

1. I and a number of other Interested Parties attended the ExA open hearing at Wyboston Lakes on 9th June, asking the ExA to require a response from the Applicant to their claim in their Application, which is unfortunately misleading to Government (esp DENZ), the Public and supporters of genuinely green projects that the East Park Energy development, if approved, would power 106,000 homes. Due to the seasonal and sporadic nature of solar generation in the UK - The World Bank rates the UK as the second worst country in the world for solar generation - there will be very little power generated in winter months indeed zero at times and certainly not enough to meet the demands of an average UK home. I understood from my submission to the ExA Mr Sword that we would see a reply. We followed up our request in a written submission on 19th June and having seen nothing from the ExA or the Applicant - another example of sidestepping the issues being raised - I followed up with an email request to the Planning Inspectorate on 10th July. Still no amendment to or rescinding of the blatant overstatement of the contribution this solar panel development would make to the Grid when relying solely on power generated from the proposed EPE panel arrays.

2. We have raised many times the issue of the Applicant proposing to cover some 1,900 acres of Best and Most Versatile productive farmland with solar panels, removing them from the food production chain for at least 40 years if not for ever. With the harvest broadly now in across the UK, it is even more obvious that the UK as an island is fast heading for a Food Security crisis. The President of the National Farmers Union pointed out how successive Governments have sleepwalked (his words) into making domestic production harder. With the world becoming more unstable we cannot rely on the rest of the world to feed us.... With the population growing, food demand growing and domestic production reduced and struggling on the land already committed to growing crops now is not the time to be taking BMV land out of production. Europe and elsewhere are facing reduced crop yields thus are not going to have reliable export surpluses available to the UK without significant cost / food inflation implications. A food supply crisis accelerated by putting solar panels on farmland instead of rooftops and brownfield sites will devastate the viability of the UK and be a frightening legacy by this generation to future generations. Please turn the focus to the available estimated 700,000 acres of rooftops and brownfield sites first and follow / respect the National Planning Policy Framework, National Policy Statement EN-3 and of course Local policy supporting and protecting our countryside.

As IPs I/we do hope that the Examination process will acknowledge and produce replies to these points to demonstrate that the Community is getting a fair hearing and its concerns properly acknowledged. So far this has not been apparent to us, the Community that faces serious detriment to our area and our homes if this development is allowed to proceed.

3. I understand that a Statement of Common Ground has been reached with the Fire and Rescue Services regarding the proposed BESS development. However with the Applicant still refusing to produce proposed designs including cabinet spacing, battery cell specifications etc the Examining Authority will not be able to reassure the Community that this SoCG fulfils the obligations the ExA placed on the Applicant early in the process. Even now we can see no effort / attempts being made to engage with vulnerable communities (schools, care homes etc) close enough to the proposed site to need evacuation plans in the event of a thermal runaway. There is a Duty of Care that is being sidestepped here, and with examples of severe damage to health emerging from persons in proximity to / downwind of Lithium-Ion battery fires this responsibility has to be acknowledged and duty of care taken seriously. Local Councils have agreed that proper risk assessments, performed by independent professionals, need to be done before the Examination concludes.