

Scopwick Parish Council Response to Fosse Green

Good evening,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am Chair of Scopwick & Kirkby Green Parish Council and am representing our wonderful community.

Over the next few days, you will hear many impassioned statements imploring you to refuse this application. We truly hope you take onboard our views. There are so many people who fear this is simply a rubberstamping exercise. We truly hope it isn't. There are also a significant number of people who have been disenfranchised from this exercise due to the scheduling.

As you will have seen from the number of people who registered to be Interested Parties the overwhelming feeling in this community is that Fosse Green Solar is the wrong solution in the wrong place. Over the last 36 months we have constantly sought the views of our community, and the overwhelming majority are totally against this proposed solar factory.

We are here today because our communities are under threat — and it's time we called it out for what it is: an attack on the best agricultural land, our communities and the environment by speculators.

Over the next few days, you won't hear many people supporting this monstrous development, but you will hear many passionate views against it, there will undoubtedly be some repetition, but all these voices should be heard.

Solar factories are being pushed onto our doorstep by developers who don't care about our community or the wider county of Lincolnshire — they care about lining their own pockets. They dress it up with fancy words like “green energy”, “sustainability” and “biodiversity net Gain” but make no mistake, this is nothing more than industrialisation of the countryside, pure and simple

It is also very clear that the current owners of this land have turned their backs on agriculture and their reputations of being good landowners.

Once the fields are carpeted under glass and steel, we won't get them back. At a time when food security is more critical than ever, we should be growing crops, not growing profits for distant corporations. There are suggestions that at the end of 60 years the land will be handed back to agriculture. I think we all know this is nonsense, the developers can't demonstrate a single site where this has happened. On the contrary there are sites that have been impacted by fire, hurricanes etc that have just been abandoned creating a complete eyesore. There are many sites across the world that have been left blighted by industry which will never be decontaminated and return to its original state. These are the types of locations that are in fact perfect for Solar. In the coming days and in submissions to the inspector there will be evidence put forward that highlight quite clearly the potential damage to the land during the construction

phase, the operational phase and the potential decommissioning phase. A key point we would like to raise is what bonds or insurances will be put in place to cover decommissioning and any other disasters that occur due to this development in the 60-year lifecycle?

On the surface, solar energy is portrayed as a clean green solution. Well, that's what this applicant would like us all to believe. The reality is very different. As we are all aware the majority of Solar Panels and much of the equipment for the Batteries comes from China and exploitative mining in Africa. The applicant is also being [REDACTED] with the generation and output figures expected from Fosse Green. We all know the UK climate is not conducive for Solar, yes it has limited scope on roof tops, but it is certainly not a solution for a leading economy.

The applicant has been pushed at every open meeting and in multiple submissions to disclose where the panels and other materials will be sourced, and they have declined to comment. Canadian Solar has [REDACTED] to China and the region which has been identified as exploiting slave labour.

In 2026 we should be better than this and no product should be sourced from markets where slave labour is prevalent.

Our understanding is a primary goal of any planning consent is the applications should do no HARM. This application is a scar on the area, it will destroy a significant amount of prime farmland, it will forever spoil the tranquil landscape that so many of us enjoy and it will have a significant impact on many people's wellbeing.

We would like to address a few key points.

Cumulative Effects

Our community works hard to support the environment and as a parish we have supported schemes that promote the drive to a greener future. This and the other proposed schemes in this area do nothing to support the environment or enrich our lives. Whilst the inspector is only examining the Fosse Green application it is incumbent on the planning team to not consider this application in isolation, within a very small radius there are a number of biomass facilities, more planned, there are several small solar sites already in operation, one NSIP Solar facility already granted in Heckington Fen, 3 more including Fosse Green, Leoda and Springwell at the planning phase, several large scale BESS sites, one associated with Fosse Green and at least another 2 also in the planning phase and finally a National Grid Substation also entering the planning phase. This will result in the decimation of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land and will turn a beautiful landscape into a huge industrial complex. The Planning Inspector must take onboard the cumulative effects of all these applications on North Kesteven and the wider Lincolnshire County. A county that relies heavily on agriculture and tourism. If consent is given the impact on both will be devastating.

