



Event Transcript

| | |
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| Project: | Green Hill Solar Farm |
| Event: | Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2) – Part 1 |
| Date: | 10 December 2025 |

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

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The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the event.

created by event.video

1
00:00:08.265 --> 00:00:09.075
Well good morning.

2
00:00:09.815 --> 00:00:13.315
Um, it is now 10:00 AM and time for this hearing.

3
00:00:13.415 --> 00:00:16.115
To begin, I would like to welcome you all

4
00:00:16.415 --> 00:00:20.955
to this open floor hearing, um, which you may find referred

5
00:00:20.975 --> 00:00:23.915
to as OFH two, uh,

6
00:00:23.915 --> 00:00:26.875
for the Green Hill Solar Farm Project.

7
00:00:28.015 --> 00:00:31.755
Um, could I just confirm that everybody can hear me clearly?

8
00:00:32.215 --> 00:00:34.275
Um, starting in the room. Thank you.

9
00:00:34.395 --> 00:00:35.435
I can see a couple of nods.

10
00:00:35.855 --> 00:00:39.715
Um, and online if somebody could,

11
00:00:39.815 --> 00:00:40.875
uh, sort of raise a hand.

12
00:00:40.945 --> 00:00:41.995
Yeah. Great. Thank you.

13
00:00:43.335 --> 00:00:46.995
Um, and can I also confirm with the case manager

14
00:00:47.105 --> 00:00:48.355
that the live streaming

15
00:00:48.415 --> 00:00:50.795
and recording of this event has commenced?

16
00:00:51.125 --> 00:00:54.555
Thank you. My name is Mark Harrison.

17
00:00:55.075 --> 00:00:58.115
I am a planning inspector and a charter town planner.

18
00:00:58.915 --> 00:01:01.315
I have been appointed by the Secretary of State

19
00:01:01.495 --> 00:01:06.395
to be the lead panel member to examine this application.

20
00:01:07.095 --> 00:01:09.075
I'm now going to ask the other panel members

21
00:01:09.215 --> 00:01:10.395
to introduce themselves.

22
00:01:11.545 --> 00:01:13.855
Thank you. Good morning. My name's Rebecca Norman.

23
00:01:14.115 --> 00:01:16.495
I'm a chartered town planner and examining inspector.

24
00:01:16.845 --> 00:01:18.255
I've been appointed as a panel member

25
00:01:18.255 --> 00:01:19.335
of the examining authority.

26
00:01:22.545 --> 00:01:24.275
Good morning. My name is Catherine Bebe.

27
00:01:24.295 --> 00:01:26.395

I'm a town planner and an examining inspector.

28

00:01:27.025 --> 00:01:28.635

I've been appointed as a panel member

29

00:01:28.655 --> 00:01:29.875

of the examining authority.

30

00:01:31.535 --> 00:01:33.515

So together we constitute the examining

31

00:01:33.515 --> 00:01:34.915

authority for this application.

32

00:01:35.495 --> 00:01:37.195

Our role is to examine the application

33

00:01:37.655 --> 00:01:40.435

and to report to the Secretary of State for energy security

34

00:01:40.575 --> 00:01:43.555

and net zero with a recommendation as to whether

35

00:01:43.555 --> 00:01:45.915

or not the development consent order should be made.

36

00:01:47.295 --> 00:01:48.835

I'd also like to introduce the members

37

00:01:48.835 --> 00:01:50.635

of the Planning Inspectorates case team

38

00:01:50.735 --> 00:01:51.995

who are supporting us today.

39

00:01:52.655 --> 00:01:54.195

You may have already spoken with them.

40

00:01:54.855 --> 00:01:57.315

We have in the room Ryan Sedgman, who is case manager

41
00:01:57.335 --> 00:01:59.195
for this project, and Jessica Dunlop,

42
00:01:59.195 --> 00:02:00.675
who is a student placement.

43
00:02:01.825 --> 00:02:02.875
Another case officer.

44
00:02:03.105 --> 00:02:05.875
Officer Stu Stevens is providing support for those

45
00:02:05.875 --> 00:02:07.075
of you joining us online.

46
00:02:08.055 --> 00:02:10.915
In addition, technicians from the Audio Visual Company event

47
00:02:10.915 --> 00:02:13.635
video and TM services are in attendance solely

48
00:02:13.735 --> 00:02:15.275
for the purpose of managing the recording

49
00:02:15.275 --> 00:02:16.595
and live streaming of this hearing.

50
00:02:18.785 --> 00:02:20.635
I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters.

51
00:02:20.695 --> 00:02:21.835
For those attending in person,

52
00:02:23.015 --> 00:02:24.795
can everyone please set all devices

53
00:02:25.015 --> 00:02:28.765
and phones to silent Toilets are located

54
00:02:28.795 --> 00:02:29.965

just outside this room.

55

00:02:30.665 --> 00:02:32.765

No fire alarm test is planned for today,

56

00:02:32.905 --> 00:02:34.925

so if we hear the fire alarm, we will need

57

00:02:34.925 --> 00:02:36.725

to make our way out through the doors at the rear

58

00:02:36.725 --> 00:02:40.005

of this room to the assembly area, which is the carpark.

59

00:02:41.175 --> 00:02:45.085

Thank you. I'll now move on

60

00:02:45.085 --> 00:02:46.405

to briefly talk about the agenda

61

00:02:46.425 --> 00:02:47.805

and logistics for this hearing.

62

00:02:49.265 --> 00:02:50.565

We published a short agenda

63

00:02:50.625 --> 00:02:52.245

for this hearing on the 1st of December

64

00:02:52.675 --> 00:02:56.925

with an examination library reference of EV 9 0 0 1.

65

00:02:58.225 --> 00:03:00.765

The purpose of this hearing is to hear the representations

66

00:03:00.785 --> 00:03:03.245

of interested parties who have registered

67

00:03:03.245 --> 00:03:05.405

to make oral representations elaborating

68
00:03:05.425 --> 00:03:06.565
on their written representation.

69
00:03:06.865 --> 00:03:10.885
To date, the order in which you'll be invited

70
00:03:10.945 --> 00:03:12.205
to speak will follow the list

71
00:03:12.485 --> 00:03:13.645
provided to us by the case team.

72
00:03:16.115 --> 00:03:18.645
Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way,

73
00:03:18.645 --> 00:03:21.405
meaning some of you are present with us at the hearing venue

74
00:03:21.905 --> 00:03:23.565
and some of you are joining us virtually

75
00:03:23.565 --> 00:03:24.805
using Microsoft Teams.

76
00:03:25.905 --> 00:03:27.845
We will make sure that however you've decided

77
00:03:27.905 --> 00:03:29.925
to attend today, you'll be given a fair

78
00:03:29.925 --> 00:03:31.685
opportunity to participate.

79
00:03:34.065 --> 00:03:36.665
A recording of today's hearing will be made available on the

80
00:03:36.665 --> 00:03:37.905
Greenhills project section

81
00:03:37.905 --> 00:03:41.105

of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon

82

00:03:41.125 --> 00:03:43.265

as practicable after the hearing has finished.

83

00:03:44.295 --> 00:03:45.905

With this in mind, please ensure

84

00:03:45.905 --> 00:03:48.745

that you speak clearly into a microphone stating your name

85

00:03:48.805 --> 00:03:50.385

and who you are representing please

86

00:03:52.585 --> 00:03:53.865

a link to the planning inspector.

87

00:03:53.965 --> 00:03:55.105

Its privacy notice was

88

00:03:55.425 --> 00:03:57.145

provided in the notification for this hearing.

89

00:03:57.765 --> 00:04:00.385

We assume that everybody here today has familiarized

90

00:04:00.385 --> 00:04:02.825

themselves with this document, which establishes

91

00:04:02.825 --> 00:04:05.345

how the personal data of our customers is handled in

92

00:04:05.345 --> 00:04:07.065

accordance with the principles set out

93

00:04:07.085 --> 00:04:08.225

in data protection laws.

94

00:04:08.845 --> 00:04:10.465

Please speak to the case manager if

95
00:04:10.465 --> 00:04:11.505
you have any questions about this.

96
00:04:13.695 --> 00:04:15.555
So now to briefly explain the purpose

97
00:04:15.575 --> 00:04:16.915
of this open floor hearing,

98
00:04:18.025 --> 00:04:19.955
open floor hearings are your opportunity

99
00:04:20.095 --> 00:04:22.275
to raise anything directly to the examining

100
00:04:22.275 --> 00:04:25.475
and thought authority that is re sorry that is important

101
00:04:25.535 --> 00:04:26.875
and relevant and

102
00:04:26.875 --> 00:04:28.755
that you think we should know about and consider.

103
00:04:30.105 --> 00:04:32.715
They're not about a particular location locational topic.

104
00:04:33.455 --> 00:04:36.435
The topic of your representations about the proposals is

105
00:04:36.435 --> 00:04:37.555
therefore up to yourself.

106
00:04:40.235 --> 00:04:43.055
We are familiar with your representations, so when speaking,

107
00:04:43.315 --> 00:04:44.895
you don't need to repeat these at length.

108
00:04:45.845 --> 00:04:48.415

What we are seeking is for you to provide further detail

109

00:04:48.435 --> 00:04:51.175

or evidence to help us understand these issues

110

00:04:52.515 --> 00:04:53.975

To make best of use of time.

111

00:04:53.995 --> 00:04:56.335

And whilst we're not wishing to limit contributions,

112

00:04:56.475 --> 00:04:57.895

it will be of great assistance.

113

00:04:57.915 --> 00:05:01.095

If points were not repeated, you can rest assured

114

00:05:01.095 --> 00:05:03.415

that we will have understood the points made the first time.

115

00:05:05.355 --> 00:05:08.175

We do not intend on setting a strict time limit on people's

116

00:05:08.295 --> 00:05:10.775

speaking, but as stated in the published agenda,

117

00:05:11.555 --> 00:05:13.695

we would ask that your submissions are concise

118

00:05:13.695 --> 00:05:14.855

and to the point and

119

00:05:14.855 --> 00:05:16.895

to be concluded within about 10 minutes.

120

00:05:18.155 --> 00:05:21.175

If many unregistered people wish to speak, then we may have

121

00:05:21.175 --> 00:05:22.335

to introduce a time limit.

122
00:05:24.045 --> 00:05:26.775
Once you've spoken, the panel may wish to ask you questions.

123
00:05:28.525 --> 00:05:31.055
Finally, the applicant will be given an opportunity

124
00:05:31.155 --> 00:05:34.135
to respond to any matters raised once all speakers have been

125
00:05:34.135 --> 00:05:35.655
heard either orally

126
00:05:35.655 --> 00:05:37.455
or in writing by deadline three,

127
00:05:37.505 --> 00:05:39.095
which is the 17th of December.

128
00:05:40.795 --> 00:05:42.935
For those attending virtually, can I request that

129
00:05:42.935 --> 00:05:44.255
to minimize background noise?

130
00:05:44.395 --> 00:05:45.975
You make sure that you stay muted

131
00:05:46.115 --> 00:05:47.735
and with your camera turned off.

132
00:05:49.515 --> 00:05:51.635
I would also ask that when it is your turn to speak,

133
00:05:51.635 --> 00:05:53.035
please turn your camera on

134
00:05:54.095 --> 00:05:55.635
and can I also remind people

135
00:05:55.635 --> 00:05:57.605

that the chat function on Microsoft

136

00:05:57.605 --> 00:05:58.925

Teams has been switched off?

137

00:05:59.305 --> 00:06:02.085

So please do not try to use this to ask any questions

138

00:06:02.145 --> 00:06:03.165

or post any comments.

139

00:06:03.335 --> 00:06:07.485

Thank you. It is perfectly normal for people

140

00:06:07.545 --> 00:06:09.565

to feel nervous when having to speak in public.

141

00:06:09.785 --> 00:06:12.205

Please be reassured that we completely understand

142

00:06:12.305 --> 00:06:14.045

and that you, if you stumble over your words

143

00:06:14.105 --> 00:06:17.245

or need to repeat something, this isn't a problem at all.

144

00:06:19.195 --> 00:06:21.085

Does anyone have any questions on the speaking

145

00:06:21.085 --> 00:06:22.405

process in the room?

146

00:06:22.475 --> 00:06:23.205

Firstly, please.

147

00:06:27.515 --> 00:06:28.615

So I can't see any hands.

148

00:06:28.995 --> 00:06:30.935

Um, and turning now to everyone online,

149
00:06:31.035 --> 00:06:32.135
are there any questions please?

150
00:06:36.895 --> 00:06:40.305
Okay, thank you. So we'll now move on

151
00:06:40.305 --> 00:06:41.425
to the next agenda item.

152
00:06:42.245 --> 00:06:44.785
Um, before we hear from any speakers, can I ask

153
00:06:44.885 --> 00:06:47.185
who will be speaking for the applicant today please?

154
00:06:52.325 --> 00:06:53.795
Thank you. So that's, that's Claire

155
00:06:53.795 --> 00:06:55.035
Rodrick, um, for the applicant.

156
00:06:55.035 --> 00:06:55.355
Thank you.

157
00:07:03.875 --> 00:07:06.795
I will shortly invite representations from those interested

158
00:07:06.795 --> 00:07:09.035
parties who gave the requested notice to us

159
00:07:09.035 --> 00:07:10.235
of their intention to speak.

160
00:07:11.375 --> 00:07:13.515
Can I check that we have present either in

161
00:07:13.515 --> 00:07:14.595
the room or online?

162
00:07:15.215 --> 00:07:18.905

Um, firstly Michael Chapman, please. Yes, thank you.

163
00:07:20.215 --> 00:07:23.045
I've got Philip Mason. Thank you.

164
00:07:24.345 --> 00:07:27.725
Juliet Jarvis, please. Thanks Phillip.

165
00:07:27.725 --> 00:07:32.265
Anthony Marion Turner Halls. Thank you.

166
00:07:34.065 --> 00:07:38.515
Victoria Smith. Oh, sorry.

167
00:07:38.515 --> 00:07:40.035
Uh, yes, I understand that you're also giving

168
00:07:40.135 --> 00:07:41.715
Judith call's representation.

169
00:07:41.815 --> 00:07:45.955
Is that correct? Yeah, that's fine. Linda Toy. Thank you.

170
00:07:46.095 --> 00:07:47.395
Um, I understand you're also giving

171
00:07:47.395 --> 00:07:48.755
Catherine Wilson's representation.

172
00:07:48.895 --> 00:07:53.285
Thanks, Chris Robinson. Angela Parker.

173
00:07:55.345 --> 00:07:59.045
Yes, online. Thank you. Dawn Partridge.

174
00:08:05.755 --> 00:08:07.975
I can't see, do we still?

175
00:08:12.835 --> 00:08:14.745
Sorry, do you Yes.

176
00:08:14.765 --> 00:08:16.465
Is is Dawn Partridge in the room please?

177
00:08:16.545 --> 00:08:18.425
I don't, oh, yes, sorry, Dawn?

178
00:08:18.525 --> 00:08:22.915
Yes, yes, sorry.

179
00:08:22.935 --> 00:08:27.265
In Partridge, sorry.

180
00:08:27.475 --> 00:08:28.505
Sorry, what was that please?

181
00:08:33.565 --> 00:08:38.265
Okay, do you wish to speak this morning? Okay, that's fine.

182
00:08:39.525 --> 00:08:44.205
Okay. Um,

183
00:08:44.515 --> 00:08:45.885
I've got Gary Elliot please.

184
00:08:46.295 --> 00:08:49.455
Thank you. Um, Sheila English

185
00:08:50.635 --> 00:08:51.775
and Sheena Howell.

186
00:08:52.265 --> 00:08:57.205
Thank you. I can I ask if there's anyone else

187
00:08:57.545 --> 00:09:00.205
either in the room or online who wishes to speak

188
00:09:00.225 --> 00:09:01.565
but did not register, please.

189
00:09:06.275 --> 00:09:09.365

Yeah. Thank you. So I'm now going

190

00:09:09.365 --> 00:09:11.205
to invite those registered party parties

191

00:09:11.345 --> 00:09:13.205
to speak when I read out your name.

192

00:09:13.225 --> 00:09:14.605
If you are in the room, please come

193

00:09:14.605 --> 00:09:16.885
to the table at the front and if online,

194

00:09:16.905 --> 00:09:20.795
please turn your camera on when it's your turn to speak.

195

00:09:20.815 --> 00:09:24.235
If you're in the room, please turn on. Okay.

196

00:09:24.235 --> 00:09:25.955
We think the microphones should be on,

197

00:09:25.955 --> 00:09:28.155
so there should be no need to turn the microphone on

198

00:09:28.155 --> 00:09:29.275
and off as you speak in the room.

199

00:09:29.285 --> 00:09:32.195
Thank you. Um, please start by introducing yourself

200

00:09:32.255 --> 00:09:34.115
and if relevant, who you are representing.

201

00:09:35.095 --> 00:09:36.475
And could I just remind you not

202

00:09:36.475 --> 00:09:38.675
to supply any personal details when speaking?

203

00:09:39.255 --> 00:09:41.395

For example, please do not state your home address,

204

00:09:41.465 --> 00:09:44.035

your age, or any medical conditions you may have.

205

00:09:44.535 --> 00:09:46.635

If you feel that you need to supply such personal

206

00:09:46.635 --> 00:09:48.955

information to us, please talk to the case team about

207

00:09:49.095 --> 00:09:51.355

how this can be done without it going on the public record.

208

00:09:51.445 --> 00:09:56.085

Thank you. So now

209

00:09:56.245 --> 00:09:58.605

turning firstly please to Michael Chapman.

210

00:10:00.635 --> 00:10:04.025

Thank you. If you'd like

211

00:10:04.025 --> 00:10:05.425

to start when you're ready, Mr. Chapman.

212

00:10:05.425 --> 00:10:05.865

Thank you.

213

00:10:19.485 --> 00:10:21.145

Yes, sir. Just to confirm my name,

214

00:10:21.165 --> 00:10:22.265

my name's Michael Chapman.

