

Submission ID: S5B38BC86

These comments are in response to the Applicant's document REP4-018

## Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council - Interested Party Ref: [REDACTED]

### Fosse Green Energy (FGE) – Deadline 5

The Parish Council (PC) notes the responses provided by the applicant in REP4-018 in response to points made by the PC at deadlines 3 and 3a. However, the PC wishes to pursue some of the points further because it believes they have received inadequate consideration. The following sections explain those points.

#### 1. Public Rights of Way

At Deadline 3 Thorpe on Hill (TOH) Parish Council's (PC) submission REP3-059 proposed a series of measures to mitigate the impact of the solar arrays on the two Stepping Out routes that exist in the village. The PC continues to stress the value placed on these routes by local residents and visitors to the area.

The PC notes the Applicant's response in the recently published document REP4-018, entitled 9.24 Applicant's Response to Deadline 3 and 3a submissions.

In their response to this proposal, which was offered in good faith to try and find a workable compromise, the applicant has rejected the scheme and has suggested that work-arounds in the form of new permissive paths provide an equally suitable, and perhaps enhanced alternative. These new permissive paths which the Applicant states will be defined in detail in a deadline 5 submission are clearly unavailable for scrutiny at this point, and therefore it is impossible to offer comments.

The PC broadly welcomes the creation of new permissive paths, but considers that those indicated to date are of primary benefit to the temporary residents of Cathedral View Holiday Park, rather than effective replacements for the loss of key parts of the Stepping Out routes.

The mitigation proposal stressed the importance of routes and key views. It is also the case that certain sections of the routes are more frequently used than others due to their proximity to the village and these factors were embodied in the mitigation proposals. The applicant also seems to imply that the PC has failed to take account of certain features and yet the PC used the plans APP 007, APP 008, and APP 022 from the applicant in considering and developing the mitigation proposals.

An examination of REP3-059 leads to a calculation that approximately 34.5 hectares of solar array would be lost if implemented exactly as proposed. From previously declared figures the total area of solar arrays across the whole scheme equals 460 hectares and therefore 7.5% of generating capacity would be lost.

The applicant claims that any loss of output cannot be accepted by making reference to the generic government policies APP-184. This seems over simplistic, but an alternative approach might be to consider the planting ratio, which has been debated at length, with some IP's challenging the requirement for a ratio of 1.6. If the 7.5% reduction is applied this would suggest that the planting ratio would reduce to 1.48 and it seems reasonable to assume that by some adjustment to these mitigation proposals, or by making adjustments elsewhere a planting ratio of 1.5 could be achieved which compared to other solar developments seems an acceptable compromise.

## **2. Community Liaison Group & Community Benefit fund**

In their response to REP3-058 the applicant simply states that the NKDC policy is not mandatory. No explanation has been provided to justify this reduction or explain the factors that were considered to arrive at the proposed reduced sum. In order not reach the default conclusion that the reduced sum is an arbitrary figure which the applicant feels they can get away with, we respectfully request an explanation so that this can be presented to residents and tax payers.

## **3. Population Effects**

### **Construction Hours**

In the PC's Notes from ISH3 Oral submission REP3-057, section 3.3 raised concerns regarding proposed Construction Hours. The applicant appears to have failed to respond to this element of the submission.

  
Chair TOH PC

26/04/26