

I have sat in front of four Planning Inspectors so far and pleaded the case for our rural communities, environment and food producing land. So far two P.I.s have ignored the sheer lunacy of these plans and the considerable weight of evidence against them in favour of an army of urban based lawyers and business interests in the pursuit of profiteering from the ludicrous notion of saving the planet by paving over a precious, finite resource of quiet countryside.

I despair as to where this current Government is heading. It seems farmers, food production and the environment are under attack from all sides by people who really do not understand the consequences of their actions.

I am fearful of the future for our country and the irreparable damage that will be inflicted by these short sighted schemes. What community liaison will there be when we are under siege from heavy construction plant, invaded by strangers working here, plagued by criminals on the prowl for opportunities to steal and under threat of fires and pollution from any malfunctions of the panels or BESS?

Will any of the Planning Inspectors or politicians visit and look us in the eye?

I witnessed a crop field fire last year which quickly spread out of control and required two fire engines and a number of local farmers to put it out. BESS fires cannot be put out; they are left to burn with resultant pollution and risk of water contamination.

The cumulative effects of almost 13,000 acres within a 6 mile radius not to mention the drip feed of applications across the country are a staggering indictment of the gross misuse of the NSIPS system.

If Governments were truly committed to global climate targets they would be doing something about the destruction of the rainforests around the world and the trade with other countries that have far greater carbon emissions than we do and far cheaper energy bills for their consumers.

All the eloquent and reasoned arguments against these plans I have listened to from 7000 acres group and energy experts with considerable experience in the industry have further convinced me that this is total, utter madness.