

## **Scopwick & Kirkby Green Parish Council Response to Springwell**

**20054456**

Marc Williams Chairman of Scopwick & Kirkby Parish Council, we formally express our opposition to the Springwell Solar Application. While we recognize the importance of reliable energy sources and the need to address that the climate is continually changing. However as a Parish we fundamentally disagree with the applicants approach and disregard for the impact this development will have on the rural community.

We don't want to revisit points already covered in previous submissions however we want to highlight this key points

1. Impact on Local Environment: The proposed site for this solar factory is located in an area of significant natural beauty and ecological importance. This is the best farmland in the country, which has the benefit of irrigation. The provision of irrigation is also benefitting other local farms. The estate should not be permitted to essentially take out such quality land from the production of important crops now and into the future. If we are to believe that climate change is real then as a country we should ensure that the UK can produce a significant amount of its own food

2. Visual and Aesthetic Impact: The installation of a large-scale solar farm will alter the rural character of our community. The visual impact on the landscape, which is cherished by residents and visitors alike, cannot be overlooked. The proposed development would be visible from several key viewpoints, detracting from the natural beauty of the area. 3.5 meter Panels, 6m Collector compounds, Vehicle compounds, Hoardings down the A15, High Fencing, CCTV and lighting.

The Applicant can not mitigate this and keeps talking about 10years. This is an extremely long period of time. To wait for hedges to grow.

3. Agricultural Land Use: The land designated for the solar farm is currently used for agricultural purposes. Transitioning this land to industrial use could have long-term implications for local food production and the agricultural economy. We believe that preserving agricultural land is crucial for maintaining food security and supporting local farmers. The grading of the land is highly questionable and we do not believe there has been any independent oversight. In these large scale NSIPS the applicant should be compelled to provide the ability for interested parties to access the samples and to test it independently.

4. Significant risk reference the Flooding caused by Panels and damage to old clay drainage, BESS and contamination to the Lincolnshire Aquifer

5. Community Consultation: We have always raised concerns about the lack of meaningful consultation with the local community. As we have heard today there are so many aspects of this application that still are not clearly defined. As consequence we are discussing so many elements that are not clear.

Many residents feel that their voices have not been heard, and there is a strong sentiment against the proposed development. We still have not been able to facilitate an event that is within the community where everyone is able to access the inspector.

6. Alternative Solutions: We Have always encouraged the exploration of alternative sites and solutions that would have less impact on the environment and the community. There may be other locations more suitable for solar development that do not compromise valuable agricultural land or natural habitats.

In conclusion, while we support the transition to a more efficient energy source, we believe that the Springwell Solar Application, as it stands, is not in the best interest of our community. There are much more reliance and efficient means of generating energy now and into the future.

**We urge the planning authorities to consider our concerns and reject this application.**