215

00:10:22.885 --> 00:10:25.465

I'm a member of, uh, Ladon Parish Council.

216

00:10:26.995 --> 00:10:30.925

Um, the, my, uh,

217

00:10:30.925 --> 00:10:33.485

piece today is largely based on the, um,

218

00:10:34.255 --> 00:10:37.085

Ladon Parish Council rep representation report

219

00:10:37.145 --> 00:10:39.285

of November, 2025.

220

00:10:40.105 --> 00:10:44.305

Um, and, um, And I lied

221

00:10:44.305 --> 00:10:46.025

to update you on a recent, uh,

222

00:10:46.025 --> 00:10:48.985

parish council decision based on our review of the progress

223

00:10:49.005 --> 00:10:53.225

of the, um, of the, uh, cons inspection.

224

00:10:53.485 --> 00:10:56.145

And I know, um, from your point of view inspectors,

225

00:10:56.145 --> 00:10:59.025

you've actually, um, inspect, been to Ladon

226

00:10:59.025 --> 00:11:00.345

and seen the fields and the thing,

227

00:11:00.525 --> 00:11:02.025

the area I wanted to speak about.

228

00:11:02.325 --> 00:11:04.265

And, um, and I think, uh,

229

00:11:04.495 --> 00:11:07.065

that might be helpful if any feedback from

230
00:11:07.065 --> 00:11:08.185
you would be useful as well.

231
00:11:08.765 --> 00:11:11.145
Um, but since the proposals

232
00:11:11.245 --> 00:11:13.665
for a solar farm have been made public, um,

233
00:11:14.115 --> 00:11:17.145
Ladon Parish Council have followed developments closely

234
00:11:17.765 --> 00:11:20.025
and attempted to engage professionally

235
00:11:20.045 --> 00:11:22.665
and constructively with Greenhill Solar Farm Limited

236
00:11:22.875 --> 00:11:24.865
concerning, um, their plans

237
00:11:24.925 --> 00:11:26.945
for development within the parish of Ladon.

238
00:11:27.765 --> 00:11:30.225
I'd like to focus on the proposals we have made

239
00:11:30.525 --> 00:11:32.145
for amendments to the proposed scheme,

240
00:11:32.405 --> 00:11:34.425
but also comment on other environmental

241
00:11:34.445 --> 00:11:35.665
and ecological aspects.

242
00:11:37.895 --> 00:11:40.075
As a council, we've communicated the concerns

243
00:11:40.075 --> 00:11:43.075

of the community to the inspection, to the, um, to,

244

00:11:43.175 --> 00:11:46.355

to the applicants on specific aspects of proposal design,

245

00:11:47.035 --> 00:11:49.315

specifically the visual, ecological and flood risk.

246

00:11:49.675 --> 00:11:52.995

I think you've heard comprehensively about some of the, um,

247

00:11:53.385 --> 00:11:55.765

issues about flooding, which concern the village,

248

00:11:55.765 --> 00:11:58.885

particularly since our, uh, flood last year.

249

00:11:59.065 --> 00:12:02.085

And the risk we feel that the solar farm actually, um,

250

00:12:02.085 --> 00:12:04.845

particularly in the area near to the village,

251

00:12:05.285 --> 00:12:08.725

actually places the village in from, from the imposition of,

252

00:12:08.745 --> 00:12:13.045

um, of, of solar farm solar panels in an area.

253

00:12:13.425 --> 00:12:16.405

Um, previously, uh, subject to flooding,

254

00:12:18.755 --> 00:12:20.695

we are disa disappointed.

255

00:12:21.435 --> 00:12:25.375

Um, however, with our discussion with the applicants, um,

256

00:12:26.275 --> 00:12:29.735

we have submitted two representations, had a direct online

257
00:12:29.735 --> 00:12:30.775
with the applicant,

258
00:12:31.435 --> 00:12:33.735
and we are disappointed with the lack of concession

259
00:12:34.075 --> 00:12:35.255
or design amendments

260
00:12:35.255 --> 00:12:38.775
and maintain our view expressed previously that in the

261
00:12:39.295 --> 00:12:41.975
presentation the fields GF 13

262
00:12:42.035 --> 00:12:43.775
and nine should be removed from the scheme,

263
00:12:44.105 --> 00:12:47.815
their exclusion would materially reduce the ecological flood

264
00:12:47.815 --> 00:12:51.135
and visual impacts associated with the proposed development.

265
00:12:52.595 --> 00:12:55.255
We have outlined the pre specific risks associated

266
00:12:55.255 --> 00:12:56.575
with the inclusion of these fields

267
00:12:56.995 --> 00:13:00.655
and also discussed the alternative uses they could put

268
00:13:01.195 --> 00:13:04.985
in our, to our position.

269
00:13:06.425 --> 00:13:10.925
I think the, the thing about, um, field GF 13 is it, uh,

270
00:13:11.435 --> 00:13:16.205

does intrude significantly on the, on the landscape

271

00:13:16.265 --> 00:13:18.085
around particularly lower farm

272

00:13:18.745 --> 00:13:21.645
and that significant visual impact on the,

273

00:13:21.645 --> 00:13:23.365
on the village field.

274

00:13:23.605 --> 00:13:26.445
GF nine is actually connected very closely

275

00:13:26.515 --> 00:13:29.845
with the ancient woodland, um, of laden woods.

276

00:13:30.545 --> 00:13:35.525
And, um, one issue we, we are very concerned about is

277

00:13:35.525 --> 00:13:39.965
that there is a significant, um, population of skylarks,

278

00:13:39.965 --> 00:13:42.405
which were identified by the previous ecological survey.

279

00:13:43.385 --> 00:13:46.125
And the current submission by the applicants

280

00:13:46.125 --> 00:13:48.885
for the Solar Farm have done little to convince us

281

00:13:48.955 --> 00:13:51.925
that this population will be conserved adequately.

282

00:13:53.385 --> 00:13:56.405
The problem is that obviously solar panels are gonna be

283

00:13:56.405 --> 00:13:58.925
built on the current, their current nesting sites,

284

00:13:59.505 --> 00:14:03.105

and we feel that in fact, uh, the, the,

285

00:14:03.105 --> 00:14:04.305

this will be destroyed.

286

00:14:04.375 --> 00:14:05.665

What we do feel is

287

00:14:05.665 --> 00:14:10.025

however, that, uh, if we are able to use field GF nine

288

00:14:10.685 --> 00:14:14.465

to remove the GF nine from the, uh, from the scheme

289

00:14:14.815 --> 00:14:19.145

that we could use this for, um, skylark, um,

290

00:14:19.675 --> 00:14:23.305

whole holes and conserve the nesting sites

291

00:14:23.305 --> 00:14:24.865

that are very important in the area.

292

00:14:26.275 --> 00:14:27.775

In respect of GF 13,

293

00:14:28.215 --> 00:14:31.535

I think you've heard about the perceived flood risk of the,

294

00:14:31.595 --> 00:14:36.565

uh, and we, we feel that GF 13 could actually be used,

295

00:14:37.065 --> 00:14:40.885

um, for, um, floods,

296

00:14:41.765 --> 00:14:46.735

attenuation, um, measures particularly, um, swes, um,

297

00:14:46.965 --> 00:14:48.015

buns, um,

298

00:14:48.515 --> 00:14:51.165

and that would actually protect the area from from flooding.

299

00:14:51.465 --> 00:14:53.365

So we feel these two things

300

00:14:53.705 --> 00:14:56.405

and we must say that in respect of the, um,

301

00:14:57.425 --> 00:15:00.845

the Milton Keynes, uh, recent Milton Keynes, um,

302

00:15:00.845 --> 00:15:03.765

local impact, uh, report that

303

00:15:04.755 --> 00:15:06.645

this supports this probe proposal.

304

00:15:07.145 --> 00:15:11.845

Um, the, this report states

305

00:15:11.875 --> 00:15:16.245

that Ladon and this area particularly is on the edge of a,

306

00:15:16.425 --> 00:15:19.885

uh, special landscape, um, area.

307

00:15:20.625 --> 00:15:23.925

Um, it's included in the Milton Key study for strategy

308

00:15:24.065 --> 00:15:25.085

for 2050.

309

00:15:26.305 --> 00:15:28.205

We support this strategy.

310

00:15:28.905 --> 00:15:33.325

We reached our, um, opinion independently about the need

311
00:15:33.325 --> 00:15:37.285
to withdraw the field's GF 99 and 13.

312
00:15:38.185 --> 00:15:40.165
Um, but we do support the plan

313
00:15:40.225 --> 00:15:43.845
and also for the, um, recommendation which the report makes

314
00:15:43.865 --> 00:15:47.885
for enhanced landscape protection along the site

315
00:15:48.425 --> 00:15:53.125
of the, um, the, the whole h site of the Shar whales,

316
00:15:53.185 --> 00:15:56.045
as you know, is used frequently by walkers,

317
00:15:56.465 --> 00:15:57.845
riders, cyclists.

318
00:15:59.185 --> 00:16:02.765
We would say that, um, field nine particularly

319
00:16:03.305 --> 00:16:05.885
is on the periphery of this walk, is part

320
00:16:05.965 --> 00:16:07.325
of the scenic environment

321
00:16:07.865 --> 00:16:11.005
and we feel that this actually would also provide additional

322
00:16:11.005 --> 00:16:15.845
protection, um, from the impact visual impacts of

323
00:16:15.845 --> 00:16:18.765
however you feel about, um, solar farms.

324
00:16:18.785 --> 00:16:22.285

You, you cannot escape the fact that um,

325

00:16:22.705 --> 00:16:23.765

in such a large area

326

00:16:23.765 --> 00:16:26.565

that's actually been allocated in Geo nine,

327

00:16:26.705 --> 00:16:30.485

it will have a significant visual impact on those people

328

00:16:30.585 --> 00:16:32.085

who actually use the site.

329

00:16:33.025 --> 00:16:37.405

And therefore we need to give consideration to the way

330

00:16:37.475 --> 00:16:41.725

that the, the environment around it is, is actually, um,

331

00:16:42.115 --> 00:16:44.965

preserved the proposed, um,

332

00:16:47.675 --> 00:16:51.035

planting by the, um, applicant will take many years

333

00:16:51.095 --> 00:16:52.315

to actually mature

334

00:16:52.855 --> 00:16:55.075

and in that time, um, it will,

335

00:16:55.745 --> 00:16:58.435

this solar farm will have a particularly visual

336

00:16:58.895 --> 00:17:00.155

impact on the landscape.

337

00:17:00.175 --> 00:17:02.795

Now say, I'm not saying that and that that's

338
00:17:02.795 --> 00:17:06.195
however you feel about it, that's the impact

339
00:17:08.405 --> 00:17:12.815
The parish council, um, has reviewed.

340
00:17:13.155 --> 00:17:15.295
The, um, the, the plan

341
00:17:15.835 --> 00:17:18.135
we had our meeting on the 8th of December.

342
00:17:19.075 --> 00:17:23.295
Um, and despite all our um,

343
00:17:24.255 --> 00:17:26.495
approaches, the applicants have not, um,

344
00:17:27.265 --> 00:17:28.655
yield any concessions.

345
00:17:29.155 --> 00:17:32.735
Um, and we in that case, in that case, we object

346
00:17:33.655 --> 00:17:37.135
formally object to the whole, um, use of site G

347
00:17:37.635 --> 00:17:40.915
for solar farming as a solar farm.

348
00:17:53.695 --> 00:17:56.745
Okay, thank you Mr. Chapman,

349
00:18:02.165 --> 00:18:02.985
do you have any questions?

350
00:18:02.985 --> 00:18:05.225
Yes, yes. Um, no questions at the moment. Thank you.

351
00:18:05.225 --> 00:18:05.825

Okay, thank you.

352
00:18:11.995 --> 00:18:13.455
So if I could ask now, Philip Mason

353
00:18:13.555 --> 00:18:15.535
please, uh, to, to speak.

354
00:18:15.585 --> 00:18:15.975
Thank you.

355
00:18:20.275 --> 00:18:21.275
Morning.

356
00:18:28.165 --> 00:18:32.585
Morning. My name is, uh,

357
00:18:32.585 --> 00:18:35.945
Philip Mason representing, uh, Grendon Parish Council.

358
00:18:37.885 --> 00:18:40.865
Uh, we are concerned that uh, in the unfortunate event

359
00:18:40.865 --> 00:18:43.065
that the Greenhill Solar project goes ahead,

360
00:18:44.055 --> 00:18:46.675
the community benefit fund will not actually be paid.

361
00:18:47.495 --> 00:18:50.705
It does not appear to be included in the DCO

362
00:18:50.845 --> 00:18:53.945
and as such, it is questionable whether any such benefit

363
00:18:54.015 --> 00:18:56.625
will be paid if and when the project is sold on.

364
00:18:57.675 --> 00:19:01.365
There has already been one example of this, a local example

365
00:19:02.225 --> 00:19:05.605
in Chester where a community benefit of 50,000 pounds was

366
00:19:05.605 --> 00:19:07.005
to be paid, but

367
00:19:07.005 --> 00:19:10.165
after the site was sold on the agreed community benefit

368
00:19:10.285 --> 00:19:11.765
vanished and not paid,

369
00:19:13.945 --> 00:19:16.525
island green power has communicated to me

370
00:19:16.525 --> 00:19:17.645
that they are committed

371
00:19:17.705 --> 00:19:20.645
to delivering a comprehensive community benefits package

372
00:19:21.545 --> 00:19:25.165
for Greenhill Solar Farm to include both onsite

373
00:19:25.165 --> 00:19:26.285
and offsite initiatives,

374
00:19:27.305 --> 00:19:30.765
but without some legal mechanism in place

375
00:19:31.025 --> 00:19:35.505
or inclusion in the DCO, it may only be an intention

376
00:19:35.805 --> 00:19:37.785
to pay, but no guarantee

377
00:19:37.785 --> 00:19:40.745
that future owners over the 60 years of the lifespan

378
00:19:40.745 --> 00:19:43.585

of the project will continue this intention.

379

00:19:45.435 --> 00:19:48.375

For example, the proposed Great North Road Solar Park

380

00:19:48.405 --> 00:19:51.295

developer elements Green intend

381

00:19:51.295 --> 00:19:54.935

to provide a circa 1 million pound per annum community

382

00:19:54.935 --> 00:19:57.495

support scheme to offset the impacts of the project.

383

00:19:58.245 --> 00:20:00.055

However, at Newark

384

00:20:00.155 --> 00:20:02.135

and Sherwood district council planning meeting,

385

00:20:02.525 --> 00:20:05.575

they were informed that should the solar Park be approved,

386

00:20:06.225 --> 00:20:08.775

there will be no obligation on the developer

387

00:20:08.875 --> 00:20:09.895

to provide the funding.

388

00:20:10.805 --> 00:20:14.665

This is also our concern the courts have held

389

00:20:14.665 --> 00:20:17.305

for many years in respect of planning permissions

390

00:20:17.305 --> 00:20:20.065

that the purpose of a community fund must be

391

00:20:20.325 --> 00:20:23.225

to mitigate the planning harms caused by the reason

392
00:20:23.225 --> 00:20:25.945
of the project, both in its construction

393
00:20:26.005 --> 00:20:27.745
and operation to the community.

394
00:20:28.485 --> 00:20:29.985
And the benefit must be fairly

395
00:20:30.085 --> 00:20:32.345
and reasonably related to the development.

396
00:20:33.475 --> 00:20:36.295
Whilst the DCO will be a statutory provision,

397
00:20:36.935 --> 00:20:39.095
planning principles are likely to be considered

398
00:20:39.095 --> 00:20:40.815
to be relevant to the Secretary

399
00:20:40.815 --> 00:20:44.035
of State's consideration in the first instance as

400
00:20:44.035 --> 00:20:46.435
to whether the DCO should be made.

401
00:20:48.355 --> 00:20:50.735
We along with other, with uh,

402
00:20:50.795 --> 00:20:54.455
our other affected Paris Councils, would ask Greenhill Solar

403
00:20:54.635 --> 00:20:57.375
to do the right thing and ensure a fair

404
00:20:57.435 --> 00:21:00.255
and ongoing community benefit is guaranteed

405
00:21:00.255 --> 00:21:04.455

to be paid throughout the solar farm's life in recompense

406

00:21:04.915 --> 00:21:08.895

for the permanent disfigurement of our locality impairment

407

00:21:08.895 --> 00:21:10.175

of our public rights of way

408

00:21:10.715 --> 00:21:12.935

and significant disruption to our roads

409

00:21:12.935 --> 00:21:14.455

and village during the construction.

410

00:21:16.325 --> 00:21:17.325

Thank you.

411

00:21:19.865 --> 00:21:21.055

Thank you very much, Mr. Mason.

412

00:21:26.485 --> 00:21:28.025

And now Juliet Jarvis please.

413

00:21:39.055 --> 00:21:42.355

Juliet Jarvis, I'm a resident of Grendon.

414

00:21:44.525 --> 00:21:47.555

First, if I may just have a few short specific questions

415

00:21:47.585 --> 00:21:50.235

that perhaps the applicant could answer promptly today

416

00:21:50.255 --> 00:21:52.475

or take away, uh, such queries.

417

00:21:52.475 --> 00:21:55.355

And then I'd like to focus on equestrian, uh,

418

00:21:55.355 --> 00:21:58.755

issues on behalf of all the villages in the early days,

419
00:21:58.895 --> 00:22:02.115
the applicant held some publicized consultations

420
00:22:02.175 --> 00:22:04.755
for invited stakeholders, followed by a handful

421
00:22:04.815 --> 00:22:06.675
of phy public consultations.

422
00:22:07.455 --> 00:22:09.595
We were quite specifically wooed with images

423
00:22:09.695 --> 00:22:12.875
of very low level solar panels in greenfields

424
00:22:12.875 --> 00:22:14.995
with sheep grazing surrounded by wildflowers.

425
00:22:15.215 --> 00:22:17.875
And I have the newsletter examples, uh,

426
00:22:17.975 --> 00:22:19.035
on the seat behind me.

