

I am the newly elected Councillor for Ashford Rural East for Kent County Council, I have only officially had that position since 6th May, so have come to this quite late in the day. However I have some major concerns about BESS the battery storage systems. It is my understanding that at the recent examination hearings, no representation was received from Kent Fire Service, this I would respectfully submit must happen, until such a time that the implications of BESS can be submitted from the Fire Service, with their report on the supply of water and access to any of the batteries.

I would strongly urge that no final decision is made until such time as report is made from the Fire service.

I would request that I be given time as the local Councillor for the area to contact the Fire service and seek their cooperation.

I therefore request a delay in a final decision of 60 days to enable me to do this.

I would respectfully suggest that a refusal to allow this would be wrong on Health & safety grounds for the residents of this area and if an event in the future were to go badly wrong due to this, it could be implied that this had been negligent.