

Final Response to Botley West

Interested Party Number: [REDACTED]

Dear Examiner,

Having been fully against this project since November 2022 when the proposal was first mooted, and attending many of the consultations, being a founding member of "Stop Botley West", keeping in touch with the project by subscribing to their newsletter (and to PVDP's), I must confess that the sheer size of the paperwork has overwhelmed me and I have found it impossible to keep up with developments. It is a very long time and a huge undertaking to be familiar with everything.

That said, my overall initial response was that it is; too big for the area, takes no consideration of anything because those involved in Botley West only cares about the profit and their bonuses. They have left a trail of broken promises, lies (proof of which are in interviews with Radio Oxford), deceit and frustration.

That said, my objections are as follows and in no particular order (and I apologise if the premise has changed because, as I said, it has been impossible to keep up to date):

- Botley West will cause significant harm to Oxford Airport – which I pointed out to PVDP, in writing, that the in the Local Plan, the Airport had asked for a two-mile exclusion zone of solar panels.
- Botley West have clearly not read or not taken any notice of any concerns from locals right from the start and have been misleading at best
- The solar arrays are too close to homes – so many possible issues? Fire risk, flooding, heat island effect etc
- The wildlife devastation will be horrendous and will never recover – once it's gone, it's gone
- o In Bladon, amongst many others, there are owls, bats, bees, red kites, buzzards, hares, the rabbit population that's beginning to recover from myxomatosis, all to be displaced or forced into extinction by shrinking available hunting space
- There is no plan for how and where the cables are to go regarding the River Thames
- There is no battery facility planned nor any assured link to the National Grid – this could be a large white elephant
- Botley West have little to no knowledge of the area that they plan to cover and do not listen to those who do
- Blenheim caused a lot of grief and stress to their tenant farmers over the land for this project
- There has been talk of an "Education Centre" and "Community Growing Areas" recently in Bladon and other villages that nobody seems to need or want – why wasn't this mentioned at consultation stage?
- There definitely needs to be a ring-fenced fund in place for decommissioning – at the moment no-one seems to have the money to actually build it so the worse possible case scenario is a half-built, land destroying project who no-one will take responsibility to dismantle.
- The rights of way that will go through these arrays will be reduced to tunnels, and are a safety issue – from a fire hazard (how do you get out?), to personal safety issues – how do you avoid potential issues if the paths are blocked in on both sides?
- The visual aspect – it will be like living in a power station
- Land best use? We have best and most versatile farmland that will be desecrated by Botley West. Which PVDP denied existed!
- There are local landmarks all over the area that will be lost/ destroyed/ barricaded
- We will lose a valuable mental health benefit of open countryside – the crowds in Blenheim's grounds do not and will not make up for it
- The underhand tactics used when collecting data – for example making the new Bladon Woods community path available and usable just before commissioning a survey of footpath use on PRW through the farmland that they plan on taking away
- The applicants' responses to the questions raised by the Examiner have been dismissive, and they have not provided solid answers
- Flood risks – particularly in Cassington
- Dodgy money behind this project that no-one seems to be responsible for making due diligence checks on?

The entire project has been proposed with no thought, care or attention. There are an awful lot of people who do not have the capability or the resources to object to this project who are relying on Stop Botley West to relay their feelings and objections. Please do not think that it is only those who have responded are those who care. There are many people who care very much. By putting the areas together to make this a project that will be decided at National Level instead of Local Level has excluded many voices by making the process too large, too involved and simply too overwhelming for most people to respond.

I have responded all the way along with my objections and I believe they all still stand as not one has been addressed properly by Botley West Developers.

I do believe that the Examiners have heard and responded to concerns raised and hope that you will advise that this project be refused for the huge size, for proximity to homes, wildlife havens, the airport, the loss of farmland and simply for not being in the Country's best interest.

Best wishes, Diane Berry