427
00:22:20.175 --> 00:22:22.235
In the spirit of that very clear communication

428
00:22:22.895 --> 00:22:25.395
and notwithstanding the principle of the Rochdale envelope

429
00:22:25.405 --> 00:22:28.315
where design detail is not yet confirmed

430
00:22:28.615 --> 00:22:30.795
and the developer of course has everything to play for,

431
00:22:31.125 --> 00:22:34.315
could the applicant assure us that the potential is stated

432
00:22:34.695 --> 00:22:36.875

for solar panels aligned east to west

433

00:22:37.595 --> 00:22:40.835

standing three meters plus will not utilize the same

434

00:22:40.975 --> 00:22:44.195

or a similar specification to that at Cleve Hill Solar,

435

00:22:44.895 --> 00:22:47.235

of which the images and the impact on the landscape

436

00:22:47.295 --> 00:22:50.435

and receptors is horrific and immense

437

00:22:51.015 --> 00:22:53.915

and is noted that Cleve Hill was also designed by Lamp Pro.

438

00:22:58.895 --> 00:23:02.195

Coincidentally, Cleve Hill Solar is also the provider

439

00:23:02.195 --> 00:23:04.395

of the largest corporate purchase power agreement

440

00:23:04.895 --> 00:23:06.275

by a solar farm so far.

441

00:23:06.915 --> 00:23:09.155

Apparently supplying 60%, 65%

442

00:23:09.155 --> 00:23:11.995

of its power generated over 15 years to Tesco

443

00:23:12.255 --> 00:23:16.595

to power its stores, 10% of its UK electricity.

444

00:23:17.815 --> 00:23:19.795

The applicant has again wooed us with the figure

445

00:23:19.795 --> 00:23:22.195

that Greenhill Solar will supply the equivalent.

446
00:23:22.315 --> 00:23:24.795
I understand this is the equivalent, um,

447
00:23:25.135 --> 00:23:27.955
of 115,000 homes power.

448
00:23:28.625 --> 00:23:30.875
Will the applicant for clarity confirm

449
00:23:30.875 --> 00:23:33.555
that the power generated for which the residents

450
00:23:33.555 --> 00:23:36.635
of our community must suffer, will indeed go into the grid

451
00:23:36.735 --> 00:23:39.035
to bring down our domestic electricity bills.

452
00:23:39.585 --> 00:23:42.635
Even while we understand that locally,

453
00:23:42.895 --> 00:23:46.005
we don't directly benefit from the solar scheme surrounding

454
00:23:46.005 --> 00:23:49.655
us, so our communities will not be subsidizing

455
00:23:51.435 --> 00:23:54.495
the institutions while withstanding the horror

456
00:23:54.675 --> 00:23:56.015
of the development around us.

457
00:23:58.055 --> 00:24:00.795
On a similar note, the applicant very clearly stated in its

458
00:24:00.795 --> 00:24:03.195
presentations and in its communications,

459
00:24:03.195 --> 00:24:04.355

and again I have one here

460

00:24:04.355 --> 00:24:07.475

and to quote, they will deliver a community benefit

461

00:24:07.655 --> 00:24:09.075

for the lifetime of the scheme.

462

00:24:09.945 --> 00:24:11.795

This was endorsed by the very nice man

463

00:24:11.795 --> 00:24:14.475

who attended the physical consultations in village halls

464

00:24:14.705 --> 00:24:17.675

from a local Northampton shear charity who informed us

465

00:24:17.675 --> 00:24:20.355

that he and his charity would be administering the annual

466

00:24:20.355 --> 00:24:23.195

community fund of many hundreds of thousands

467

00:24:23.195 --> 00:24:25.115

of pounds within our communities.

468

00:24:27.705 --> 00:24:31.195

That kind of promise and it was a promise would be seriously

469

00:24:31.195 --> 00:24:34.075

impressive to many people, is

470

00:24:34.075 --> 00:24:37.355

that very significant communi commitment that you very ly

471

00:24:37.915 --> 00:24:40.155

communicated to the applicant real

472

00:24:40.815 --> 00:24:43.155

and definitively plumbed into your scheme.

473

00:24:44.095 --> 00:24:46.875

And I trust that a community fund will be a hundred percent

474

00:24:46.905 --> 00:24:49.915

confirmed and written into the DCO

475

00:24:52.985 --> 00:24:54.695

again during those public consultations.

476

00:24:54.815 --> 00:24:57.015

I was very aware of the suggestions by the applicant

477

00:24:57.435 --> 00:25:00.415

who assuaged our concerns with phrases such as we will look

478

00:25:00.415 --> 00:25:03.855

to improve rural access, improve footpaths

479

00:25:03.855 --> 00:25:06.375

and public rights of way as part of our planning,

480

00:25:06.595 --> 00:25:07.895

as part of our good design.

481

00:25:08.325 --> 00:25:09.375

What would you like to see?

482

00:25:09.585 --> 00:25:12.455

Write it on a post-it note, stick it on this plan.

483

00:25:13.035 --> 00:25:17.855

We are open to all your suggestions on the topic

484

00:25:17.875 --> 00:25:22.055

of which I would like to ask for, um,

485

00:25:22.975 --> 00:25:26.255

specific direction to the plans that show the detail

486

00:25:26.315 --> 00:25:31.295

for the access tracks at the very least between Grendon Bess

487

00:25:31.395 --> 00:25:35.575

to eastern mor with the construction compound in the middle

488

00:25:36.065 --> 00:25:38.935

where trucks and machinery will be moving through the site.

489

00:25:40.025 --> 00:25:42.575

Could you clarify all the tracks and

490

00:25:42.575 --> 00:25:45.095

therefore all the estimates for aggregates required

491

00:25:45.095 --> 00:25:48.455

to create those trucks tracks are included in your

492

00:25:48.615 --> 00:25:49.855

HGV movements.

493

00:25:52.265 --> 00:25:55.935

These tracks, these access tracks are a very fun bendale part

494

00:25:56.155 --> 00:25:59.335

of the construction and of course one can assume

495

00:25:59.335 --> 00:26:01.775

that they would then be left as part of the

496

00:26:02.315 --> 00:26:05.295

scheme in the future to provide access to the solar panels,

497

00:26:05.635 --> 00:26:08.135

but perhaps these could also be written in some way

498

00:26:09.125 --> 00:26:13.675

into the improved rural access for us.

499

00:26:14.925 --> 00:26:19.395

Which brings me to my final point for today, um,

500

00:26:19.565 --> 00:26:21.275

which I think is something that should be physically

501

00:26:21.275 --> 00:26:22.515

invoiced in this environment

502

00:26:22.515 --> 00:26:25.635

because it seems to have gone by the by a little bit so far

503

00:26:26.215 --> 00:26:27.595

and it also makes sense perhaps

504

00:26:27.595 --> 00:26:29.035

after the site visits carried out

505

00:26:29.035 --> 00:26:30.395

yesterday while fresh in the mind.

506

00:26:30.655 --> 00:26:33.435

And this is behalf of all the equestrians specifically,

507

00:26:34.035 --> 00:26:36.595

although it also affects all public rights of where users

508

00:26:37.055 --> 00:26:40.315

and those accessing the countryside on behalf

509

00:26:40.315 --> 00:26:42.995

of the horse owners and businesses in our areas, all

510

00:26:43.045 --> 00:26:44.565

of the villages as part of the scheme

511

00:26:45.065 --> 00:26:48.365

and many of the other, uh, ancillary areas affected

512

00:26:48.425 --> 00:26:49.445

by cabling roots.

513

00:26:50.715 --> 00:26:54.885

From an equestrian perspective, my home,

514

00:26:54.905 --> 00:26:56.165
my horses are in Grendon.

515

00:26:56.665 --> 00:26:58.245
My village alone just Grendon,

516

00:26:58.465 --> 00:27:00.165
has well over a hundred horses.

517

00:27:01.575 --> 00:27:04.565
Villa Farm Livery is in central Grendon

518

00:27:04.985 --> 00:27:07.485
and in fact has even been missed off some references in

519

00:27:07.725 --> 00:27:10.765
documents heading outta Grendon towards top,

520

00:27:10.765 --> 00:27:13.965
towards Eastern MA is Top lodge livery on the road

521

00:27:13.965 --> 00:27:15.245
between the two villages.

522

00:27:15.895 --> 00:27:19.125
There are three further livery farms tenants

523

00:27:19.125 --> 00:27:20.325
on Castle Ashby land.

524

00:27:20.535 --> 00:27:24.165
There is Park Hill livery just off the Yardley Road low

525

00:27:24.165 --> 00:27:25.285
farm, which will be surrounded

526

00:27:25.285 --> 00:27:27.845
by solar at the Piggeries Mana Farm in the center

527
00:27:27.865 --> 00:27:31.405
of Eastern Morde and many, many other horses and

528
00:27:31.405 --> 00:27:33.085
therefore affected horse owners.

529
00:27:34.925 --> 00:27:39.305
Old wool grave, whole cot swell, many, many other

530
00:27:40.035 --> 00:27:42.385
equestrian businesses and horse owners.

531
00:27:43.285 --> 00:27:45.905
The construction period will effectively largely curtail

532
00:27:46.645 --> 00:27:50.785
and I mean curtail our ability to ride out from grendon

533
00:27:51.405 --> 00:27:53.945
our specific routes along the Yardley Road, Eastern Morden

534
00:27:53.945 --> 00:27:56.905
and Station Road of fundamental also

535
00:27:56.905 --> 00:27:59.745
to reach any off-road hacking every day

536
00:27:59.745 --> 00:28:01.025
as it is we encounter traffic.

537
00:28:01.025 --> 00:28:04.305
Meeting large trucks on a horse is terrifying.

538
00:28:05.485 --> 00:28:07.985
Of course HGV should rarely be on our local

539
00:28:08.075 --> 00:28:09.105
roads, but they are.

540
00:28:09.725 --> 00:28:11.345

And when the roads are shut, for example,

541

00:28:11.485 --> 00:28:14.905

the Marines crossing is currently traffic is exacerbated.

542

00:28:15.245 --> 00:28:18.065

Our roads become rat runs cut throughs.

543

00:28:19.145 --> 00:28:21.645

We face a construction compound on the oddly road,

544

00:28:21.665 --> 00:28:24.485

the construction traffic coming onto the best site

545

00:28:24.505 --> 00:28:27.205

and presumably entering the access tracks I've referred

546

00:28:27.205 --> 00:28:28.725

to towards Eastern mor.

547

00:28:29.785 --> 00:28:32.285

The bridal waves and permissive riding in Eastern Mor will

548

00:28:32.285 --> 00:28:33.925

be impossible during construction

549

00:28:34.305 --> 00:28:35.885

and horrendously compromised.

550

00:28:36.145 --> 00:28:37.485

If the solar fields are built

551

00:28:40.235 --> 00:28:42.295

during construction, there won't be any let up.

552

00:28:42.295 --> 00:28:44.175

There won't be any early mornings in spring

553

00:28:44.175 --> 00:28:45.335

and summer when we can ride

554

00:28:45.525 --> 00:28:48.135

because instruction traffic will already be on the roads.

555

00:28:48.365 --> 00:28:50.135

Work will have started the same in the evenings,

556

00:28:50.395 --> 00:28:52.375

the same again on Saturday mornings.

557

00:28:52.795 --> 00:28:54.455

It will affect the youngsters starting

558

00:28:54.455 --> 00:28:57.215

to ride out on their ponies in our villages in what was

559

00:28:57.735 --> 00:28:59.255

a nurturing village environment.

560

00:28:59.665 --> 00:29:00.975

Those of us who are getting older

561

00:29:00.975 --> 00:29:04.135

and me included, are acutely aware of the disruption

562

00:29:04.195 --> 00:29:06.695

and the pure and simple fearfulness

563

00:29:06.835 --> 00:29:08.415

of the added of the added danger.

564

00:29:09.535 --> 00:29:11.175

I find it remarkable that horse riders

565

00:29:11.195 --> 00:29:14.535

to coin developers terms are not considered high sensitivity

566

00:29:14.535 --> 00:29:17.655

with sectors in every respect, every respect.

567

00:29:18.985 --> 00:29:23.115

I can only refer to, sorry, I only refer to que

568

00:29:23.135 --> 00:29:25.675

to equestrian and delivery businesses in my home of Brenda

569

00:29:25.735 --> 00:29:27.995

and Eastern Morde, but as I've referenced, there are stables

570

00:29:27.995 --> 00:29:29.875

and owners from all grave, old whole cod.

571

00:29:30.195 --> 00:29:32.355

I used to keep my horse between Earls Barton and Ms.

572

00:29:32.595 --> 00:29:35.355

Ashby where we would hack the bridal waves around swell

573

00:29:37.065 --> 00:29:39.755

another route closed to equestrians.

574

00:29:44.535 --> 00:29:47.085

Could I suggest that maybe a specific mapping

575

00:29:47.105 --> 00:29:49.805

and assessment is made of the equestrian facilities

576

00:29:49.805 --> 00:29:51.165

and rural businesses

577

00:29:51.585 --> 00:29:54.245

and the effects on them as part

578

00:29:54.245 --> 00:29:56.205

of the planning considerations of this scheme.

579

00:29:56.905 --> 00:29:59.365

You also heard from a livery business owner in Laden some

580

00:29:59.365 --> 00:30:02.805

weeks ago who spoke eloquently on the effects on horses,

581
00:30:03.105 --> 00:30:05.645
her clientele, her family, and what will we

582
00:30:05.645 --> 00:30:06.725
and all those businesses do.

583
00:30:07.615 --> 00:30:10.805
These areas of Northampton shear the roses

584
00:30:10.805 --> 00:30:14.005
of the Shires host rural businesses in a rural way of life.

585
00:30:14.785 --> 00:30:17.085
Our countryside based on agriculture

586
00:30:17.085 --> 00:30:20.245
and good rural practices is the yin

587
00:30:20.625 --> 00:30:22.845
to the northamptonshire towns yang.

588
00:30:23.705 --> 00:30:26.045
The balance that communicates that contributes

589
00:30:26.065 --> 00:30:28.445
to our mental health, not just those of us

590
00:30:28.465 --> 00:30:30.685
who live in these specific villages,

591
00:30:30.685 --> 00:30:33.485
but those coming out to visit our rural communities,

592
00:30:33.775 --> 00:30:35.885
enjoy our rural spaces via our footpaths

593
00:30:35.945 --> 00:30:38.445
and bridleways to visit the heritage

594
00:30:39.205 --> 00:30:42.445

buildings in our villages, rural versus suburban

595

00:30:43.145 --> 00:30:45.405

and industrial industrialization.

596

00:30:46.345 --> 00:30:48.765

And the impact of Greenhill sailor entirely

597

00:30:48.765 --> 00:30:49.805

changes this balance.

598

00:30:50.385 --> 00:30:54.405

As one horse rider said to me, very upset, what's the point

599

00:30:54.405 --> 00:30:56.605

of even trying to sit out two years

600

00:30:56.905 --> 00:30:59.645

of a solar farm being built once it's up?

601

00:31:00.085 --> 00:31:01.445

I don't really know why.

602

00:31:01.445 --> 00:31:04.165

I'd want to try and find riding routes around fields,

603

00:31:04.255 --> 00:31:06.205

solar panels and substations

604

00:31:06.745 --> 00:31:09.925

and I'm not even sure which other livery yard nearby I could

605

00:31:09.925 --> 00:31:12.965

go to because they'll all be in the same boat.

606

00:31:13.695 --> 00:31:14.765

It'll break my heart,

607

00:31:15.265 --> 00:31:16.765

but I think I'll have to give up horses.

608
00:31:20.225 --> 00:31:21.745
Assuming the solar farm is built, I've yet

609
00:31:21.745 --> 00:31:23.985
to see any specific plans by the developers too

610
00:31:24.045 --> 00:31:26.425
as suggested in those early meetings

611
00:31:26.615 --> 00:31:28.945
that they will improve rural access to the countryside.

612
00:31:29.075 --> 00:31:31.145
Where are the proposals for these new routes?

613
00:31:31.325 --> 00:31:33.745
Routes through these meadows Routes to avoid riding,

614
00:31:33.935 --> 00:31:36.625
cycling, walking on even more dangerous roads.

615
00:31:37.245 --> 00:31:39.305
All the developers working with the landowners,

616
00:31:39.325 --> 00:31:41.905
the guardians of our landscapes to open up the roots

617
00:31:42.005 --> 00:31:45.865
to not just equestrians but all of the countryside users.

618
00:31:50.345 --> 00:31:53.065
I see a key on some maps for some new permissive bridleways,

619
00:31:53.845 --> 00:31:55.545
but these aren't new bridleways.

620
00:31:55.545 --> 00:31:58.185
They're rerouting of existing permissive routes

621
00:31:58.965 --> 00:32:02.545

or for all, all licensed routes while we lose others,

622

00:32:03.215 --> 00:32:06.585

keeping the countryside open to all is fundamental

623

00:32:06.685 --> 00:32:08.585

to our health and our wellbeing.

624

00:32:09.625 --> 00:32:11.985

Conservation of this access is essential.

625

00:32:13.375 --> 00:32:16.295

I ask you to consider the design of this proposal

626

00:32:17.665 --> 00:32:21.105

to be fundamentally addressed for rural access

627

00:32:22.015 --> 00:32:24.255

as promised and

628

00:32:24.255 --> 00:32:27.135

to improve rural access for our communities.

629

00:32:27.675 --> 00:32:30.935

Should this solar farm, go ahead. Yeah,

630

00:32:33.215 --> 00:32:35.805

Thank you Mr. Jarvis and the applicant will have the

631

00:32:35.805 --> 00:32:38.485

opportunity to respond to all points made, um,

632

00:32:38.485 --> 00:32:39.765

after everyone has spoken.

633

00:32:39.945 --> 00:32:42.005

Um, so they will be able to choose whether

634

00:32:42.065 --> 00:32:43.485

to respond at present

635
00:32:43.545 --> 00:32:45.845
to those questions you posed or later in writing.

