

It is difficult to know where to start on how to convey comments regarding the Springwell Solar Farm, or more accurately identified as the Springwell Solar Industrial Complex. I live in a Grade 2 listed barn diagonally adjacent to the proposed Springwell East site and am very concerned about this project from personal, local and national points of view. I genuinely believe that whatever I write in this representation nobody is listening to the people most affected by the solar project. From a personal point of view the visual impact of the proposal during its construction and lifetime will be highly detrimental to my well-being. Not only will the site be constantly in view of my property but the loss of amenity, increased traffic, construction noise, light pollution and safety concerns, where [REDACTED], are of great concern.

I attended the recent hearings of the planning inspectorate and was left very discouraged by the applicant's legal and expert witness statements regarding visual impact and construction turmoil. How is it that one visual impact expert has decided what is acceptable when hundreds of local residents, with perfectly good eyesight and taste, find his opinion at odds with theirs? How can the applicant's legal team assure us about construction traffic noise and increased traffic pressure when the area's roads are busy now?

The construction of this complex, which I believe will take 4 years, will prevent me from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] By the time the project is completed I will be nearly [REDACTED] not exactly the right time to take up [REDACTED] a blighted former rural landscape. So much for my continuing mental and physical health!

The above comments, of course, apply to all the local population and, indeed, visitors who enjoy beautiful walks in the countryside.

The sheer scale of this project, along with many other projects being foisted on Lincolnshire, is staggering, and I fervently believe that is a deliberate ploy by the project leaderships to qualify for NSIP status, thus circumventing local democracy and preventing the affected population from access to the decision-making process. Frankly, in spite of "cosmetic" consultation with local people, the government minister responsible will be the final arbiter, no matter what locals think about these huge industrial infrastructure projects. Further, after all the meetings, submissions from all parties and findings by the planning inspectorate, only one man's opinion matters, and I would wager that he has already made up his mind to approve the Springwell project.

The local impact of the Springwell project will likely have a deleterious effect on house prices, increased flood risk in Scopwick village and loss of habitat for wildlife. The increase in local road traffic in and around the village of Scopwick will become a serious safety concern for every local, and it's bad enough already.

Nationally, Lincolnshire provides some 12% of the nation's food. The loss of good quality agricultural land, especially at a time of increased international tension, is very shortsighted. It is claimed that only 1% of land will be used for solar projects nationally, but that is not 1% of agricultural land, certainly not in the county of Lincolnshire. Springwell is using Grades 2, 2a, 2b and 3 agricultural land, quality land that will be out of commission for 40 years and no idea when that land will be useful again for growing food, if ever. The previous government stated that such land would not be used for solar power production, unless absolutely unavoidable. The latest maps showing proposed solar energy sites in Lincolnshire make a total mockery of the previous government's intentions. Does this government care? Clearly not!

There are hundreds of thousands of acres of industrial roof space that could be used to provide solar based electricity. There are "brownfield" sites in our cities that could be used for solar power generation. The government wants to build 1.5 million new homes in this parliament, why not mandate solar panels be constructed on those new homes? Of course, the big multinationals and start-up speculators behind these giant solar projects would miss out on large profits as the gains would be made for local people. Just think what that would mean for electricity bills and for food security for the UK populace. Sadly, joined up thinking is something that "UK Plc" is not very good at!

Our government claims these projects are necessary to achieve Net Zero by 2030, but what is really happening is that we are "exporting" our CO2 pollution abroad. Springwell claim that their solar panels will come from East Asia, which I believe means China. The government assures the people of the UK that "slave labour" produced solar equipment will not be used by Great British Energy. Where else is EDF Energy going to acquire cheap solar panels from? GB Energy will be able to claim they have not sullied their hands with [REDACTED] produced equipment as EDF did it! We all know where this equipment is coming from and it's not pricey, more efficient equipment from Europe! Chinese solar panels made in NE China [REDACTED], powered by coal-fired energy and transported to the UK in diesel powered ships should not sit easily with our Western ideals of human rights and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for lecturing the World about climate change. In conclusion, I have written and stated much of the above before but it needs to be reiterated. I make no apology for this as I do not expect anyone to take note of anything I write or say. I believe this whole whole farago is a waste of time as the decision has already been made. Nevertheless, thank you for letting me have my chance to offer my opinion regarding the disaster about to befall our community.