

I am pleased that the Planning Inspectorate has been able to listen to views of the local communities during the recent Examination.

Like many constituents who have written to me, I firmly believe that we need to address climate change now.

We know that by investing in renewable energy we will have an immediate and lasting impact on climate change and Net Zero. Building more low carbon energy infrastructure will help establish the UK as a world leader in renewables. It will help improve the UK's energy security, reduce energy bills across the country, and help us progress towards achieving Net Zero.

However, despite several consultations, modifications to the scheme have been minor and the scale and size of the Botley West scheme, as it stands, remains just too big.

Residents of Farmoor, Cumnor and the wider Oxford community have told me of their serious concerns about the size of the scheme and the loss of amenity that comes with such a scheme when located close to villages and homes.

I would like to see a clearer commitment to community benefit than the recently announced £525 per megawatt, particularly as the proposed offer remains significantly lower than other recent renewable projects and as the applicant proposes that the community benefit is directly used as the mitigation for loss of Green Belt.

I support the request by Vale of White Horse District Council to remove the Southern Site from the overall scheme.

I support the request by Cumnor Parish Council for an accompanied site visit that takes in the Important Views as set out in the made Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan and the elevated viewpoints at Wytham Woods and Hill End and their request for the Planning Inspector to examine:

- The cumulative impact of all proposed solar, sub-station and battery storage schemes in the Farmoor Valley & wider Cumnor Parish (Question 1.1.5)
- The assessment of alternatives and deliverability of the scheme when assessed against the National Grid proposal (Questions 1.3.1/2/3/5)
- The scale and accuracy of the maps provided by the developer (Question 1.5.8)
- Resident concerns about the funding of this project (I have previously raised this in the 'Repurposing Russian Assets to Rebuild Ukraine' debate held in Parliament on Tuesday 27 June 2023) and am keen to see the applicant's response to Questions 1.5.22-1.5.30
- The impact of the cable route on Swinford Toll Bridge, given the recent number of HGV incidents on this bridge which have already damaged the bridge structure (Question 1.6.22)
- The impact on wildlife, particularly the skylark and bat populations, wildlife corridors between the stands of ancient woodland and the SSSIs in Cumnor Parish (Questions 1.8.6/7/8/9/12/13)
- The assessment of groundwater and surface water flood risk in Cumnor Parish as detailed in the flood risk report in the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan (Question 1.10.13)
- The inconsistent provision of visualisations and photo montages from elevated viewpoints including Cumnor's made Neighbourhood Plan Important Views (Question 1.14.6).