636
00:32:45.855 --> 00:32:50.465
Thank you. Um, I now have Phillip Anthony, please.

637
00:33:04.465 --> 00:33:06.475
Good morning. Thank you Phillip Anthony.

638
00:33:07.415 --> 00:33:12.315
Uh, I've forwarded some references that I wish

639
00:33:12.315 --> 00:33:16.075
to use GH 6.218,

640
00:33:16.085 --> 00:33:19.675
which is a PP dash 0 5 5

641
00:33:20.735 --> 00:33:24.115
and GH 8.15.

642
00:33:25.035 --> 00:33:28.915
I will also refer to, uh, policy EN one.

643
00:33:31.045 --> 00:33:33.185
So I'm a a resident in Grendon.

644
00:33:33.965 --> 00:33:38.425
My background includes a doctorate in social aspects

645
00:33:38.445 --> 00:33:40.945
of psychiatry at the University of Manchester

646
00:33:41.645 --> 00:33:44.425
and experience working within health services

647
00:33:44.565 --> 00:33:48.505
for the NHS executive, working on hospital data

648
00:33:49.245 --> 00:33:52.945

and in mental health services latter laterally.

649

00:33:53.145 --> 00:33:56.665

I worked as a senior lecturer in mental health issues at the

650

00:33:56.665 --> 00:33:58.345

University of Hartfordshire.

651

00:33:59.225 --> 00:34:01.305

I mentioned this background only

652

00:34:01.655 --> 00:34:04.865

because of its relevance to the issue of health

653

00:34:06.525 --> 00:34:08.145

policy EN one,

654

00:34:08.295 --> 00:34:11.545

paragraph 4.4 0.3 states

655

00:34:12.375 --> 00:34:16.345

that new energy infrastructure may also affect the

656

00:34:16.345 --> 00:34:19.465

composition and size of the local population

657

00:34:20.085 --> 00:34:23.625

and in doing so have indirect health impacts.

658

00:34:24.445 --> 00:34:27.745

For example, if it in some way affects access

659

00:34:27.805 --> 00:34:30.665

to key public services transport

660

00:34:31.045 --> 00:34:33.865

or the use of open space for recreation

661

00:34:33.965 --> 00:34:36.305

and physical activity unquote.

662
00:34:37.545 --> 00:34:40.595
Greenhill Solar have appropriately responded to this

663
00:34:40.815 --> 00:34:42.395
by presenting their findings

664
00:34:42.855 --> 00:34:47.595
and interpretations in GH 6.2 0.18.

665
00:34:48.605 --> 00:34:52.675
Their documentation comprises health models data

666
00:34:53.235 --> 00:34:56.115
analysis at the lowest available geographical level

667
00:34:56.535 --> 00:35:00.675
and interpretations the authors of the report

668
00:35:01.175 --> 00:35:03.195
as confirmed in their responses

669
00:35:03.335 --> 00:35:07.275
to examiner's questions at deadline one state

670
00:35:07.385 --> 00:35:10.475
that the conclusions they draw are based on

671
00:35:11.355 --> 00:35:13.595
professional judgment unquote

672
00:35:14.375 --> 00:35:15.435
and experience

673
00:35:15.495 --> 00:35:19.195
of presenting similar materials in previous examinations.

674
00:35:20.975 --> 00:35:25.715
The examiners in this inquiry are entitled to ask exactly

675
00:35:26.025 --> 00:35:28.835

what the health related qualifications are

676

00:35:29.495 --> 00:35:32.795

and why their judgment should hold beyond those

677

00:35:32.825 --> 00:35:34.915

with more extensive experience.

678

00:35:36.045 --> 00:35:40.645

Experience of of presenting data in other inquiries, uh,

679

00:35:41.525 --> 00:35:43.725

qualifies them to present data

680

00:35:44.425 --> 00:35:47.205

but does not validate any interpretations

681

00:35:47.425 --> 00:35:48.925

placed on those data.

682

00:35:50.335 --> 00:35:53.685

There are contradictions in the greenhill documentation

683

00:35:53.875 --> 00:35:56.565

regarding the use of subjective data.

684

00:35:57.675 --> 00:36:01.285

Thus in SGHS 0 2 6

685

00:36:01.815 --> 00:36:05.045

there is a defense of population level data.

686

00:36:05.905 --> 00:36:07.085

Whilst the impact

687

00:36:07.085 --> 00:36:09.565

of the greenhill development on house sales

688

00:36:09.625 --> 00:36:12.725

and values is dismissed as quote,

689
00:36:13.185 --> 00:36:15.445
not consistent or predictable.

690
00:36:16.355 --> 00:36:20.325
However, a significant increase in the number of properties

691
00:36:20.385 --> 00:36:24.085
for sale in Grendon since the advent of the proposals

692
00:36:24.785 --> 00:36:27.725
and an estate agent's estimate relating

693
00:36:27.725 --> 00:36:32.485
to a 20% devaluation in house prices in wool

694
00:36:32.485 --> 00:36:37.445
grave should the scheme proceed are offered as real evidence

695
00:36:37.785 --> 00:36:39.205
of economic, social

696
00:36:39.505 --> 00:36:44.165
and community impacts the 20% reduction in house

697
00:36:44.165 --> 00:36:47.685
prices near large scale solar schemes

698
00:36:48.235 --> 00:36:51.565
have has been evidenced elsewhere as well.

699
00:36:54.265 --> 00:36:57.435
Greenhill solar account for the very limited mention

700
00:36:57.495 --> 00:37:01.395
of Walgrave HU Cot and lavender in their assessment

701
00:37:02.105 --> 00:37:04.075
because their location means

702
00:37:04.075 --> 00:37:08.475

that the scheme is quote less visible unquote to them.

703

00:37:09.705 --> 00:37:11.995

This response ignores the data

704

00:37:12.475 --> 00:37:16.475

provided for Wal grave relating to the subjective experience

705

00:37:16.815 --> 00:37:21.155

of the application from GH

706

00:37:21.575 --> 00:37:26.075

6.2 0.18 in response to a consultation query

707

00:37:26.935 --> 00:37:31.435

by UK Health Security Agency office for Health Improvement

708

00:37:31.535 --> 00:37:32.635

and Disparities.

709

00:37:33.135 --> 00:37:36.995

And I quote exactly, the applicant confirms

710

00:37:37.065 --> 00:37:40.835

that the baseline data in section 18.6 below

711

00:37:41.615 --> 00:37:44.515

has been undertaken to ward level to determine

712

00:37:45.075 --> 00:37:49.515

baseline conditions in the two kilometer z oi.

713

00:37:50.415 --> 00:37:53.955

The applicant furthermore confirms that consultation

714

00:37:54.465 --> 00:37:59.235

with local authority public health teams has been initiated

715

00:38:00.005 --> 00:38:01.595

prior to PEIR

716
00:38:02.175 --> 00:38:06.915
and will continue to ensure the in relation

717
00:38:07.455 --> 00:38:08.955
to the assessment scope

718
00:38:09.015 --> 00:38:11.955
and methodology up to DCO submission,

719
00:38:12.815 --> 00:38:16.475
the applicant has used the statutory consultation period

720
00:38:17.055 --> 00:38:20.835
to understand public engagement with matters of human health

721
00:38:20.835 --> 00:38:24.835
and wellbeing so that can concerns can be discussed,

722
00:38:25.325 --> 00:38:29.075
understood, and suitable mitigation measures put in

723
00:38:29.075 --> 00:38:30.275
place were required.

724
00:38:31.295 --> 00:38:33.755
The scope of consultation was agreed

725
00:38:33.785 --> 00:38:37.125
with the host local authorities through the statement

726
00:38:37.125 --> 00:38:38.805
of community consultation

727
00:38:39.355 --> 00:38:43.245
with any additional required consultation being undertaken

728
00:38:43.755 --> 00:38:45.885
following statutory consultation

729
00:38:46.025 --> 00:38:48.125

and prior to DCO submission,

730
00:38:49.345 --> 00:38:53.285
the applicant is invited to specify precisely

731
00:38:54.155 --> 00:38:56.845
what matters of human health

732
00:38:56.945 --> 00:39:01.645
and wellbeing were discussed during and

733
00:39:01.695 --> 00:39:05.845
after the statutory consultation period with whom

734
00:39:06.385 --> 00:39:10.525
and what suitable mitigation measures were devised

735
00:39:10.545 --> 00:39:11.685
for implementation.

736
00:39:11.795 --> 00:39:13.885
Following those consultations,

737
00:39:14.785 --> 00:39:18.365
the applicant is further invited to explain the absence

738
00:39:18.365 --> 00:39:21.685
of public consultations in Meres, Ashby

739
00:39:21.745 --> 00:39:25.685
and Kott where such questions might have been explored.

740
00:39:27.145 --> 00:39:30.125
The ability of the greenhill assessors to

741
00:39:30.805 --> 00:39:34.125
identify the dynamic, uh, impacts of construction

742
00:39:34.225 --> 00:39:38.485
of a new solar farm from static data sets

743
00:39:39.145 --> 00:39:41.605
has no reference to any pre

744
00:39:41.825 --> 00:39:45.045
and post construction sites elsewhere.

745
00:39:46.065 --> 00:39:49.485
The ability of the greenhill authors to judge

746
00:39:50.065 --> 00:39:53.325
the long-term impacts of the construction on health

747
00:39:53.385 --> 00:39:56.685
and community wellbeing is we propose

748
00:39:57.315 --> 00:40:01.005
pure speculation in such circumstances.

749
00:40:01.305 --> 00:40:03.685
We would ask that the examiners ignore

750
00:40:03.685 --> 00:40:05.285
that report altogether

751
00:40:05.785 --> 00:40:07.445
and take another view

752
00:40:08.385 --> 00:40:12.525
to take into account the collected subjective experiences

753
00:40:12.705 --> 00:40:15.085
and views of local residents

754
00:40:15.425 --> 00:40:19.205
and the availability of survey information such as

755
00:40:19.205 --> 00:40:20.325
that from Wal grave.

756
00:40:21.475 --> 00:40:25.125

Thus on Tuesday evening right here,

757

00:40:25.215 --> 00:40:28.845

there was a moving account of the therapeutic importance

758

00:40:29.185 --> 00:40:32.965

of the local countryside from a resident in mes Ashby.

759

00:40:33.945 --> 00:40:35.285

In written submissions,

760

00:40:35.695 --> 00:40:38.845

there is an equally moving account from a head teacher

761

00:40:39.505 --> 00:40:42.405

of the importance placed on de-stressing

762

00:40:42.405 --> 00:40:46.205

through regular walks between Grendon and Mes Ashby

763

00:40:46.665 --> 00:40:49.645

and the depressing prospect of a future walking

764

00:40:49.645 --> 00:40:51.645

through industrialized fields.

765

00:40:52.675 --> 00:40:57.045

Another grendon resident used the term insanity when

766

00:40:57.675 --> 00:41:00.685

realizing the extent of the proposals in the area.

767

00:41:01.775 --> 00:41:06.485

These examples could without doubt be replicated across each

768

00:41:06.485 --> 00:41:10.765

of the historic villages impacted by the proposed scheme.

769

00:41:11.825 --> 00:41:14.725

As we have learned when discussing the scheme locally,

770
00:41:15.425 --> 00:41:17.325
the relationship between the people

771
00:41:17.425 --> 00:41:20.085
and the area remains real.

772
00:41:20.815 --> 00:41:23.845
There are historic names for some of the fields.

773
00:41:24.415 --> 00:41:27.565
There are personal designations for some of the walks

774
00:41:27.975 --> 00:41:31.845
where two people propose marriage, where dog walkers

775
00:41:31.845 --> 00:41:32.965
and visitors meet.

776
00:41:33.695 --> 00:41:35.125
These are part of the health

777
00:41:35.345 --> 00:41:38.645
and wellbeing of those who give a different identity

778
00:41:38.945 --> 00:41:40.285
to each village.

779
00:41:42.555 --> 00:41:46.845
What is being identified via these accounts is the

780
00:41:47.205 --> 00:41:48.245
prospect of loss.

781
00:41:49.065 --> 00:41:52.685
We know that the experience of loss gives rise

782
00:41:52.945 --> 00:41:54.805
to anger and depression.

783
00:41:55.465 --> 00:41:59.245

We also know that it affects the relationship between people

784

00:41:59.505 --> 00:42:00.645

and their community.

785

00:42:01.625 --> 00:42:04.845

The affection that people have for their local area

786

00:42:05.065 --> 00:42:06.085

and their investment

787

00:42:06.665 --> 00:42:09.685

and sense of belonging within the community

788

00:42:10.385 --> 00:42:12.605

become attenuated over time.

789

00:42:13.505 --> 00:42:16.045

And over time the sense of cohesion

790

00:42:16.105 --> 00:42:17.965

and belonging is weakened

791

00:42:18.185 --> 00:42:22.895

and eventually lost approximately

792

00:42:23.115 --> 00:42:24.975

two miles from where we are now.

793

00:42:24.975 --> 00:42:28.255

Sitting. The great romantic poet

794

00:42:28.315 --> 00:42:31.455

of the Northampton shear countryside, John Clare

795

00:42:32.005 --> 00:42:34.895

scratched his last poem on the wall

796

00:42:34.955 --> 00:42:39.055

of the then Northampton asylum, his cry

797
00:42:39.235 --> 00:42:43.095
of personal loss and longing for the countryside.

798
00:42:43.835 --> 00:42:48.615
His plaintiff cry emerged in part as a consequence

799
00:42:48.675 --> 00:42:53.015
of dislocations brought about by acts of enclosure.

800
00:42:54.235 --> 00:42:59.055
And 200 years later, if we are not dealing with a new act

801
00:42:59.055 --> 00:43:02.135
of enclosure here, then I ask you to tell me

802
00:43:02.285 --> 00:43:06.875
what we are dealing with Not for one minute.

803
00:43:07.215 --> 00:43:09.875
Am I suggesting that implementation

804
00:43:10.095 --> 00:43:12.995
of this scheme will result in epidemics

805
00:43:13.015 --> 00:43:16.115
of major mental illness among local residents?

806
00:43:16.945 --> 00:43:20.795
What I am suggesting is that the bonds between people

807
00:43:20.975 --> 00:43:23.155
and place will be weakened.

808
00:43:23.725 --> 00:43:25.435
House values will fall

809
00:43:25.895 --> 00:43:29.515
and more people will seek to leave the area as their sense

810
00:43:29.535 --> 00:43:32.115

of place and belonging is diminished.

811

00:43:32.925 --> 00:43:36.555

There is likely to be some increase in frustration

812

00:43:37.215 --> 00:43:39.515

in depression and in anxiety

813

00:43:39.775 --> 00:43:42.115

and concomitant other illnesses.

814

00:43:43.375 --> 00:43:48.155

All these effects fall outside of the possibility of severe

815

00:43:48.675 --> 00:43:50.595

toxicity in the event of fire.

816

00:43:51.775 --> 00:43:55.955

In view of all of this, I invite you as examiners

817

00:43:56.415 --> 00:44:00.475

to account the full significance of these health impacts,

818

00:44:01.025 --> 00:44:04.315

both in the near and longer term future.

819

00:44:06.405 --> 00:44:09.225

Thank you. Thank you.

820

00:44:12.205 --> 00:44:13.505

Murray Turn Hall, please.

821

00:44:25.675 --> 00:44:27.605

Good morning panel. Sorry, bear with you.

822

00:44:27.605 --> 00:44:28.605

I need to get me at the

823

00:44:54.945 --> 00:44:55.945

I start again.

824
00:44:56.455 --> 00:44:58.625
Good morning panel. Um,

825
00:45:05.065 --> 00:45:05.355
okay.

826
00:45:05.615 --> 00:45:07.275
My name is Marian Turner Halls.

827
00:45:07.975 --> 00:45:11.795
Um, I wear many hats in our community.

828
00:45:12.195 --> 00:45:15.595
I have been speaking as part of this process as, uh,

829
00:45:15.875 --> 00:45:18.235
a representative of Wellingborough ORs action group,

830
00:45:18.655 --> 00:45:22.275
but today I wanna speak on to other hats that I wear.

831
00:45:22.975 --> 00:45:26.275
Um, so my views today are my, my own.

832
00:45:26.855 --> 00:45:30.715
Um, I am, uh, a local resident.

833
00:45:30.715 --> 00:45:31.795
I live well, I live in Wellingborough.

834
00:45:32.255 --> 00:45:34.515
I'm a local town counselor in Wellingborough.

835
00:45:35.055 --> 00:45:38.515
I'm also, um, the coordinator

836
00:45:38.515 --> 00:45:40.315
of the Wellingborough Climate Action Project.

837
00:45:41.575 --> 00:45:45.115

And I've had many years working around, um,

838

00:45:46.045 --> 00:45:50.135
climate action, uh, activity.

839

00:45:50.875 --> 00:45:54.895
Um, particularly been very keen on working in terms of, uh,

840

00:45:54.965 --> 00:45:56.615
community energy generation.

841

00:45:57.235 --> 00:45:58.975
And a lot of my work presently is working

842

00:45:58.975 --> 00:46:00.215
with community organizations

843

00:46:00.275 --> 00:46:03.655
and people around helping people to take energy efficiency

844

00:46:03.675 --> 00:46:05.455
and climate actions ourselves

845

00:46:06.235 --> 00:46:09.055
and working as communities to enable that.

846

00:46:10.025 --> 00:46:12.365
And that gives a bit of context to my next comments.

847

00:46:13.465 --> 00:46:14.605
Um, I'll particularly want

848

00:46:14.605 --> 00:46:17.365
to talk this morning about community benefit in relation

849

00:46:17.365 --> 00:46:19.085
to this scheme, um,

850

00:46:19.865 --> 00:46:23.965
and also about how that's relevant within the, the DCO,

851
00:46:23.985 --> 00:46:26.365
the existing DCO, but but also more broadly.

852
00:46:28.985 --> 00:46:33.385
Okay. I mean, reading through all well

853
00:46:33.405 --> 00:46:35.105
as many documents as I've been able to read

854
00:46:35.105 --> 00:46:36.185
through as part of the scheme.

