
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 11 June 2024 21:03
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2023/0523 Site Address: Land At Rownall Farm Rownall Road Wetley Rocks
Staffordshire ST9 0BT Comments by: Mrs Jo Paterson

From:
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Armshead Road
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Submission: Objection

Comments: I would like to raise a number of issues in relation to this application,

1) The devastation to the wildlife this will undoubtedly cause, numerous birds and mammals reside in this area and birds of prey, notably buzzards, kestrels and numerous types of owls, I have personally seen deer inhabiting this area too, it is without doubt that their habitat will be completely destroyed and it is well known that huge disruption to their habitat leads to wildlife fleeing, once they have left the area the evidence shows they do not return ultimately leading to the end of this wildlife in this area completely,

2) The roads surrounding this area are not capable of managing the large volume of traffic directly linked to this 'farm' bringing in solar panels of the sizes they have mentioned will require numerous vans/lorries and HGVs causing noise disruption and ultimately damage to country roads that are already narrow and have numerous pot holes, high volume of heavy vehicles to 'build' this 'farm' will without doubt damage these small, narrow country lanes. Furthermore, the lack of pavements associated with country lanes mean pedestrians and more so horse riders who frequent the lanes daily throughout the spring and summer will likely lead to tragedy that is avoidable. There is a high volume of horses and this area is associated with the horse community as being safe and of high value due to the amount of fields and vast countryside, local riding schools hosting high profile horse shows throughout the showing period will without doubt be affected by the 'building' of this solar farm.

3) Destruction of greenbelt, beautiful scenery that the area is renowned for. The views over the greenbelt land will be decimated by the unsightly solar panels due to the sheer volume of solar panels counting 1000's upon 1000's when looking at the other applications that have been subsequently submitted. The countryside views will be completely spoilt and a blot on the landscape with sites of special interest and protected areas such as the Wetley common and consall nature reserve surrounding this application for a solar farm.

4) Use of the proposed CCTV and fencing suggests that security is required, highly likely therefore to be associated with criminality, this area is attractive to families and locals who know that crime levels are notable low in this area meaning this area is considered a safe place for our children to grow up and is also associated with higher home value. Expensive solar panels and cabling that has been well publicized and will be visible for many miles is highly likely to attract criminal activity. Looking at other areas where there are solar farms with significantly less panels than this one is applying for have been associated with increased crime, subject to numerous robberies and with the current cost of living robberies are frequent and cabling etc has a high value to criminals which then is highly likely to be associated with violent robberies. Rural policing is already struggling with demand of low-level crime therefore this is likely to impact our local police force. Crime such as this is highly likely to devalue home prices and it is predicted 50% reduction in home prices surrounding this area. This is extremely concerning and will have an extremely negative impact upon dutiful tax payers within the area and others that wish to move to this attractive area, many of whom have lived here for generations.

5) Noise and lighting associated with solar panels, security and ongoing essential maintenance of the panels and cabling will be detrimental to area, floodlighting or any lighting will cause disruption to the home occupiers with such light pollution, again this will impact local wildlife and lead them to vacate their habitat forever.

For the above reasons i therefore object to this application.

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