
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 20 September 2024 07:50
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: Ian Podmore Private Rownall Resident

From:

Rownall Ridge, formerly Rownall Hall
Rownall Road
Rownall Wetley Rocks
Stoke on Trent
Staffs
ST9 0BT

Submission: Objection

Comments: Newfields Bess Application 3-minute Speech.

Speaking at Committee Letter - App ref SMD/2024/0019

If approved, this application will be the 3rd major independent commercial Battery Storage business given consent in Rownall, with another another 4 still pending. It occupies just 5% of the land already earmarked to build 7 separate major sized stand-alone Battery Storage sites and one of the largest Solar Farms in the UK. Just how many of these applications do the Council intend to accept and how many can Rownall and Bagnall accept?

So many Battery Storage applications are being received simply because it offers an unmissable opportunity to make money without risk, beyond the applicants' wildest dreams. If all these huge operating sites are to be approved one by one without an overall integrated plan, absolute chaos will result. So far 400 acres has been targeted for 8 separate sites without coordination, consideration, or community concern.

In the absence of an essential cumulative impact assessment, I fail to understand how Councillors are expected today, to vote on this without a clear understanding of the detail of the remaining 95% of this emerging mammoth development. Nonetheless, I expect this application to be approved today probably unanimously, because of what you are expected to do, according to what is still only a DRAFT policy dictate. Democracy is about voting with your conscience reflective of your own values, relating to the local circumstances not a government's ruthless ambition to achieve net zero at our own environmental cost!

The National Grid have a responsibility here too, knowing that Lithium-Iron batteries are highly unstable and inclined to explode with dangerous high temperature intensity fires. How safe is it to locate this Battery Storage site right up against this vulnerable transformer station. The consequences of destroying both are obvious.

Furthermore, the National Grid are still paying more than £250m every year to turn off the wind generators when their receiving capacity is exceeded. This ever-increasing cost is recharged to every household in the country, so why, aren't these highly dangerous battery banks not located at the Wind Farms, in the remote areas of the UK where they would not harm anyone, and where the valuable green electricity generated, could be safely stored, not wasted, and drawn down as and when needed?

This application must include a warranted declaration that the components used will not be the product of forced labour among the Uyghur minority imported from the Xinjiang province of China, one of the most significant producers of Lithium Iron batteries and Solar Panels and now the subject of an outright EU ban.

Ian Podmore Rownall Ridge ST9 0BT. 19th September 2024.
The Bagnall and Rownall Save the Green Belt Campaign.

Sent on behalf of

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