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From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 24 May 2026 18:06
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: [REDACTED]

Application Reference No. : SMD/2025/0388 Site Address: New Buildings Farm Sandon Road Sharpley Heath Stone
Staffordshire ST15 8SL Stoke On Trent Comments by: Yvonne Grimshaw Baker Draycott in the Moors Parish Council

From:

17
ashleigh road
upper tean
stoke on Trent
staffordshire
st10 4du

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Submission: Objection

Comments: Draycott in the Moors Parish Council

c/o Clerk Yvonne Grimshaw Baker

17 Ashleigh Road, Upper Tean, Stoke on Trent, ST10 4DU

19TH MAY 2026

RE: Objection to Proposed Solar Farm Development at SMD/2025/0388 Major Solar Farm, near Cresswell

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Parish Council wishes to formally object to the above planning application for the proposed solar farm development at Cresswell.

Whilst the Parish Council recognises the importance of renewable energy generation, we believe this proposal raises significant concerns which have not been adequately addressed within the application.

Firstly, there appears to be no updated wildlife or ecological survey accompanying the application. Given the environmental sensitivity of the site and surrounding area, this omission is of serious concern. The proposed development includes land containing a historic moat feature, which may have ecological and heritage significance and requires proper assessment and protection.

Secondly, the Parish Council is disappointed that there has been no meaningful engagement or consultation with either the Parish Council or the local community prior to submission of the application. Developers of other solar farm sites within the parish have previously engaged constructively with residents and contributed to local solar array community funds. There is no mention within this application of any similar commitment to community benefit or support.

The site also consists of prime agricultural dairy land, and the loss of such productive farmland is unacceptable. The cumulative loss of agricultural land across the parish is becoming increasingly detrimental to the rural economy and landscape character of the area.

Furthermore, this proposal would represent the third solar farm within a relatively small geographic area. The cumulative environmental and visual impact of multiple large-scale solar developments is substantial and risks the gradual industrialisation of the countryside. The Parish Council believes this concentration of solar infrastructure is disproportionate and harmful to the character and identity of the parish.

In addition to the landscape impact, concerns remain regarding biodiversity loss, the wider environmental implications of removing productive farmland from agricultural use, and the precedent such continued development may set for future applications.

The Parish Council therefore strongly urges the Local Planning Authority to refuse this application in its current form.

Separately, the Parish Council will be writing directly to the applicant/developer to invite representatives to attend a Parish Council meeting in order to discuss the proposal with councillors and local residents.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Grimshaw Baker

Clerk to Draycott in the Moors Parish Council

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