
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 14 June 2024 10:06
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0240 Site Address: Land Adjoining New House Farm Luzlow Lane Bagnall
Staffordshire ST9 9JZ Stoke-On-Trent Comments by: J Wheeler

From:

Rownall Cottage Farm
Rownall Road
Rownall
Stoke on Trent

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to this application for the following reasons:-

GREENBELT:-

A development of this nature would have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of this rural area. It would have a negative visual impact as it is being proposed on Green Belt land and it would change the landscape for ever as this site would NEVER return to Green Belt. It would change the landscape from Greenbelt to an industrial area and therefore is inappropriate development on Green Belt land. No very special circumstances exist to approve such development - this is not energy production, it is storage for electricity. The design and materials would introduce a highly incongruent development of an industrial scale and character into the open landscape and countryside setting. As well as the numerous large battery containers, the site would consist of a switchroom, fencing, CCTV and lighting. It would cause substantial harm to the Green Belt through loss of openness and significant harm to the appearance and character of the area which should not outweigh the moderate benefits of the energy storage system.

SAFETY & FIRE RISK:-

The safety of private residents and their properties in close proximity should be evaluated as part of the decision making for this application and therefore a Fire & Safety Assessment should be carried out.

An INDEPENDANT Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be carried out and any planning decision should NOT rely on the information provided by the applicant, who is going to submit a report in favour of their proposals.

FOOD SECURITY:-

'We need to address food security by not building on food-producing land' this was a statement in the Farmers Guardian recently. By 'selling' off good agricultural land from farming to energy companies we effectively will create a UK that may have to rely in the future on importing more food, increasing the carbon footprint and pushing our food prices up even further. It is important to save good farming land and look at alternative sites for energy such as brownfield sites. This application is being proposed on good agricultural land which has been used successfully for farming for decades by the previous and current land owners.

CUMULATIVE EFFECT:-

The growing number of proposals for Battery energy storage and also a HUGE solar farm in this beautiful rural area of Werrington, Bagnall & Rownall is increasing due to the ridiculous sums of money the land owners are being offered by the companies who are effectively taking over our countryside. The cumulative effect these numerous proposals encroaching onto hundreds of acres of our Green Belt will have a greater impact on spatial and visual openness and serious consideration should be given by SMDC on the cumulative impact this will have to this rural location for the residents who live here and for the public who use this area for many difference leisure activities, such as walking, running, horse riding and cycling. The location of an existing sub station should NOT be a reason to approve these applications. There are sites around the UK that are NOT near to a substation and this is a very weak argument that is being given to these applications.

This application does not meet Staffordshire Moorlands Local Planning Policy and contravenes The National Planning Policy Framework.

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