Battery Storage & Risk

The applicant within this development is proposing a significant BESS. As with other applications the current applicant is once again being very vague on detail and using the Rochdale Envelope principal to avoid scrutiny. We need to know precise details of what is coming, where it will be located and detailed specifications on how issues will be dealt with. Currently all of this is very vague. We don't need to investigate the annals of history to see the impacts of when BESS facilities go wrong. Moss Landing in the US and Statera Energy in Essex, Carnegie Road BESS in Liverpool. Windel, Recurrent or Canadian Solar will try and say they are different, and we should simply trust them. This can't seriously be a reasonable route through planning. Our community need 100% guarantees that No Harm will be done to the environment, water courses and the communities if a fire was to occur. There are no details in the application that mitigate the real risk we will face. Even the minimal detail provided is an attempt to minimise any potential risk. For example, enough water to suppress a fire for a few hours. The evidence on BESS fires shows fires lasting significantly longer than a few hours, more likely 4 days.

There is a real Risk of a BESS fire Contamination. This would lead to Chemical Leaks and Groundwater Contamination of hazardous materials, including heavy metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganese.

Contamination would be permanent or very long-lasting. Drinking water supplies, agriculture, and ecosystems would all be affected. Cleanup of contamination would be extremely expensive and often technically impossible without years or decades of remediation. Is the Applicant able guaranteeing to do this? If we look at the financials supporting this business it is set up in such a way as to have limited assets.

Landscape & Visual Impact

There is no reasonable person who can say this development won't have a devastating impact on the landscape. The walks will now be channelled walks through fenced off alleys, with hedges grown to hide the unsightly panels and substations, CCTV Cameras patrolling and monitoring activity, lighting and noise from the substations and wildlife displaced. This will no longer be a beautiful countryside. It will be an industrial complex. The impact on the community's wellbeing will be significant.

Grid Connection

There is no current grid connection available to the Fosse Green application. It is relying on the National Grid substation application being approved at NKDC. This is certainly not a given as there is strong opposition to that proposal. It appears many applicants are in a race to submit applications when there is no mechanism to deliver the energy to the grid.

Community Benefit

If this application and the other applications that are coming quick and fast are foolishly granted, then this area will be a construction site for nearly 10 years. There will be construction traffic, noise, dust and disturbance impacting so many people. Whilst we don't want the application to succeed, as a Parish we need to consider what benefits

we could negotiate for our community. In all of these applications the applicants freeze when communities talk about real compensation rather than tokens. When we suggest free electric for every house within the catchment for the lifetime of this development. They feel that is an unreasonable request! Is it, when you consider the damage, they are causing to our communities.

What has the applicant suggested as community benefit fund? If it is anything like the Springwell Application it was derisory. Our first comment is this figure should be considerable and it should be managed directly by this community, it should also be index linked and should be payable from the point the first shovel enters the ground. It should not be managed by County or any other faceless body who essentially determines what they want to spend our compensation on. This community should administer this for our community's benefit!

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the concerns of the parish council. Let me wrap up by saying.

Solar Industrial Factories are not the harmless developments they are advertised to be. They tear up the landscape, disrupt wildlife habitats, and replace living fields with dead panels. It makes no sense to cover up fertile farmland with energy projects that could easily be placed on rooftops, brownfield sites, and less sensitive land. We are now seeing the devastation of these schemes and there is plenty of footage of the recently opened Cleve Hill development which really highlights that these are anything but good for the landscape or wildlife.

The truth is simple. Solar factories in Lincolnshire are not about saving the planet. They're about exploiting cheap land and exploiting weak planning laws to make money.

Let's be clear: Lincolnshire's strength is in its land, its food, and its beauty. We should protect it fiercely — for ourselves, for future generations, and for the nation.

Thank you.