855
00:46:36.765 --> 00:46:41.615
Um, I have a number of ideas to share in terms

856
00:46:41.615 --> 00:46:44.775
of community benefit, but also to, to acknowledge

857
00:46:44.775 --> 00:46:46.855
that there's been very little mention

858
00:46:46.995 --> 00:46:50.215
of community benefit within this, the documentation to do

859
00:46:50.215 --> 00:46:52.935
with, um, the DCO itself.

860
00:46:54.395 --> 00:46:57.395
I understand that that might not be required at the moment,

861
00:46:58.095 --> 00:47:00.835
but it feels really important for people locally

862
00:47:02.175 --> 00:47:05.595
who are asking quite directly as well

863
00:47:05.595 --> 00:47:06.715
as what's in it for the nation.

864
00:47:07.135 --> 00:47:10.635

What's actually in this for us, you know, uh,

865

00:47:10.635 --> 00:47:11.755

communities are being asked

866

00:47:11.775 --> 00:47:14.755

to host this national infrastructure, um,

867

00:47:15.215 --> 00:47:18.275

but it's not clear at the moment what benefit,

868

00:47:18.535 --> 00:47:21.035

if any benefit could actually come

869

00:47:21.375 --> 00:47:22.835

to people as a result of this.

870

00:47:23.575 --> 00:47:25.795

As a person that has stood previously.

871

00:47:26.755 --> 00:47:29.035

I, I, I'm town council in Wellingborough.

872

00:47:29.090 --> 00:47:30.250

I'm an independent counselor,

873

00:47:30.250 --> 00:47:32.245

but previously I stood with the Green Party.

874

00:47:33.025 --> 00:47:36.645

The whole philosophy for me around bringing, um,

875

00:47:37.445 --> 00:47:38.705

taking climate action

876

00:47:39.245 --> 00:47:43.465

and enabling, uh, the arrival of green clean energy

877

00:47:44.165 --> 00:47:47.705

is about empowerment for communities as much

878

00:47:47.825 --> 00:47:51.185

as it is meeting basic needs in terms of, for example,

879

00:47:51.415 --> 00:47:53.905

heating our homes, running our businesses,

880

00:47:54.045 --> 00:47:56.105

and supporting our communities.

881

00:47:57.655 --> 00:48:00.635

So it's really important for me how this scheme lands,

882

00:48:00.735 --> 00:48:02.035

not just that it lands

883

00:48:02.495 --> 00:48:04.675

and I've had a dream in my own life,

884

00:48:04.985 --> 00:48:06.275

hopefully more than a dream

885

00:48:06.515 --> 00:48:09.555

'cause I've been working to help deliver it, uh, of

886

00:48:10.105 --> 00:48:13.195

communities being individuals, families, businesses

887

00:48:13.195 --> 00:48:16.275

and communities being empowered to train, to change,

888

00:48:16.275 --> 00:48:19.795

transition our lives to, to be able to live

889

00:48:19.795 --> 00:48:23.195

and afford energy, which has been a massive aspiration

890

00:48:23.195 --> 00:48:26.075

for all of us and it's got even more acute in the last few

891

00:48:26.075 --> 00:48:27.595

years, but also

892

00:48:28.055 --> 00:48:30.715
to help meet other needs within our communities.

893

00:48:32.945 --> 00:48:36.365
The government has its net zero targets around housing.

894

00:48:36.675 --> 00:48:40.125
It's requiring that, um, all properties

895

00:48:40.985 --> 00:48:45.005
are up to energy efficiency standards by 2030

896

00:48:45.385 --> 00:48:47.885
and 2035, depending on what sort

897

00:48:47.885 --> 00:48:49.165
of property we're talking about.

898

00:48:49.705 --> 00:48:52.805
But the same for businesses. I think that's by 2028.

899

00:48:53.545 --> 00:48:55.765
So there's lots of, uh, requirements on us,

900

00:48:56.105 --> 00:48:58.165
but when you look at the, the housing stock

901

00:48:58.225 --> 00:49:01.365
and the building stock in this area, um,

902

00:49:02.825 --> 00:49:06.165
if you're doing it directly, only 52%

903

00:49:06.185 --> 00:49:09.805
of properties housing in this area, actually anywhere near

904

00:49:10.935 --> 00:49:14.155
um, sea, there's a massive amount of work to do

905
00:49:14.155 --> 00:49:15.275
to retrofit our homes

906
00:49:15.975 --> 00:49:19.475
and many homes, many people across both the villages

907
00:49:19.475 --> 00:49:20.635
that are gonna be affected by this,

908
00:49:21.255 --> 00:49:23.035
but the neighbouring towns of Wellingborough

909
00:49:23.295 --> 00:49:28.275
and Northampton live in fuel poverty, significant levels

910
00:49:28.375 --> 00:49:29.755
of fuel and other poverty.

911
00:49:31.535 --> 00:49:35.595
For me, a scheme like this landing in our communities should

912
00:49:35.595 --> 00:49:36.955
be an inspiration

913
00:49:37.615 --> 00:49:42.155
and a, a, a massive shot in the arm to enable people,

914
00:49:42.185 --> 00:49:45.795
communities, and businesses to make the transition actions

915
00:49:45.795 --> 00:49:49.155
that we need to take fundamentally to enable us

916
00:49:49.155 --> 00:49:52.275
to afford our lives as well as to,

917
00:49:52.415 --> 00:49:54.515
to stave off the massive impacts

918
00:49:54.515 --> 00:49:56.795

of the climate emergency which we are experiencing

919

00:49:56.935 --> 00:49:58.115

and living through.

920

00:49:58.905 --> 00:50:02.915

Unfortunately at the moment, this scheme is quiet on that

921

00:50:03.565 --> 00:50:07.635

whole story and whole experience for all of us

922

00:50:08.215 --> 00:50:10.555

as people and local residents in this area.

923

00:50:13.595 --> 00:50:15.145

Sorry, there's quite a lot of say on this bit.

924

00:50:16.305 --> 00:50:19.865

I think, um, if I might offer, um,

925

00:50:20.745 --> 00:50:23.985

a suggestion in relation to both this scheme's plan,

926

00:50:24.005 --> 00:50:27.025

but also going forward when it comes to considering

927

00:50:27.725 --> 00:50:32.605

DCO applications for this nature of scheme, I would ask

928

00:50:32.605 --> 00:50:35.805

that in terms of the whole community benefit part of this,

929

00:50:36.515 --> 00:50:39.645

that that as well as examiners examining

930

00:50:39.645 --> 00:50:43.485

so many other aspects to a scheme, you also examine

931

00:50:44.105 --> 00:50:47.325

the actual offer to communities who will be asked

932
00:50:47.345 --> 00:50:48.685
to host these schemes.

933
00:50:49.585 --> 00:50:53.805
You've heard in so many forms from people about the impacts

934
00:50:54.315 --> 00:50:57.365
that we perceive may happen, some of which

935
00:50:58.455 --> 00:51:00.675
we can't even perceive, we're not even sure about.

936
00:51:01.425 --> 00:51:04.875
It's really important that there is a bit of a, a fair deal

937
00:51:04.975 --> 00:51:08.635
for communities in relation to delivering schemes like this.

938
00:51:09.655 --> 00:51:12.635
We want to see the nation transition,

939
00:51:13.015 --> 00:51:15.955
but it has to be a fair transition for all

940
00:51:16.055 --> 00:51:17.715
for people living locally as well

941
00:51:17.715 --> 00:51:18.795
as people living nationally.

942
00:51:19.065 --> 00:51:22.835
This is not gonna work well for us if schemes such

943
00:51:22.835 --> 00:51:25.915
as this are just dropped in communities and landed on us.

944
00:51:26.495 --> 00:51:28.275
And it doesn't have to be like that.

945
00:51:28.575 --> 00:51:31.875

People want to see the benefits that have been, uh,

946

00:51:31.975 --> 00:51:34.075

put forward nationally as aspirations,

947

00:51:34.075 --> 00:51:35.755

and I'm sure that this scheme would be looking

948

00:51:36.135 --> 00:51:39.595

to help achieve, but it has to be in a way that works

949

00:51:39.695 --> 00:51:41.715

for all of us and works well for us,

950

00:51:42.055 --> 00:51:43.795

and more importantly it can be.

951

00:51:44.975 --> 00:51:47.935

Um, so I asked that going forward,

952

00:51:48.005 --> 00:51:49.615

that in examinations like this

953

00:51:49.615 --> 00:51:53.905

and including this examination, that the whole assessment

954

00:51:53.965 --> 00:51:57.025

of community benefit is there at the start in the initial

955

00:51:57.025 --> 00:52:01.425

assessment and principle areas when looking at how to,

956

00:52:01.645 --> 00:52:03.385

to see whether this scheme is appropriate

957

00:52:03.385 --> 00:52:05.705

or not, both of this scheme and others going forward.

958

00:52:06.955 --> 00:52:11.895

Sorry, it feels perverse to me that

959

00:52:12.675 --> 00:52:16.055

for all the energy this scheme, if it's agreed, will develop

960

00:52:16.755 --> 00:52:20.535

and, and provide within this area that not one penny

961

00:52:21.115 --> 00:52:22.495

of benefit in terms

962

00:52:22.495 --> 00:52:25.975

of energy cost reductions would necessarily arise

963

00:52:26.475 --> 00:52:27.735

to anybody living in,

964

00:52:27.735 --> 00:52:31.055

whether they're living three feet from the solar panels

965

00:52:31.435 --> 00:52:33.575

or 30 miles from the solar panels.

966

00:52:34.385 --> 00:52:37.255

There has to be some way that these

967

00:52:37.955 --> 00:52:40.775

really important developments in the ways that they come

968

00:52:41.535 --> 00:52:43.855

actually provide benefit,

969

00:52:44.195 --> 00:52:47.935

but also inspire action around climate transition

970

00:52:48.155 --> 00:52:49.415

and energy efficiency.

971

00:52:51.125 --> 00:52:54.205

I just wanna talk about some possible community benefits

972

00:52:54.205 --> 00:52:57.045

that could be included and offer those both to the panel,

973

00:52:57.145 --> 00:52:58.325

but also the applicant.

974

00:52:59.105 --> 00:53:02.645

Um, some schemes like this in the country

975

00:53:03.075 --> 00:53:05.365

that are delivering, uh, solar power

976

00:53:05.465 --> 00:53:08.195

and energy are talking about

977

00:53:09.955 --> 00:53:11.585

share offers, partnership

978

00:53:11.585 --> 00:53:14.585

and share offers with, with communities so that at least

979

00:53:15.255 --> 00:53:18.675

something, I mean, the minimum that we would expect

980

00:53:18.675 --> 00:53:22.035

to see is some section 1 0 6 commitments

981

00:53:22.175 --> 00:53:23.715

and community funds emerging,

982

00:53:24.095 --> 00:53:26.085

but I think we should go much further than that.

983

00:53:26.645 --> 00:53:29.365

I think we need community partnerships, formal,

984

00:53:29.365 --> 00:53:33.685

more legal community partnerships that enable both ownership

985

00:53:34.105 --> 00:53:36.525

of some of the financial benefits of the scheme,

986

00:53:37.065 --> 00:53:40.205

but also a voice for local communities to have a say on

987

00:53:40.205 --> 00:53:42.485

what happens around those schemes going forward.

988

00:53:42.915 --> 00:53:44.565

This is a 60 year plan.

989

00:53:45.425 --> 00:53:47.885

We are not just interested in it in the few months

990

00:53:47.985 --> 00:53:52.645

or years around both its permission and its creation,

991

00:53:52.865 --> 00:53:54.525

but also its landing here

992

00:53:54.525 --> 00:53:56.485

and operating here during that time.

993

00:53:57.065 --> 00:53:58.525

So there should be clear,

994

00:53:58.735 --> 00:54:02.365

clear equal partnership opportunities for that, even if it's

995

00:54:02.395 --> 00:54:04.605

through the form of a share ownership scheme,

996

00:54:04.605 --> 00:54:06.485

which some places are offering.

997

00:54:11.495 --> 00:54:14.935

I think the other big thing for me in my day job trying

998

00:54:14.935 --> 00:54:17.335

to help ordinary people explore

999

00:54:17.515 --> 00:54:19.735

how they can make their homes more energy efficient

1000

00:54:20.155 --> 00:54:24.815

or how we can create community energy schemes is

1001

00:54:24.815 --> 00:54:27.695

that if this scheme lands in our communities,

1002

00:54:27.955 --> 00:54:31.135

the experience, the skill, the insight of the applicant

1003

00:54:31.395 --> 00:54:33.095

and the people that will be operating,

1004

00:54:33.095 --> 00:54:37.735

it should also be brought to bear to help us residents,

1005

00:54:38.655 --> 00:54:41.415

businesses, communities, to, to to,

1006

00:54:41.475 --> 00:54:44.695

to improve our own energy efficiency, to share skill

1007

00:54:44.695 --> 00:54:47.535

and insight, to support us, to create a workforce,

1008

00:54:48.195 --> 00:54:50.135

to actually do all that.

1009

00:54:50.515 --> 00:54:53.095

So many homes need to transition in our communities.

1010

00:54:53.645 --> 00:54:56.295

That knowledge could be vital in terms

1011

00:54:56.295 --> 00:54:59.975

of both creating community energy opportunities for us,

1012

00:55:00.265 --> 00:55:04.215

which create financial sources of funding to help

1013
00:55:05.025 --> 00:55:07.895
homeowners businesses, community organizations

1014
00:55:08.765 --> 00:55:11.135
take the energy efficiency actions that we need

1015
00:55:11.135 --> 00:55:13.535
to do on our homes and buildings to help us

1016
00:55:13.555 --> 00:55:16.095
to cut the carbon emissions that is vital that we do.

1017
00:55:16.635 --> 00:55:19.335
And also how we adapt to the impacts

1018
00:55:19.335 --> 00:55:20.455
of the climate emergency.

1019
00:55:20.455 --> 00:55:21.495
We're also living with.

1020
00:55:22.395 --> 00:55:25.455
We need to also see in conjunction with that

1021
00:55:26.305 --> 00:55:28.495
local authorities, um,

1022
00:55:28.995 --> 00:55:32.255
and this is the potential of this relationship, working

1023
00:55:32.255 --> 00:55:35.255
with those people that have shared vast experience

1024
00:55:35.255 --> 00:55:37.695
and knowledge in terms of creating this site

1025
00:55:37.795 --> 00:55:41.295
and putting this forward, actually creating a countywide

1026
00:55:41.315 --> 00:55:44.855

and area wide strategic energy plans

1027
00:55:45.565 --> 00:55:47.535
that help us all to work together

1028
00:55:47.635 --> 00:55:49.255
to enable the action we need.

1029
00:55:49.955 --> 00:55:54.235
It is completely immoral for me

1030
00:55:55.345 --> 00:55:59.115
that we should have a scheme landing when people are living

1031
00:55:59.175 --> 00:56:02.975
in poverty less than miles away from those schemes

1032
00:56:03.205 --> 00:56:05.335
that can't afford to put the heating on to,

1033
00:56:05.555 --> 00:56:09.175
to warm their homes yet potentially thousands

1034
00:56:09.175 --> 00:56:11.935
and of pounds will be made daily

1035
00:56:13.245 --> 00:56:16.815
from a scheme that could provide a solution to help that.

1036
00:56:17.195 --> 00:56:21.635
We need to build a bridge between the infrastructure

1037
00:56:21.635 --> 00:56:23.960
that could potentially come through this scheme

1038
00:56:24.145 --> 00:56:26.685
and the communities around them that are crying out

1039
00:56:26.685 --> 00:56:30.005
for support and assistance to make the transitions

1040
00:56:30.005 --> 00:56:33.405
that we need to do exactly the same.

1041
00:56:34.065 --> 00:56:37.485
And if we can't be part of that common deal in terms

1042
00:56:37.485 --> 00:56:39.205
of the financial benefits from the scheme,

1043
00:56:39.705 --> 00:56:42.605
surely we should be part of the enabling

1044
00:56:42.605 --> 00:56:44.965
and the skill that could come from those same people

1045
00:56:45.765 --> 00:56:48.085
offering that knowledge and insight to us all.

1046
00:56:52.995 --> 00:56:56.575
What else to say? I could go on. I'm sorry.

1047
00:56:56.765 --> 00:56:57.775
I've probably gone on too much,

1048
00:56:58.355 --> 00:57:02.055
but I think coming back to my dream with the arrival

1049
00:57:02.115 --> 00:57:06.415
of green energy, this has to be a partnership between all.

1050
00:57:06.645 --> 00:57:10.775
There's an opportunity here to create a model to show

1051
00:57:10.915 --> 00:57:13.615
how this can land well, how it can be welcomed

1052
00:57:13.875 --> 00:57:17.095
by communities, by listening to, to those communities.

1053
00:57:18.075 --> 00:57:22.135

You would probably have heard across the, the submissions,

1054

00:57:22.135 --> 00:57:23.815

and I know the local authorities have,

1055

00:57:23.835 --> 00:57:26.455

and I believe the applicants have the amount

1056

00:57:26.455 --> 00:57:29.215

of people in this area that saying they are not opposed

1057

00:57:29.235 --> 00:57:30.255

to solar energy.

1058

00:57:30.605 --> 00:57:33.415

What they are opposed to is, is the covering

1059

00:57:33.415 --> 00:57:34.775

of vast numbers of fields.

1060

00:57:35.115 --> 00:57:38.335

In order to generate that power, we have

1061

00:57:38.335 --> 00:57:40.735

to use the resources and skills

1062

00:57:40.995 --> 00:57:42.935

and infrastructure that is open to us.

1063

00:57:43.565 --> 00:57:45.775

This is the warehouse capital of England.

1064

00:57:46.555 --> 00:57:49.335

The roof space in this area is vast.

