

OPEN HEARING -MENTAL HEALTH

Hello -My name is Claire Maxwell,I'm a retired GP from here, in Chippenham having looked after the town and the surrounding villages for 20 years.I also live in Alderton.

I oppose Lime Down Solar Park.

I'm particularly concerned about the mental health of the local population and the overwhelming demand this will put on the local services.I note that in the response to the relevant representations by IGP in HH01 there were approximately 750 representations on mental health.

We need to consider the reasons why people have moved to these villages -it may be because they recognise they need the green space,the tranquillity,the walking or cycling for their mental health.

The IGP suggestion that maintaining old, or making new permissive footpaths with 4.5m panels "often only one side". Or planting that will take 15 years to grow, will mitigate the loss of visual amenity , green space and calm, seems derisory.

This plan is actually 5 separate solar fields and with the other local planned and built solar fields such as Hullavington, Leigh Delamere and Kington St Michael surrounding the villages and the footpaths -there is nowhere for some people to turn. I think cumulative effect makes this plan different to some of the other schemes.

I'm concerned that the noise will also affect the people's mental health -this is a profoundly quiet area. The noise will be alien and people will notice in their homes and when out walking. The Bess will cause noise at night particularly affecting Bradfield Manor. There is good evidence that low grade noise can increase stress hormones and can be a factor in depression, anxiety and behavioural problems in children.

Wiltshire public health has suggested following Suffolk County councils community engagement and wellbeing guidance for climate and energy adaptive infrastructure policy.

Assessing this :I feel there has been very little involvement or collaboration in developing the scheme.

I can see no contact by Island Green Power to the local mental health charities or AWP(the mental health provider in the area) IGP suggest that either they, or a local panel of representatives will signpost members of the public to a list of existing services. There is no mention of increased demand or availability.

My experience is that due to a lack of availability this may well end up with local Gp's .We know how busy they already are.

Their options include:

Referring to social prescribers in the practice -who may use Green Prescribing -this is prescribing nature and exercise (useful in this circumstance).

Alternatively GP's can refer to CBT or counselling -already overrun services.

Or medication

This isn't just for the construction phase -this is for a lifetime for many.