

Subject: Objection to the Springwell Solar Application

I am writing to register my strong objection to the Springwell Solar Farm application. While I recognise the need for renewable energy, this proposal is deeply flawed and profoundly damaging to the landscape, our food-producing capacity, and the democratic integrity of local planning.

1. Local Decision-Making Undermined

Perhaps the most distressing aspect of this application is the fact that the final decision appears to lie far beyond local hands. Residents who live, work, and care for this area are effectively being sidelined. It feels as though we are living under a dictatorship, where top-down decisions are imposed regardless of local opinion, environmental context, or long-term consequences. This is not democratic planning—it is authoritarian imposition.

The process leaves residents feeling powerless, ignored, and vulnerable—like we are being burgled in our own homes, with our landscape, peace, and way of life being taken from us without consent or recourse.

2. Loss of Valuable Farmland

The proposal would see high-grade agricultural land—the very foundation of our national food security—covered with solar panels for decades. Once industrialised, this land may never return to its former quality or use. In a world facing climate instability and rising global food demand, it is reckless to permanently sacrifice productive land when alternative energy solutions exist.

3. Visual and Community Impact

The scale of the development will dramatically alter the rural identity of the area. Local residents will be forced to live beside an industrial energy site, with constant visual intrusion, security fencing, and potential light and noise impacts from associated infrastructure. The impact on mental well-being and community identity should not be underestimated.

4. Battery Storage Risks

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), which are typically included in developments of this scale, pose serious fire and explosion risks. Placing them close to homes or villages is unacceptable without rigorous, proven safety protocols and proper separation zones. Communities should not be used as testing grounds for technology still being understood.

5. Missed Opportunities for Rooftop Solar

Why are we targeting countryside fields before maximising urban rooftops? Schools, factories, supermarkets, and new buildings remain largely untouched. The government has repeatedly stated the importance of prioritising rooftop solar, yet developers are incentivised to cover cheaper farmland instead. This is not smart policy—it is opportunistic land exploitation dressed up as climate action.

6. Environmental Greenwashing

Claims of biodiversity gain and ecological improvements are routinely used to sell these projects. In reality, soil health, water retention, and existing wildlife corridors are disrupted or destroyed. Once compacted by industrial development, land rarely recovers fully. Real environmentalism protects the natural landscape—not replaces it with steel and gravel.

Conclusion

The Springwell Solar Farm application fails on multiple fronts: food security, democratic accountability, landscape protection, and community safety. Worse still, it leaves local residents feeling voiceless, vulnerable, and disrespected—as though our homes and heritage are simply obstacles in the way of corporate profit.

I urge you to reject this application, and to call for a planning approach that empowers communities, protects farmland, and prioritises rooftop solar where it belongs—on buildings, not on the backbone of our agricultural economy.

Yours sincerely,

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