1065

00:57:50.275 --> 00:57:53.895

Not only if we work to create local energy plans to draw

1066

00:57:53.995 --> 00:57:57.335

and make use of that roof space in partnership

1067
00:57:57.445 --> 00:57:59.095
that will help those businesses that,

1068
00:57:59.095 --> 00:58:02.335
that operate those services, but will help communities.

1069
00:58:03.415 --> 00:58:05.575
A friend of mine the other day said,

1070
00:58:06.375 --> 00:58:07.935
I believe we're talking about up

1071
00:58:07.935 --> 00:58:10.895
to 2 million solar panels landing in this area.

1072
00:58:11.485 --> 00:58:13.815
Just imagine if even a proportion

1073
00:58:13.815 --> 00:58:16.975
of those would land on the roofs of many homes

1074
00:58:17.035 --> 00:58:18.575
and businesses across this area,

1075
00:58:19.235 --> 00:58:21.935
how much personal benefit they would get as well,

1076
00:58:21.935 --> 00:58:23.495
the enormous community benefit.

1077
00:58:24.355 --> 00:58:26.535
So there's, there's invitations in here.

1078
00:58:26.885 --> 00:58:28.935
There's a request to yourselves about

1079
00:58:29.035 --> 00:58:31.295
how you assess community benefit going forward,

1080
00:58:31.875 --> 00:58:34.815

but there's also invitations to both the applicant

1081

00:58:34.955 --> 00:58:37.655

and the local authorities to use this,

1082

00:58:37.845 --> 00:58:40.975

whether this scheme is agreed or not to use this

1083

00:58:41.035 --> 00:58:44.695

and other examples to help us create better ways

1084

00:58:45.275 --> 00:58:48.135

of helping people with personal need, businesses

1085

00:58:48.135 --> 00:58:49.135

with vital need

1086

00:58:49.555 --> 00:58:53.175

and community organizations that struggle

1087

00:58:53.275 --> 00:58:54.615

to operate to exist.

1088

00:58:55.195 --> 00:58:57.695

The work I've been doing recently is helping frontline

1089

00:58:58.015 --> 00:59:00.815

services that might be helping people that are homeless,

1090

00:59:00.925 --> 00:59:02.935

helping people that are struggling with food

1091

00:59:02.935 --> 00:59:05.095

and energy costs to provide their services.

1092

00:59:05.685 --> 00:59:07.815

They are all vulnerable, they're often in buildings

1093

00:59:07.815 --> 00:59:09.855

that are ancient and struggle

1094
00:59:10.315 --> 00:59:12.455
to be kept warm whilst they're offering

1095
00:59:12.455 --> 00:59:13.575
those vital services.

1096
00:59:14.245 --> 00:59:16.655
This is, this is important for all of us

1097
00:59:17.165 --> 00:59:18.735
that we work collaboratively

1098
00:59:19.435 --> 00:59:22.045
and I invite all partners to work collaboratively

1099
00:59:22.045 --> 00:59:25.725
to make the dream I have and that many other

1100
00:59:25.725 --> 00:59:29.205
People have A positive benefit for all of us.

1101
00:59:29.575 --> 00:59:30.045
Thank you.

1102
00:59:36.385 --> 00:59:41.035
Thank you. Can we

1103
00:59:41.035 --> 00:59:42.235
have Victoria Smith now please?

1104
00:59:53.215 --> 00:59:57.265
Good morning. I realize, um,

1105
00:59:57.295 --> 01:00:01.065
sitting here now with my pre-prepared submission

1106
01:00:01.455 --> 01:00:03.225
that I'm really gonna struggle with this.

1107
01:00:03.385 --> 01:00:05.745

I found this so emotional and the speakers

1108

01:00:05.765 --> 01:00:09.425

before me have put the point so eloquently.

1109

01:00:09.925 --> 01:00:13.465

I'm not sure what I'm going to be able to add, so I will try

1110

01:00:13.465 --> 01:00:14.505

and compose myself.

1111

01:00:16.725 --> 01:00:21.175

I'm not a local person. Um, I'm the wife of a local person.

1112

01:00:21.515 --> 01:00:22.535

Uh, there's no doubt

1113

01:00:22.605 --> 01:00:25.815

that this scheme will affect us both personally

1114

01:00:26.885 --> 01:00:31.575

very considerably and listening to, um,

1115

01:00:32.035 --> 01:00:35.045

the speakers already this morning, um,

1116

01:00:35.665 --> 01:00:38.605

and thinking about what I've heard in the news lately about

1117

01:00:39.265 --> 01:00:42.805

how this country is struggling with its mental illness.

1118

01:00:44.735 --> 01:00:46.945

When is somebody going to put the two together

1119

01:00:47.685 --> 01:00:51.105

and realize that it's not only COVID

1120

01:00:51.925 --> 01:00:55.225

that's causing these mental issues, um,

1121
01:00:56.005 --> 01:00:59.905
it could well be as so eloquently testified

1122
01:01:00.685 --> 01:01:04.825
so far other issues such as having,

1123
01:01:05.655 --> 01:01:09.585
dare I say solar farms imposed upon people

1124
01:01:10.125 --> 01:01:12.825
in areas where they're totally inappropriate

1125
01:01:13.525 --> 01:01:18.035
and um, where they have spent

1126
01:01:18.525 --> 01:01:19.755
their entire lives

1127
01:01:20.415 --> 01:01:23.795
and they've invested so much in trying to

1128
01:01:25.035 --> 01:01:28.335
get reason heard above corporate greed.

1129
01:01:30.385 --> 01:01:35.135
So that was my, that wasn't, um, anything

1130
01:01:35.135 --> 01:01:37.015
that I'd thought I was going to say today.

1131
01:01:37.795 --> 01:01:41.615
Um, so let me go back to my original comments, some

1132
01:01:41.615 --> 01:01:42.615
of which have been made already.

1133
01:01:42.675 --> 01:01:44.935
So I'll endeavor not to repeat.

1134
01:01:45.595 --> 01:01:50.455

Uh, but some of the points very definitely require repeating

1135

01:01:51.255 --> 01:01:52.395

in my humble opinion.

1136

01:01:53.575 --> 01:01:57.175

Um, I've lived in me Ashby for 30 years

1137

01:01:57.995 --> 01:02:00.535

and it was my first home in a rural environment.

1138

01:02:01.475 --> 01:02:04.895

Um, about 10 years ago when I was semi-retired,

1139

01:02:04.935 --> 01:02:07.095

I was persuaded to join the parish council

1140

01:02:07.955 --> 01:02:10.735

and my views today are my own,

1141

01:02:11.035 --> 01:02:15.885

but they are very much informed by that 10 year relationship

1142

01:02:15.915 --> 01:02:18.565

that I've had with local government

1143

01:02:18.705 --> 01:02:22.005

and with, um, my neighbors

1144

01:02:22.745 --> 01:02:26.365

and the residents of me, Ashby, who I find I have

1145

01:02:26.365 --> 01:02:30.205

to say in my experience, are not naturally nimby

1146

01:02:31.235 --> 01:02:33.415

as possibly the inspector saw

1147

01:02:33.565 --> 01:02:35.135

yesterday when they came to me.

1148

01:02:35.375 --> 01:02:40.215

Ashby, um, you know, we're quiet, gentle country folk.

1149

01:02:40.875 --> 01:02:45.745

You know, we didn't want to upset the Inspectorate, um,

1150

01:02:47.065 --> 01:02:49.405

by being anything other polite and quiet.

1151

01:02:50.535 --> 01:02:53.145

Hopefully that's not going to be to our detriment.

1152

01:02:53.985 --> 01:02:56.625

I, anyway, I was engaged

1153

01:02:57.015 --> 01:03:00.865

because of my parish council role very early on in the

1154

01:03:00.865 --> 01:03:02.465

pre-proposal stage.

1155

01:03:03.165 --> 01:03:04.225

Um, invited

1156

01:03:04.525 --> 01:03:08.665

to the consultation meetings at me, Ashby Village Hall.

1157

01:03:09.285 --> 01:03:13.345

And um, I have to say at that point I was pretty ambivalent.

1158

01:03:13.365 --> 01:03:16.945

In fact, I could have almost supported a solar farm, um,

1159

01:03:17.365 --> 01:03:19.825

in my naivety, in my ignorance.

1160

01:03:20.725 --> 01:03:22.425

Um, but the more I learned

1161

01:03:22.445 --> 01:03:25.105

and the deeper I investigated, uh,

1162

01:03:25.125 --> 01:03:27.995

the more concerned I became, um,

1163

01:03:28.215 --> 01:03:32.795

the fact being this solar farm is clearly located in totally

1164

01:03:33.095 --> 01:03:34.115

the wrong location.

1165

01:03:35.575 --> 01:03:38.955

Um, local government was an alien world to me in those days.

1166

01:03:39.575 --> 01:03:43.765

Um, and indeed those days were when parish councils used

1167

01:03:43.765 --> 01:03:46.725

to be an integral part of the democratic planning process

1168

01:03:47.345 --> 01:03:48.565

and their members looked to

1169

01:03:48.625 --> 01:03:50.365

for fair leadership and guidance.

1170

01:03:51.585 --> 01:03:54.885

The Greenhill Solar proposal being so large as

1171

01:03:54.885 --> 01:03:59.565

to be considered an NSIP is truly a shrewd move in my

1172

01:03:59.565 --> 01:04:01.765

opinion on behalf of the applicant.

1173

01:04:02.925 --> 01:04:05.505

It cleverly bypasses the local planners

1174

01:04:05.565 --> 01:04:09.465

and all the resources which have been invested over years in

1175
01:04:09.555 --> 01:04:13.065
local plans and statements written by local people.

1176
01:04:13.605 --> 01:04:16.825
For local people. These have now become worthless.

1177
01:04:19.635 --> 01:04:23.695
Yes, the application the applicant has consulted as required

1178
01:04:24.425 --> 01:04:29.015
objections and uncertainties generally usually met

1179
01:04:29.165 --> 01:04:32.695
with modification and very reasonable assurances.

1180
01:04:33.275 --> 01:04:35.695
But it's these assurances which concern me

1181
01:04:35.695 --> 01:04:37.615
because whatever the applicant says,

1182
01:04:37.615 --> 01:04:41.895
there are no guarantees, no comeback, nothing written in law

1183
01:04:42.355 --> 01:04:44.215
and no ongoing accountability.

1184
01:04:47.575 --> 01:04:50.825
Greenhill Solar Farm may be designated a project

1185
01:04:51.125 --> 01:04:52.305
of national significance,

1186
01:04:52.445 --> 01:04:55.705
but let me tell you about Sidewalk Reservoir to the east

1187
01:04:55.705 --> 01:04:58.185
of Mes, Ashby, a designated area

1188
01:04:58.205 --> 01:05:00.905

of outstanding natural beauty and biodiversity.

1189

01:05:01.725 --> 01:05:03.865

Should the Greenhill Solar Farm go ahead.

1190

01:05:04.215 --> 01:05:07.425

This reservoir could be the only consolation available

1191

01:05:08.005 --> 01:05:11.265

to the people of the remaining consolation available

1192

01:05:11.365 --> 01:05:13.985

to the people of me Ashby, somewhere they can go

1193

01:05:13.985 --> 01:05:15.225

to find tranquility

1194

01:05:15.645 --> 01:05:18.845

and to be reminded of what their rural life used to be

1195

01:05:19.545 --> 01:05:23.485

to take solace in the support nature offers their

1196

01:05:23.485 --> 01:05:25.685

significantly impacted physical

1197

01:05:25.685 --> 01:05:29.805

and mental wellbeing whilst outside the boundary

1198

01:05:29.805 --> 01:05:32.045

of the Greenhill Solar Farm Project, per se,

1199

01:05:32.875 --> 01:05:34.365

even this is under threat.

1200

01:05:36.495 --> 01:05:39.715

Not enough is known about electric battery fires at present.

1201

01:05:40.215 --> 01:05:43.035

One thing is for sure they are inextinguishable

1202
01:05:43.635 --> 01:05:47.995
consequently citing 92 battery storage units.

1203
01:05:48.635 --> 01:05:51.195
I believe it's at, um, the, the,

1204
01:05:51.215 --> 01:05:55.275
the official reference is is B-E-S-S-C, uh, the edge

1205
01:05:55.275 --> 01:05:59.915
of swells runway and adjacent to ancient woodland.

1206
01:06:00.825 --> 01:06:03.555
I've no idea if the Civil Aviation Authority

1207
01:06:03.655 --> 01:06:06.275
or Historic England have been consulted on this,

1208
01:06:06.535 --> 01:06:07.915
but I surely hope they have.

1209
01:06:09.025 --> 01:06:11.715
This considerably heightens the risk of a disaster

1210
01:06:12.575 --> 01:06:15.715
in an area where North Han Fire Service admits

1211
01:06:16.255 --> 01:06:18.035
its effectiveness is compromised

1212
01:06:18.055 --> 01:06:20.355
by the very weak water pressure we have.

1213
01:06:23.075 --> 01:06:26.655
If there is even the slightest possibility a battery storage

1214
01:06:27.135 --> 01:06:29.855
facility can cause an ecological disaster.

1215
01:06:30.565 --> 01:06:34.575

Toxifying the water course SWA bottom I believe it's called,

1216

01:06:34.825 --> 01:06:39.095

which runs alongside this site and into this reservoir.

1217

01:06:40.055 --> 01:06:43.895

I respectfully urge you the planning inspectorate not

1218

01:06:43.915 --> 01:06:45.535

to grant this DCO.

1219

01:06:46.905 --> 01:06:49.645

My next point was, was very eloquently covered by,

1220

01:06:50.105 --> 01:06:51.285

uh, Mr. Mason.

1221

01:06:52.265 --> 01:06:56.645

Um, and that is about the community benefits fund.

1222

01:06:57.245 --> 01:07:01.765

'cause somehow that has got to be written in,

1223

01:07:03.105 --> 01:07:06.735

uh, stone and be, um,

1224

01:07:09.175 --> 01:07:14.105

absolutely, uh, a commitment by the developer.

1225

01:07:15.045 --> 01:07:19.785

Um, dare I suggest that the corporate history involved,

1226

01:07:20.605 --> 01:07:24.665

um, could suggest that

1227

01:07:25.555 --> 01:07:28.665

being a hundred pound company, um,

1228

01:07:29.745 --> 01:07:34.385

distances the responsibilities from the, uh,

1229
01:07:34.495 --> 01:07:36.745
holding company island Green Power

1230
01:07:37.325 --> 01:07:40.345
and would enable the, the, uh,

1231
01:07:41.725 --> 01:07:45.625
the proposal or the, the, the approved plan to be sold on

1232
01:07:46.655 --> 01:07:49.465
very quickly to goodness knows who.

1233
01:07:50.445 --> 01:07:54.805
And, um, any promises made

1234
01:07:55.465 --> 01:07:59.565
to the communities that is impacted could really,

1235
01:07:59.955 --> 01:08:03.125
very easily be lost and rendered worthless.

1236
01:08:04.125 --> 01:08:05.685
I refer you again to Mr.

1237
01:08:05.835 --> 01:08:07.685
Mason's comments and

1238
01:08:07.685 --> 01:08:10.965
therefore I ask you if you cannot be

1239
01:08:11.755 --> 01:08:16.285
cast iron sure that the community's impacted

1240
01:08:17.675 --> 01:08:19.485
will be compensated,

1241
01:08:21.085 --> 01:08:22.725
I then use the word adequately.

1242
01:08:23.405 --> 01:08:26.245

I urge you not to approve this application.

1243
01:08:28.105 --> 01:08:30.805
Um, finally, one thing which occurs to me

1244
01:08:31.225 --> 01:08:34.405
and has occurred to my neighbors

1245
01:08:34.785 --> 01:08:37.645
and we have discussed at Parish Council is

1246
01:08:38.615 --> 01:08:41.525
60 years is such a long time with the,

1247
01:08:41.665 --> 01:08:45.675
the fast moving technology in the world today.

1248
01:08:46.615 --> 01:08:49.195
So what's gonna happen to these

1249
01:08:50.155 --> 01:08:54.955
enormous solar panels on the fields around our countryside?

1250
01:08:57.575 --> 01:08:59.945
When they become obsolete, what are they gonna do with them?

1251
01:09:00.175 --> 01:09:04.185
Dump 'em in the sea? Um, who bear the cost of that?

1252
01:09:05.025 --> 01:09:06.345
I mean, let's be clear.

1253
01:09:06.695 --> 01:09:08.465
This whole thing is motivated not

1254
01:09:08.465 --> 01:09:09.985
by saving the planet, but by money.

1255
01:09:10.605 --> 01:09:13.905
And there will be no financial incentive in

1256
01:09:13.905 --> 01:09:15.505
decommissioning these lands.

1257
01:09:16.045 --> 01:09:18.225
How will the farmland be reclaimed?

1258
01:09:18.725 --> 01:09:20.785
Uh, will the responsibly fall to the government?

1259
01:09:20.965 --> 01:09:23.945
The unitary council, God forbid, the parish council,

1260
01:09:25.035 --> 01:09:28.625
while all along the instigators are long gone

1261
01:09:28.645 --> 01:09:29.665
and meres Ashby

1262
01:09:30.125 --> 01:09:32.185
and the surrounding villages will be

1263
01:09:32.225 --> 01:09:33.305
suffering the consequences.

1264
01:09:33.715 --> 01:09:36.305
There are just far too many uncertainties here,

1265
01:09:36.845 --> 01:09:39.985
unless a decommissioning plan is documented now

1266
01:09:40.205 --> 01:09:42.825
and could be a hundred percent gar cast iron

1267
01:09:43.225 --> 01:09:44.465
guaranteed and funded.

1268
01:09:46.075 --> 01:09:49.835
I urge the planning inspector to turn down this application

1269
01:09:49.855 --> 01:09:50.915

for a DC0.

1270
01:09:51.815 --> 01:09:54.915
So I am concluding, um,

1271
01:09:55.745 --> 01:09:58.995
that the people of Meers Ashby refuse

1272
01:09:59.055 --> 01:10:02.155
to accept being involved in this massive solar farm.

