



David Williams MP
Member of Parliament for
Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Planning Inspectorate
3D Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Bristol
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23 January 2025

To whom it may concern,

Re: Appeal Reference SMD/2022/0076/A – Proposed Battery Storage Facility in Ball Green

I am writing in connection with the appeal regarding the proposed temporary 49.35MW battery storage facility in Ball Green (Planning Reference: SMD/2022/0076). I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important process and to reflect some of the perspectives shared with me by the local community.

As we continue to navigate the complex path toward a greener, more sustainable future, I recognise the critical importance of energy storage infrastructure. Such facilities play a pivotal role in supporting renewable energy and ensuring grid resilience. However, it is equally important that the implementation of these projects is carefully balanced with the needs of local communities and the protection of our natural environment.

I understand that the council's decision to refuse this application was based on detailed planning considerations, particularly concerning the impact on the Green Belt. As highlighted by the council, the development would result in the loss of openness, both spatially and visually, and could create an urbanising effect on what is currently a rural and undeveloped site. Additionally, the requirement for significant engineering operations to reprofile the site would, in their view, exacerbate these concerns.

Local residents have also raised several significant issues. These include:

Traffic and Safety: Concerns about increased HGV movements on Bemersley Road—a narrow and heavily used route—are understandable. Such activity during construction could pose safety risks and create disruption for the local community.

Noise and Environmental Impact: Uncertainty about noise levels during the operational phase has led to apprehension among residents, particularly given the proximity of the site to homes. There are also concerns regarding the removal of hedgerows and its potential impact on wildlife.

Cumulative Impact: Residents have drawn attention to other nearby developments, underscoring the cumulative effect this proposal might have on the area's character and their quality of life.

The appellant has made the case for the development based on its contributions to climate and energy objectives, biodiversity net gain, and the temporary nature of the facility. These factors are undoubtedly important and merit serious consideration. However, it is crucial that they are assessed against the legitimate concerns of the community and the council's planning policies, particularly those relating to Green Belt protection.

I encourage the Planning Inspectorate to give careful weight to all aspects of this case, including the detailed reasoning provided by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the well-founded concerns of residents, while considering the wider context of our shared commitment to renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

David Williams MP

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