

Simon Raywood

From: Ralph Blackshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2026 18:18
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Objection to proposal

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Good evening.

I am writing, as would like to make it clear that I object to the PVDP application for Botley west solar.

As a resident of Bladon, I am concerned that there is a distinct lack of information provided by the applicant, which fails to detail various points from RVAA's & Buffers to protecting wildlife and their habitats, with multiple other reasons in between. When I initially attended the applicants open day sessions, there was a lack of anyone there from their company knowing the answers to any questions the public raised and it appears that this has pretty much continued throughout their application. Without the applicant being able to demonstrate that each factor consistently raised has been considered and carefully planned out, I find it impossible to support. The lack of answers this company have provided still leaves too many grey areas that as a resident we will have no say over if the application was to go ahead and the company would be able to make it up as they go along without any further challenges.

As I have children who are 7 and 11, my wife and I moved to Bladon to raise them in the countryside. We are continuously using the fields around the village for walks and for them to go to and from school, rather than along the overly crowded main road. I firmly believe that not enough consideration has been made to how this change of use of the land will effect residents mental heath, as my family and I truly benefit from being consistently within the open fields. As a scout leader, I feel it is important for young people in the area to be able to use this land to learn important scouting lessons from, which we currently do in the scouts and we would not be able to continue, from within a solar development.

When my wife and I did look into selling our house earlier in the year, the estate agent advised that the selling price could fluctuate by around 25%, due to the impact of the potential solar development. We can not afford to loose this money as have a mortgage on our 3 bed semi and so are currently stuck in the village whether we would like to be or not (we would love to be - just with fields rather than the proposed). I feel that not enough consideration is given to how this development would effect the value of residents properties, as we were brushed off by some survey the applicant had done, saying they would apparently return to normal once it had been built. I for one, would not buy a house in the middle of a solar development and agree with the estate agent that open fields and beautiful views are probably more appealing to a buyer, than being surrounded by a solar panels and people are even less likely to buy when the decision is still unknown. I feel that this issue has been completely ignored by the applicant.

As an allotment holder, I find the idea of the community food growing plots very strange and agree with the general opinion entirely, that they are 100% an after thought to try and push the deal through. Our allotments in Bladon currently has 16 plots and my neighbours plot has been vacant since he gave it up around 6 months ago. The fact that we have not since filled that plot, despite trying, makes me wonder how the developer plans to fill any of the community plots. I note that the plans include a commercial enterprise and so assume that after a short time, they will be turned into that and the benefit to the community quickly forgotten? Again, I believe that not enough information has been given to what will happen if their new idea is not initially a success.

I am also concerned about the timeframe that would be granted for the fields to be used as a solar development (My son will be at least my age, probably with his own children, when finished). Solar panels are consistently changing and being improved and whatever kit is put in the fields now, will probably be ripped out and replaced several times throughout the years the proposal is requesting. This will cause knock on issues for our roads as the kit is replaced each time and the environment when the old panels are scrapped. My other concern is that if approved, when it comes to the development end, Blenheim may be able to then say that 'unexpectedly' the land quality has degraded and they will then finally be able to build on it.

██████████ in his speech to our village a few years ago, openly said that the development will eventually be approved once the scale has been settled and as a village we should just fight for a compromise as to what additional things we could get for the village as compensation for it being built. (Like Blenheim's initial house planning requests - they ask for permission to build 500 and settle on 150 etc). I have genuinely been trying to think of positives that this development would/could bring to residents and unfortunately have not been able to do so. As far as I can tell, there are still far too many areas and questions which the company are unable to answer fully, that it would be too dangerous to go ahead and approve.

Thank you for your time

Ralph Blackshaw

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