1273
01:10:02.615 --> 01:10:06.995
It can't be our destiny with food security, rural heritage,

1274
01:10:07.055 --> 01:10:09.515
mental health, safety, nature,

1275
01:10:10.055 --> 01:10:12.715
all sacrificed on the ultra of net zero.

1276
01:10:14.315 --> 01:10:16.185
We'll be confined to lives living

1277
01:10:16.215 --> 01:10:20.465
amongst industrial landscape trapped by the limited capacity

1278
01:10:20.845 --> 01:10:23.185
of our once quaint country lanes

1279
01:10:23.365 --> 01:10:26.025
and most bizarrely of all in the knowledge that

1280
01:10:26.325 --> 01:10:29.385
so much top quality food producing farmland

1281
01:10:29.805 --> 01:10:32.465
and rural knowhow will be lost forever.

1282
01:10:34.015 --> 01:10:37.225
Okay, my submission this morning explores the unknown

1283
01:10:37.365 --> 01:10:39.025
and is very much from the heart.

1284
01:10:39.925 --> 01:10:41.705
You could argue rather than the head.

1285
01:10:42.325 --> 01:10:44.825
Uh, but there's been facts presented to you this morning

1286
01:10:44.965 --> 01:10:48.965
and facts presented to you, um,

1287
01:10:49.865 --> 01:10:51.845
at the hearing on Tuesday evening by,

1288
01:10:51.845 --> 01:10:54.395
by neighbors, Mrs. Brown and Mr.

1289
01:10:54.435 --> 01:10:58.795
Frampton. We all respectfully implore you admit the frenzy

1290
01:10:58.795 --> 01:11:00.595
of the renewable energy debate.

1291
01:11:00.975 --> 01:11:02.115
Please take the time

1292
01:11:02.455 --> 01:11:05.475
to heed our equally important please on behalf

1293
01:11:05.535 --> 01:11:10.395
of the preservation of sanity, rural life, biodiversity,

1294
01:11:11.135 --> 01:11:12.315
and food security.

1295
01:11:14.095 --> 01:11:18.185
Thank you. May I read Mrs Call's?

1296
01:11:18.185 --> 01:11:21.425

Yes, I was just about to say thank you. Thank you. So Mrs.

1297

01:11:21.425 --> 01:11:24.345

Callis has lived in Meres Ashby for almost 60 years.

1298

01:11:24.805 --> 01:11:27.825

Her husband's family has farmed the area also

1299

01:11:27.885 --> 01:11:28.905

for many generations.

1300

01:11:30.725 --> 01:11:33.105

The village and its surroundings are important.

1301

01:11:33.115 --> 01:11:34.825

Place is an important place to her

1302

01:11:34.825 --> 01:11:37.585

and she's very concerned about the impact this project will

1303

01:11:37.585 --> 01:11:39.665

have on us all, particularly the enormity

1304

01:11:39.665 --> 01:11:40.825

of it in our parish.

1305

01:11:41.295 --> 01:11:43.385

This is clearly evident simply

1306

01:11:43.485 --> 01:11:45.145

by looking at the location map.

1307

01:11:45.525 --> 01:11:49.825

One third of the total application acreage lies within

1308

01:11:50.085 --> 01:11:51.225

our parish boundary.

1309

01:11:52.235 --> 01:11:56.535

Me Ashby Parish covers an area of 1 6 7 0

1310
01:11:57.195 --> 01:11:59.495
1,670 acres.

1311
01:12:00.675 --> 01:12:03.855
Our square village sits in the middle occupying

1312
01:12:03.855 --> 01:12:05.415
approximately 60 acres.

1313
01:12:06.355 --> 01:12:08.575
The rest, I'll do the math for you.

1314
01:12:09.285 --> 01:12:13.175
1600 acres is good quality

1315
01:12:13.355 --> 01:12:14.535
or better farmland.

1316
01:12:14.995 --> 01:12:17.535
All farmed and mostly arable land.

1317
01:12:18.195 --> 01:12:21.255
It has always provided crops to feed British people.

1318
01:12:21.665 --> 01:12:24.415
Wheat, barley, oats, rape seed.

1319
01:12:24.795 --> 01:12:27.095
It is open land with open views.

1320
01:12:28.035 --> 01:12:30.415
The Greenhill solar application is

1321
01:12:30.435 --> 01:12:33.175
for 1000 acres in our parish.

1322
01:12:33.845 --> 01:12:36.855
That is 1000 of our 1600.

1323
01:12:37.755 --> 01:12:41.615

In other words, over 62% of our farmland

1324

01:12:42.165 --> 01:12:45.445

will be within the solar sites even.

1325

01:12:45.475 --> 01:12:48.285

This is, even if this is not all covered

1326

01:12:48.905 --> 01:12:50.765

in solar factory panels

1327

01:12:52.815 --> 01:12:55.595

who will maintain it.

1328

01:12:56.925 --> 01:13:00.765

Fanciful ideas like wild fire meadows

1329

01:13:00.785 --> 01:13:04.565

or grazing sheep require significant input to establish

1330

01:13:04.585 --> 01:13:09.005

and to maintain just not practical or realistic.

1331

01:13:09.005 --> 01:13:13.585

Quite frankly. In addition to the solar panels, we'll have

1332

01:13:13.585 --> 01:13:17.145

that large battery storage facility, a substation

1333

01:13:17.325 --> 01:13:19.425

and cabling, utterly horrendous.

1334

01:13:19.615 --> 01:13:21.945

This is enormous. It is unacceptable.

1335

01:13:22.205 --> 01:13:23.545

It is disproportionate

1336

01:13:23.765 --> 01:13:27.265

to the take from other parishes and other counties.

1337
01:13:28.445 --> 01:13:32.575
Can all this devastation be justified? So Mrs.

1338
01:13:32.995 --> 01:13:36.175
Call's conclusion is that she does not object

1339
01:13:36.195 --> 01:13:38.855
to solar panel solar power, I'm sorry,

1340
01:13:39.155 --> 01:13:42.215
but to instances where it is cited inappropriately.

1341
01:13:42.755 --> 01:13:47.615
Her understanding of the Green Hill solar process is

1342
01:13:47.615 --> 01:13:49.655
that the applicant was duty bound

1343
01:13:49.655 --> 01:13:53.095
to investigate other sites which may be better suited

1344
01:13:53.095 --> 01:13:55.695
to solar panels than than ours.

1345
01:13:56.665 --> 01:14:00.885
Um, it has been raised that there is, um, by someone who

1346
01:14:01.605 --> 01:14:04.845
apparently knows there is an old British steel site near

1347
01:14:05.055 --> 01:14:08.165
Corby, which is government owned Brownfield site

1348
01:14:08.595 --> 01:14:10.965
with connection to the national grid.

1349
01:14:11.905 --> 01:14:14.365
Is it a matter for the public record,

1350
01:14:14.615 --> 01:14:17.245

which other sites were considered in this instance

1351
01:14:17.585 --> 01:14:19.965
and in what criteria were they dismissed?

1352
01:14:20.985 --> 01:14:25.645
This needs serious further scrutiny, urgently, um,

1353
01:14:25.985 --> 01:14:29.125
and um, maybe, um, the answer

1354
01:14:29.125 --> 01:14:33.405
to those can be forthcoming today from the applicant,

1355
01:14:33.825 --> 01:14:36.685
but I urge a planning inspector to look into this.

1356
01:14:38.815 --> 01:14:40.205
Thank you. Thank you.

1357
01:14:43.575 --> 01:14:45.075
We now have Linda two e please.

1358
01:14:55.315 --> 01:14:58.405
Good morning. Thank you. Um, I'm going to do my own

1359
01:14:59.315 --> 01:15:02.645
talk first and then I have been asked to present that

1360
01:15:02.645 --> 01:15:03.845
of Catherine Wilson as well.

1361
01:15:04.065 --> 01:15:05.125
So I'll start with my own.

1362
01:15:05.785 --> 01:15:07.925
Um, I have been resident of Walgrave Village

1363
01:15:08.065 --> 01:15:09.445
for more than 32 years.

1364

01:15:09.825 --> 01:15:11.965

And I'm also a member of Stock Greenhill Solar.

1365

01:15:12.865 --> 01:15:15.925

The topic I wish to address in the next 10 minutes is the WI

1366

01:15:16.105 --> 01:15:18.445

within site layout of site A

1367

01:15:18.905 --> 01:15:20.165

and how different choices

1368

01:15:20.425 --> 01:15:23.765

by the applicant could potentially significant reduce the

1369

01:15:23.765 --> 01:15:27.885

harm and impact on the local community, particularly um,

1370

01:15:27.915 --> 01:15:30.165

with respect to the leisure use of the quiet lane

1371

01:15:30.665 --> 01:15:34.285

and at the same time also reduce the harm on hedge rows red

1372

01:15:34.285 --> 01:15:37.885

listed birds of conservation concern protected bats

1373

01:15:38.105 --> 01:15:40.725

and on best and most first tall agricultural land.

1374

01:15:41.515 --> 01:15:43.085

I'll then offer some proposals

1375

01:15:43.085 --> 01:15:45.165

for inclusion in N-E-D-C-0 should

1376

01:15:45.165 --> 01:15:46.165

that eventually be granted.

1377

01:15:46.905 --> 01:15:48.125

And I'd like to conclude

1378

01:15:48.125 --> 01:15:50.965
with a brief point about the NIP process from a

1379

01:15:50.965 --> 01:15:52.005
layperson's point of view.

1380

01:15:53.985 --> 01:15:57.765
At the public consultation Wal grave in December, 2024,

1381

01:15:57.985 --> 01:16:00.325
the applicant's representative seemed unaware

1382

01:16:00.345 --> 01:16:02.605
of the quiet lane designation of Newland Road,

1383

01:16:02.895 --> 01:16:06.205
which divide site A into east and west sections.

1384

01:16:06.955 --> 01:16:09.565
This designation was granted in 2013

1385

01:16:09.585 --> 01:16:12.165
by Northamptonshire County Council on the request

1386

01:16:12.165 --> 01:16:13.725
of Wal Grave Parish Council.

1387

01:16:14.995 --> 01:16:17.605
Just for anyone who is unaware, the definition

1388

01:16:17.605 --> 01:16:21.805
of a quiet lane is a minor rural road prioritized for use

1389

01:16:21.905 --> 01:16:25.085
by walkers, cyclists, horse riders,

1390

01:16:25.105 --> 01:16:28.285
and the mobility impaired for leisure and recreation.

1391
01:16:29.015 --> 01:16:31.765
Quiet lanes are about appreciating the beauty

1392
01:16:31.985 --> 01:16:35.965
and tranquility of country lanes rather than just traveling

1393
01:16:35.965 --> 01:16:37.285
along them from A to B.

1394
01:16:39.315 --> 01:16:42.335
Um, the applicants also represents, also seemed unaware

1395
01:16:42.335 --> 01:16:45.415
that the green lane branching off Newland road running

1396
01:16:45.415 --> 01:16:47.855
approximately northwards through the Eastern section

1397
01:16:47.875 --> 01:16:51.215
of cite was a grassy track well used

1398
01:16:51.275 --> 01:16:53.415
by villagers in long living memory

1399
01:16:53.875 --> 01:16:55.335
for walking and dog walking.

1400
01:16:56.055 --> 01:16:58.655
Although lacking formal public right of way status,

1401
01:16:59.475 --> 01:17:01.775
it extends for around two thirds of a mile.

1402
01:17:02.215 --> 01:17:04.855
A lovely walk along a high point in the scenery

1403
01:17:05.005 --> 01:17:07.055
with wide ranging countrysides view.

1404
01:17:07.325 --> 01:17:10.165

Countryside views as I'm I'm sure was appreciated

1405

01:17:10.345 --> 01:17:13.045
by you the inspectors when you visited yesterday

1406

01:17:14.465 --> 01:17:15.565
at the consultation

1407

01:17:15.665 --> 01:17:20.485
and subsequently in my very detailed feedback form, I stated

1408

01:17:20.835 --> 01:17:22.965
that if fields AF 29

1409

01:17:23.025 --> 01:17:25.165
and AF 14, for example,

1410

01:17:25.305 --> 01:17:28.645
you could see a PP 1 91 for field numbering.

1411

01:17:29.185 --> 01:17:31.045
If they were not used for the scheme,

1412

01:17:31.395 --> 01:17:34.765
that could make a major reduction in the significant

1413

01:17:35.205 --> 01:17:38.125
negative impact of the proposed development on people using

1414

01:17:38.155 --> 01:17:39.685
Newland Road and the Green Lane.

1415

01:17:40.025 --> 01:17:41.805
As these fields border a more than half

1416

01:17:41.805 --> 01:17:43.605
of the affected east side of Newland Road

1417

01:17:44.105 --> 01:17:46.445
and more than half of the west side of the green lane,

1418
01:17:47.625 --> 01:17:48.965
the views and tranquility

1419
01:17:49.025 --> 01:17:52.245
of the countryside setting would be much better retained.

1420
01:17:53.065 --> 01:17:56.165
And if you remember from yesterday in your visit field,

1421
01:17:56.285 --> 01:17:59.045
a F 29 is triangular, it's pointed end

1422
01:17:59.045 --> 01:18:01.685
where you disembarked um, from your mini buses.

1423
01:18:03.445 --> 01:18:06.885
I questioned why construction traffic would be rooted from

1424
01:18:06.885 --> 01:18:09.885
the Broon Road to the north through the east side

1425
01:18:11.145 --> 01:18:12.645
and through the F through the fields

1426
01:18:12.745 --> 01:18:14.525
and then across the quiet lane

1427
01:18:14.675 --> 01:18:17.765
through field AF 29 into field AF 10.

1428
01:18:18.675 --> 01:18:21.205
Obviously it cannot come down the single track road,

1429
01:18:21.705 --> 01:18:25.445
but why not access the west part from the Broon road near a

1430
01:18:25.665 --> 01:18:27.525
old village as is planned

1431
01:18:27.705 --> 01:18:30.485

as we'll see in the operational period seen

1432

01:18:30.485 --> 01:18:32.885

for example an A PP 1 93,

1433

01:18:34.235 --> 01:18:36.485

this would then avoid any potential closure

1434

01:18:36.505 --> 01:18:38.685

of the quiet lane during the construction period.

1435

01:18:40.685 --> 01:18:43.485

I also suggested that the then proposed position

1436

01:18:43.505 --> 01:18:46.365

of the substation in field AF 28,

1437

01:18:46.395 --> 01:18:49.085

this was the original proposal near the beginning

1438

01:18:49.085 --> 01:18:50.925

of the green lane, was inappropriate

1439

01:18:51.225 --> 01:18:54.205

and it should be placed in perhaps field AF 17

1440

01:18:54.715 --> 01:18:56.325

near the B Brownton road access.

1441

01:18:56.665 --> 01:18:58.725

So this is easily reached for maintenance

1442

01:18:58.725 --> 01:19:00.885

and where it would do least harm visually.

1443

01:19:02.285 --> 01:19:04.925

Subsequently, I've submitted a relevant representation

1444

01:19:05.565 --> 01:19:09.925

RR0 1 0 3 1 7 in which I detailed my use

1445

01:19:09.925 --> 01:19:12.965

of Newton Road and included the results of a village survey

1446

01:19:12.965 --> 01:19:15.205

that I conducted in August, 2024.

1447

01:19:16.155 --> 01:19:20.845

This showed that of 95 respondents 85 regularly

1448

01:19:20.945 --> 01:19:23.405

use the quiet lane for recreational purposes.

1449

01:19:24.645 --> 01:19:26.285

I have also submitted as part

1450

01:19:26.285 --> 01:19:28.445

of stock Greenhill Solar's written representation.

1451

01:19:29.205 --> 01:19:32.325

A document comprising nine individual narratives from

1452

01:19:32.325 --> 01:19:36.245

villages that that's rep 2 0 1, which

1453

01:19:36.805 --> 01:19:39.725

describes these individuals use of the countryside locally

1454

01:19:40.345 --> 01:19:42.085

and its importance and meaning to them,

1455

01:19:42.085 --> 01:19:44.965

including beneficial effects on health and wellbeing.

1456

01:19:45.505 --> 01:19:46.725

And again, six

1457

01:19:46.725 --> 01:19:49.525

of these particularly reference the quiet lane.

1458

01:19:51.085 --> 01:19:53.365

I have therefore been very disappointed that none

1459

01:19:53.365 --> 01:19:56.285

of these um, submissions seem to been considered

1460

01:19:56.425 --> 01:19:58.805

or any adjustment made to the applicant's plan

1461

01:19:59.105 --> 01:20:00.845

to take account of the quiet lane.

1462

01:20:01.605 --> 01:20:03.485

I thought that the point of gathering the views

1463

01:20:03.485 --> 01:20:05.325

of local communities was to give them weight

1464

01:20:05.625 --> 01:20:08.205

and try to find more mutually acceptable solutions.

1465

01:20:09.065 --> 01:20:11.685

And I could not find in the documents a rationale

1466

01:20:11.685 --> 01:20:14.005

for the fields that have been selected for mitigation

1467

01:20:14.305 --> 01:20:16.765

or what ecology was being mitigated for.

1468

01:20:17.145 --> 01:20:18.725

It appears that the applicant does not need

1469

01:20:18.725 --> 01:20:20.005

to justify the decision.

1470

01:20:20.065 --> 01:20:23.005

It is decisions it takes for within site layout

1471

01:20:24.475 --> 01:20:26.845

with reference to fields AF 29

1472
01:20:26.845 --> 01:20:30.445
and AF 14, taking these two fields out from solar panel

1473
01:20:30.545 --> 01:20:31.965
use and rerouting.

