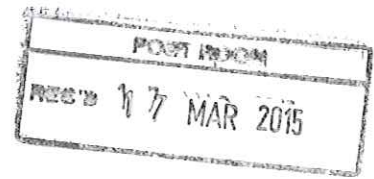




Little Summerhill
Cottages



Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,

Moorlands House,

Stockwell Street,

Leek

Staffordshire

ST13 6HQ

25th February, 2015

SMD/2015/0088

Ref: SMD/2015/008 large scale MAJOR apps /proposed solar farm on land at Heywood Grange Farm, Tickhill Lane, Dilhorne.

Dear Sirs,

Myself and my husband live at Little Summerhill Farm, Tickhill Lane, Dilhorne where we have Quality in Tourism 4 star, self catering holiday cottages.

We have had solar panels on the roof of our house for about 20 years and recently on the roof of one of our farm buildings so we are in favour of solar power.

However, we do not agree with the use of agricultural land for solar farms when there are acres of space available on the roofs of agricultural and industrial buildings.

We understand why struggling farmers want to diversify into these farms as it is a lucrative source of income but if this, admittedly well chosen site, is allowed it opens the door to ALL farmers to install such sites as the arguments will be the same for most farms at this very difficult time. Where will you draw the line?

The report mentions the "landscape character developed by generations of farmers" but within a few years our "green and pleasant land" could become a patchy, mirrored land sullied by the likes of the solar farm alongside the A50 between the Lichfield and Burton turnoffs. Anyone seeing this site can only think it a shocking misuse of agricultural land.

Little Summerhill Cottages, Tickhill Lane, Dilhorne, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 2PL

Website: www.holidaycottagesstaffordshire.com

Our landscape is an integral part of our growing tourism industry, not just in Staffordshire but nationwide. Would you pay to go on holiday to see such monstrosities? When you drive around our country do you want to look out on green fields and livestock or fields of mirrors?

On a safety note, no mention is made of the fact that Tickhill Lane is a single track lane with few passing places between the end of the lane and the entrance to the site. Whilst locals know where the ground is suitable to pull onto, passing traffic does not. When faced with oncoming lorries are they going to be willing to reverse up to a third of a mile? I doubt the lorries will. The sharp bend by Summerhill House is also a potential hazard. Will there be a temporary speed restriction on the lane during construction and will there be warning signs about construction traffic?

We were told at the meeting of Dilhorne Parish Council that work, and deliveries, could start at 7am. I do not think I am the only person objecting to heavy traffic passing my door at this time in a morning. I am sure my holiday makers will object. Can the type and/or quantity of construction traffic be limited until after 9am? The developer has already said they are not willing to compensate anyone for the damage and inconvenience caused, but this work is not necessary for the public infrastructure only for commercial development .

Finally, with regard to the Dilhorne Parish Council meeting it was not well attended probably due to the fact that very few people knew about it, especially in Tickhill Lane. Can anyone tell me where the information was circulated?

In conclusion, I wish to strongly protest against the development.

Yours faithfully

E. A. Plant

Little Summerhill Farm,

Tickhill Lane

Cc Lyn Cantley, DilhorneParish Council