
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 19 September 2024 12:22
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0019 Site Address: Land at Newfields Farm Rownall Road Wetley Rocks
Staffordshire ST9 0BS Stoke On Trent Comments by: Pippa Blessington

From:

Lawn farm
Thorney edge Road
Bagnall
stoke on Trent
Staffs
ST9 9LE

Submission: Objection

Comments: I wish to object to yet another large battery storage facility in this area. I have been lucky to enjoy this area as a rural gem for 60 years, for most part relatively unspoiled, but the sudden rash of applications for solar and battery installations will in a short time change the face, feeling, atmosphere and enjoyment of the area beyond recognition for the local community and all who enjoy visiting and walking/riding around our lanes and paths.

I understand that 2 such units have already been agreed which is probably at least one too many, especially as one of these massive units is but a very short distance from a longstanding residential property which frankly no one would find acceptable if it was them. In reality it is two too many as I understand that they already both fail to meet the current safety standards. If it were me I would not be happy to start to build such units long after they have been deemed non-compliant with safety standards. It is not as if safety is not a factor here. These units carry substantial, proven risks. Of equal concern is that the more of these that are agreed the more difficult it presumably becomes to refuse others (precedent) and I believe there are now a total of 9 such units planned (or has that gone up), with the possibility of others jumping on the bandwagon if they see their chances of success improving. You cannot blame individuals for wanting to make a large financial profit, but planning has to balance that with the cost to the community, who seems to get no benefit, together with the landscape, let alone the others issues of security, noise, fire risk, or risk to our fire and rescue service (which will probably need extra resourcing). Considering up to 9 (or maybe more) in this one small area compounds all these impacts and risks. Has a full assessment of the compounded impacts been made? Is the fire and rescue service happy that they could satisfactorily deal with one or more incidents without hazard to the community? Where is the massive planning gain or massive biodiversity net gain which might at least go some small way to justifying such units? The rolling and intimate landscape here of very traditional agriculture does not readily absorb this industrialisation of our green belt landscape. These units are out of scale, unsympathetic in nature, noisy, dangerous and massively unpopular locally. Please do not approve this application and help set a precedent that could then run even more out of control. These kind of units are such that they should be sited only in the most suitable locations, not ad hoc where applicants think they might be able to get away with one. I understand that not everything can stay exactly the same for ever but development, especially of this scale, needs to be appropriate and these are not. Thankyou for considering this objection.

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