

WEST WING HOUSE

20051974

I live at Scopwick with my partner. We bought this property in 2019 from Blankney Estates.

Speaking in front of this team is daunting and the experience has not been made easy. I am aware of so many people who are against this development and wanted to appear here today, but do not have the confidence to do so.

We have been told by those who knew Eric Parker including those who were his friends and neighbours and those who worked alongside him - that he was a man who genuinely cared about the land, a man of integrity, who also cared about the community he lived in. A man who would never have allowed this monstrous development to go ahead. He was forward thinking. I am sure the thought of his land being covered in solar panels made by slave labour in China would destroy him. It is certainly destroying the Parker Legacy.

Eric Parker was ahead of his time, and worked hard to cultivate this land into fertile, productive farmland and as we have heard, the estate in the recent years has also benefitted from DEFRA grants paid by the tax payer to help with irrigation. How can they justify trashing this?

Those few, who have been fortunate enough to inherit the estate have a responsibility as custodians of the land, to consider all who live here, the residents and community, but also the diverse and abundant wildlife that thrives in this area.

Huge profit for the landowner, shareholders and energy companies drives this industrialisation under the pretence of advancement and

green energy, but in reality, these developments carry huge risks and potential harms and will undoubtedly render the land unfarmable and undo all Erics hard work. This is pure environmental vandalism.

How can we make such a huge sacrifice for such little return, as we know from a recent European Banking report and studies from Stamford University, Solar is only truly effective in certain climates. The UK climate ranks as second worse only to Iceland.

This Solar Industrial Factory won't benefit the immediate community, and the little energy generated is likely to be used to help power Europe via the Viking Link interconnectors. We know that the panels are largely ineffective in our UK climate and the technology is likely to be outdated by the time the project is complete.

The real risk of permanent toxins leaching into our soil and water sources, fires that take days to extinguish and harm to wildlife is just too great a risk. We owe it to our children but also those who farmed the land before, to do better. We have 3 children in their twenties and if this project goes ahead they will be nearing retirement before this land is handed back and even then, it will not be farmable. We look around many old industrial areas that have been abandoned and this is what awaits Scopwick and the surrounding villages.

In our changing political landscape and the very real concerns about this country's food security it is reckless and short sighted to be using up huge swathes of productive good grade farmland in an experiment and rush to the unachievable Net Zero. This is a political driven agenda. Our politicians should be more focused on Debt Zero than Net Zero. This current agenda will only destroy huge swathes of farmland and beautiful countryside

The government should be legislating for new buildings and construction to encompass green energy where possible, putting panels on unused industrial roof tops and car parks instead of this madness.

This community is totally against the Springwell project, those who object have been accused of nimbyism, but this is a group of informed, intelligent people who have researched the data and taken a great deal of time to study the subject and speak to professionals and academics. We are against this practice of using good grade agricultural land for industrial solar 'factories' anywhere in the UK.

We do not have the funds to fight this multinational million-dollar machine, but we hope you will listen to the wishes of the people who will have to live with this scar on the landscape but most of all we hope you will listen to common sense.

As the planning inspector you need to do the right thing, and this doesn't mean doing what Ed Miliband dictates.

Thank you once again for listening to our concerns.

Welcomed the opportunity to raise our concerns directly with the Planning Inspector. There is real concern around the independence of this process and there is a sense that whilst this is a costly exercise it will ultimately end with EDF getting the go ahead to ruin this beautiful area. We place our faith in the inspector and only hope our views are given as much weight. It was good to see the Rule 8 letter which highlights the real concerns with this application.

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