barber, provided me with considerable reassurance that Fire and Rescue Services across the country feel that they can manage fires, should they rise, on these sites providing the sites are appropriately designed to permit access from a suitable number of points by the service and there is hard standing for the appliances to work from and appropriate means for controlling water run off amongst other requirements.”

Bagnall Parish Council particularly notes the observation that where the design of the battery installation complies with the guidance note the fire service is confident that they can manage a fire. It must therefore be the case that where the installation does not adhere to the guidance contained in the NFCC November 2022 document, such as that shown in the proposals for the BESS site adjacent to Newfields Farm, the fire service is consequently unable to manage a fire with any safe degree of certainty.

From the documentation attached to the application it would appear that a detailed review of the submission by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue has still not taken place. In view of the clear deviation of the submitted application from the NFCC guidelines Bagnall Parish Council consider that it would be inappropriate for the application to be granted.

The letter from The RT Hon Karen Bradley MP is attached for ease of reference.