1474
01:20:31.965 --> 01:20:35.005
The construction axis would also reduce the damage

1475
01:20:35.025 --> 01:20:38.965
to important hedge rows CAPP 1 92

1476
01:20:39.585 --> 01:20:42.525
as these fields hedge rows comprise a high percentage

1477
01:20:42.625 --> 01:20:45.485
of the ones considered important in site A

1478
01:20:47.505 --> 01:20:50.645
as mentioned by Richard Humphrey's KC representing stock

1479
01:20:50.645 --> 01:20:52.645
Greenhill soda at the um,

1480
01:20:52.645 --> 01:20:55.885
issue specific hearing on on Tuesday this week in any other

1481
01:20:56.565 --> 01:20:57.605
business field,

1482
01:20:57.825 --> 01:21:00.445
AF 29 is also nearly all in agricultural

1483
01:21:00.445 --> 01:21:01.565
land classification two.

1484
01:21:02.545 --> 01:21:06.765
Um, as can be seen on a PP 1 72, page 21,

1485
01:21:06.995 --> 01:21:10.405

clearly BMV land whose use should be avoided

1486

01:21:11.955 --> 01:21:13.565

with regard to the substation

1487

01:21:13.775 --> 01:21:16.085

where the cabling route exits site A,

1488

01:21:16.905 --> 01:21:19.645

the ground level tree assessment results for suitability

1489

01:21:19.645 --> 01:21:24.525

for boosting bats seen in a P oh eight nine shows that most

1490

01:21:24.525 --> 01:21:27.125

of the high suitability trees, um,

1491

01:21:27.345 --> 01:21:29.925

in site eight are actually clustered around the edge

1492

01:21:29.925 --> 01:21:32.565

of field AF 24 exactly

1493

01:21:32.565 --> 01:21:34.485

where the substation has now been placed.

1494

01:21:36.005 --> 01:21:38.575

Bats are all protected species so the noise

1495

01:21:38.575 --> 01:21:41.055

and light pollution from a substation close to

1496

01:21:41.075 --> 01:21:44.775

so many potential roosting areas is completely inappropriate

1497

01:21:44.795 --> 01:21:45.855

and may be unlawful.

1498

01:21:48.095 --> 01:21:51.015

Skylarks have been found in the highest density in site A

1499
01:21:51.015 --> 01:21:52.215
across all the sites,

1500
01:21:53.075 --> 01:21:56.775
but nearly all the indicative territory cause shown in a PP

1501
01:21:56.795 --> 01:21:59.695
oh nine one page 1 0 1 will be lost.

1502
01:22:00.555 --> 01:22:02.455
Taking fields AF 29

1503
01:22:02.455 --> 01:22:06.175
and AF 14 out as well would make a significant difference

1504
01:22:06.175 --> 01:22:07.295
to the number retained.

1505
01:22:08.685 --> 01:22:11.205
I also know from personal observation over decades

1506
01:22:11.675 --> 01:22:15.005
that yellow hammers another red listed bird conservation

1507
01:22:15.005 --> 01:22:18.845
concern are almost invariably see nesting and nesting

1508
01:22:18.865 --> 01:22:22.645
and uh, uh, activity in the hedgerows of field.

1509
01:22:23.765 --> 01:22:26.725
I suspect that the main field's chosen not to be designated

1510
01:22:26.725 --> 01:22:29.245
for solar panels within site A for reasons such

1511
01:22:29.245 --> 01:22:31.085
as the impact on the current landowner

1512
01:22:31.145 --> 01:22:32.765

and tenants personal views,

1513

01:22:33.465 --> 01:22:37.165

the underlying important archeology, particularly in AF one

1514

01:22:38.185 --> 01:22:40.885

an inappropriate gradient and slope direction

1515

01:22:41.585 --> 01:22:43.525

and also important ecology

1516

01:22:43.545 --> 01:22:46.725

around the significant stream in the west part of the site.

1517

01:22:47.825 --> 01:22:49.645

So in conclusion, it's my feeling

1518

01:22:49.665 --> 01:22:51.245

and the general opinion of other villages

1519

01:22:51.635 --> 01:22:55.085

that insufficient rega regard was paid to their views

1520

01:22:55.105 --> 01:22:57.165

by the applicant after public consultation

1521

01:22:57.545 --> 01:22:59.085

as this did not seem to inform

1522

01:22:59.085 --> 01:23:01.365

or alter their plans in any significant way

1523

01:23:01.365 --> 01:23:02.925

to the layout of site A.

1524

01:23:04.395 --> 01:23:07.735

So I'd like to respectfully propose the following.

1525

01:23:07.795 --> 01:23:09.815

If the planning inspectors, if you are minded

1526
01:23:09.955 --> 01:23:14.335
to recommend granting A DCA, that field AF 29

1527
01:23:14.355 --> 01:23:17.015
and pre on AF 14 are removed from the scheme

1528
01:23:17.755 --> 01:23:19.455
and retained perhaps as arable land

1529
01:23:19.455 --> 01:23:21.015
or used for ecological mitigation.

1530
01:23:21.285 --> 01:23:24.535
This would considerably reduce the adverse landscape

1531
01:23:24.535 --> 01:23:26.415
and visual noise and glint

1532
01:23:26.415 --> 01:23:28.375
and glare effects for users of the quiet lane

1533
01:23:28.755 --> 01:23:32.295
and help at least partially preserve the countryside setting

1534
01:23:32.315 --> 01:23:36.375
and tranquility that both for construction as well

1535
01:23:36.375 --> 01:23:38.735
as operational maintenance access to the west side

1536
01:23:38.735 --> 01:23:41.815
of site A should be from the B brownton road access,

1537
01:23:41.905 --> 01:23:45.375
which is actually called a dash two in rep one five,

1538
01:23:45.505 --> 01:23:47.575
sorry rep 1 1 5 7.

1539
01:23:48.045 --> 01:23:50.455

This would remove the need for construction vehicles

1540
01:23:50.455 --> 01:23:52.215
to cross Newland Road from east to west

1541
01:23:53.235 --> 01:23:56.735
and that the current permissive path along the green lane is

1542
01:23:56.735 --> 01:23:59.215
made an official public right of way

1543
01:23:59.645 --> 01:24:03.495
because as we know, any landowner can at any time remove

1544
01:24:03.685 --> 01:24:05.055
that permissive access.

1545
01:24:06.875 --> 01:24:09.695
And then just to con, I wish to conclude by saying

1546
01:24:09.925 --> 01:24:12.175
that I wish to say that I consider myself

1547
01:24:12.175 --> 01:24:14.575
to be an intelligent lay person having worked

1548
01:24:14.575 --> 01:24:16.335
as a hospital doctor for over 40 years

1549
01:24:16.875 --> 01:24:19.775
and yet I have found the whole process surrounding the

1550
01:24:20.135 --> 01:24:21.335
proposed Green Hill Solar Farm

1551
01:24:21.355 --> 01:24:24.055
and the Nsip process fairly unfathomable.

1552
01:24:24.395 --> 01:24:26.495
It has required an enormous amount of time

1553
01:24:26.495 --> 01:24:28.455
and effort helped by grouping together

1554
01:24:28.455 --> 01:24:31.535
with other like-minded individuals to try to understand

1555
01:24:31.535 --> 01:24:33.415
what was going to happen and how we

1556
01:24:33.415 --> 01:24:35.335
as individuals in affected communities could

1557
01:24:35.335 --> 01:24:36.375
have any influence.

1558
01:24:37.235 --> 01:24:39.175
The initial documentation produced

1559
01:24:39.175 --> 01:24:41.815
for the public consultation was thousands of pages long

1560
01:24:42.005 --> 01:24:43.215
with much repetition.

1561
01:24:44.225 --> 01:24:45.405
Trying to get to grips

1562
01:24:45.405 --> 01:24:47.325
with the contents was very challenging.

1563
01:24:47.835 --> 01:24:50.765
Most people I know in my village could barely attempt it

1564
01:24:51.105 --> 01:24:53.525
and this was well known possible for those who are not used

1565
01:24:53.525 --> 01:24:55.165
to accessing information digitally.

1566
01:24:56.385 --> 01:24:59.525

As for the documents now on the planning inspector website

1567

01:24:59.995 --> 01:25:03.125
yesterday, they numbered 1099

1568

01:25:03.385 --> 01:25:05.685
and some of them are more than a hundred pages long.

1569

01:25:05.935 --> 01:25:08.285
There are probably more than 50,000 pages.

1570

01:25:09.465 --> 01:25:12.165
It is very difficult to see how this process is compatible

1571

01:25:12.195 --> 01:25:13.365
with living in a democracy

1572

01:25:13.655 --> 01:25:16.645
where local people should be involved in major planning

1573

01:25:16.925 --> 01:25:18.325
decisions affecting their communities.

1574

01:25:18.755 --> 01:25:19.885
Without the involvement

1575

01:25:19.885 --> 01:25:22.685
and guidance of paid experts paid for out

1576

01:25:22.685 --> 01:25:24.485
of our own hard earned income,

1577

01:25:25.145 --> 01:25:27.365
we feel we would have had little chance

1578

01:25:27.365 --> 01:25:29.925
of getting our voices heard in an effective manner.

1579

01:25:30.575 --> 01:25:31.525
Thank you for listening.

1580
01:25:42.905 --> 01:25:45.455
Thank you. Um, if you'd like now like to turn

1581
01:25:45.475 --> 01:25:47.775
to Catherine Wilson's representation please.

1582
01:25:49.035 --> 01:25:53.595
Um, there are two places where she's quoting

1583
01:25:53.655 --> 01:25:55.315
and the documents that she says

1584
01:25:55.315 --> 01:25:58.835
and the page numbers she's quoting from are the Greenhill

1585
01:25:58.835 --> 01:26:02.595
Solar, um, consultation information booklet.

1586
01:26:03.105 --> 01:26:05.845
Um, so that was to do with the statutory consultation.

1587
01:26:06.545 --> 01:26:10.245
Uh, and then there's another quote which comes from, um,

1588
01:26:10.345 --> 01:26:13.325
the nine individual narratives, which I have just um,

1589
01:26:14.365 --> 01:26:16.045
referred to that we submitted as part

1590
01:26:16.045 --> 01:26:18.165
of the Stock Greenhill Solar, which is rep 2 0 1.

1591
01:26:18.425 --> 01:26:20.365
And these were the responses given

1592
01:26:20.825 --> 01:26:22.885
by the applicant to that document.

1593
01:26:24.335 --> 01:26:27.395

Um, so I will read now from uh, Catherine Wilson

1594

01:26:28.095 --> 01:26:30.715

and I'll read in her words my objection

1595

01:26:30.715 --> 01:26:33.355

to the Greenhill Solar development has two themes.

1596

01:26:34.375 --> 01:26:36.875

One, my deep love of the rural landscape

1597

01:26:36.875 --> 01:26:38.995

and natural environment of Northamptonshire.

1598

01:26:40.375 --> 01:26:42.955

Two. I feel that many of the statements written

1599

01:26:43.015 --> 01:26:45.115

by Greenhill Solar are presented as facts

1600

01:26:45.575 --> 01:26:49.235

but are entirely subjective, biased towards the development

1601

01:26:49.235 --> 01:26:50.395

and cannot be proven.

1602

01:26:52.255 --> 01:26:56.155

She says, I have lived in this area for 75 years, 53

1603

01:26:56.155 --> 01:26:59.115

of these in the parishes of Walgrave and Huntington

1604

01:26:59.255 --> 01:27:02.195

and have a deep love of our landscape and farming gear.

1605

01:27:03.015 --> 01:27:05.275

Living here and walking the lanes in rights

1606

01:27:05.275 --> 01:27:06.955

of way is the essence of my life.

1607
01:27:07.295 --> 01:27:08.715
My physical and mental health

1608
01:27:08.775 --> 01:27:12.995
and wellbeing site a will completely change the

1609
01:27:12.995 --> 01:27:14.155
Newland Road and Green Lane.

1610
01:27:14.615 --> 01:27:16.795
The road is a designated quiet lane

1611
01:27:16.975 --> 01:27:20.395
and as such is safer for walkers walking here.

1612
01:27:20.415 --> 01:27:22.915
The fields on either side are a rich source of views

1613
01:27:23.215 --> 01:27:24.715
and space with ever-changing

1614
01:27:24.775 --> 01:27:28.635
and uplifting seasons, colors, textures, sounds,

1615
01:27:28.775 --> 01:27:31.715
and sense of the country's side and farming year.

1616
01:27:32.245 --> 01:27:35.075
These fields to both sides will become an industrial area

1617
01:27:35.095 --> 01:27:36.275
of overbearing glass,

1618
01:27:36.595 --> 01:27:39.115
obliterating everything I love about the countryside,

1619
01:27:39.305 --> 01:27:41.875
totally changing the experience of walking.

1620
01:27:43.655 --> 01:27:46.515

And she says that Greenhill Solar Estates page 26,

1621

01:27:46.515 --> 01:27:49.155

column three, which I think is the consultation information

1622

01:27:49.265 --> 01:27:53.235

booklet by year 15 of the operational stage,

1623

01:27:53.335 --> 01:27:56.515

the visual impact will reduce to not significant.

1624

01:27:57.335 --> 01:28:00.755

And she says this cannot be true for well over a decade.

1625

01:28:01.615 --> 01:28:04.395

Uh, and the glass panels will completely dominate any views

1626

01:28:04.395 --> 01:28:05.755

over the rural landscape.

1627

01:28:06.305 --> 01:28:08.875

When the planting scheme has matured, the road

1628

01:28:08.875 --> 01:28:10.595

and green lane will be trapped in a tunnel

1629

01:28:10.665 --> 01:28:14.235

between two vegetation with no landscape views,

1630

01:28:14.865 --> 01:28:16.555

wide skies or sense of space.

1631

01:28:17.655 --> 01:28:19.475

And I would imagine that that to you

1632

01:28:19.475 --> 01:28:20.795

as the inspectors can appreciate

1633

01:28:20.795 --> 01:28:22.315

that having visited there yesterday.

1634
01:28:23.255 --> 01:28:25.235
So how can Greenhill solar state

1635
01:28:25.265 --> 01:28:28.475
that there will be quotes beneficial effects on the

1636
01:28:28.475 --> 01:28:30.955
landscape fabric when planting is established?

1637
01:28:32.255 --> 01:28:35.035
She says there will actually be no landscape to view

1638
01:28:36.415 --> 01:28:39.505
this reasoning also applies to stretches of bridal way

1639
01:28:40.165 --> 01:28:41.705
CT three in Huntington Parish.

1640
01:28:42.015 --> 01:28:45.145
This is the bridal way which runs along to the,

1641
01:28:45.235 --> 01:28:49.705
along the southern edge of um, A two, the large area

1642
01:28:49.705 --> 01:28:53.505
of glass From here, the large area of glass at site a north

1643
01:28:53.505 --> 01:28:56.145
of Wago would be clearly visible blight on the view

1644
01:28:56.145 --> 01:28:58.025
of the landscape north of the bride way

1645
01:28:58.405 --> 01:29:02.455
and further along area A two panels would again dominate the

1646
01:29:02.455 --> 01:29:03.895
walk towards the A 43.

1647
01:29:05.975 --> 01:29:07.755

She says Greenhill's Solar's response

1648
01:29:07.815 --> 01:29:09.355
to my landscape narrative.

1649
01:29:09.425 --> 01:29:10.755
This was in rep 2 0 1.

1650
01:29:10.955 --> 01:29:14.595
I sent her from the applicant's responses

1651
01:29:15.015 --> 01:29:16.475
to those documents.

1652
01:29:16.675 --> 01:29:19.675
I sent her their response to the bits

1653
01:29:19.675 --> 01:29:21.035
that were from her narrative.

1654
01:29:22.095 --> 01:29:23.435
Uh, that's just rep 2 0 1.

1655
01:29:23.615 --> 01:29:27.155
Um, she, she said that their response freely acknowledged

1656
01:29:27.155 --> 01:29:28.835
that there will be, I quote,

1657
01:29:28.895 --> 01:29:31.235
an immediate change in the character of the sites

1658
01:29:31.815 --> 01:29:34.195
and then they state that the development is not permanent.

1659
01:29:34.525 --> 01:29:36.835
60 years cannot be considered temporary.

1660
01:29:37.825 --> 01:29:42.475
They state their quotes will be a benefit to the character

1661
01:29:42.475 --> 01:29:44.675
of the landscape, which will be quote

1662
01:29:45.225 --> 01:29:46.595
left in a better condition

1663
01:29:47.175 --> 01:29:49.995
and being quote, improved through mitigation.

1664
01:29:51.065 --> 01:29:54.175
These statements are entirely subjective depending on one's

1665
01:29:54.375 --> 01:29:57.015
personal perspective and cannot be proven no

1666
01:29:57.415 --> 01:29:59.735
or organization can predict the actual effect

1667
01:29:59.735 --> 01:30:00.855
of this development over the course

1668
01:30:00.855 --> 01:30:02.295
of the next 60 years or more.

1669
01:30:03.475 --> 01:30:06.415
The company states that the solar area will benefit animals

1670
01:30:06.485 --> 01:30:09.975
such as pole caps, page 25 column three, ecology.

1671
01:30:10.185 --> 01:30:12.655
These animals inhabit woodlands, lowland marshes

1672
01:30:12.655 --> 01:30:16.135
and river banks, not farmland covered in solar panels.

1673
01:30:17.195 --> 01:30:19.695
The cabling route running southeast

1674
01:30:19.695 --> 01:30:23.655

of Huntington towards the A 43 cut straight

1675

01:30:23.655 --> 01:30:27.015

through the conservation areas of ponds, created

1676

01:30:27.875 --> 01:30:31.855

for great crested newts by the fresh water habitat trust.

1677

01:30:33.015 --> 01:30:35.255

I have a map of that that she's provided.

1678

01:30:35.915 --> 01:30:37.855

And um, having spoken to Ryan

1679

01:30:37.875 --> 01:30:42.175

before this, um, we will submit these to you, um,

1680

01:30:42.715 --> 01:30:46.375

to your email so that you can see how that fits in

1681

01:30:46.565 --> 01:30:47.575

with other maps.

1682

01:30:47.675 --> 01:30:51.855

Um, uh, in the documentation showing the ca the cing route,

1683

01:30:53.695 --> 01:30:55.545

this exposes greenhill's inability

1684

01:30:55.645 --> 01:30:57.065

to fully assess the impacts

1685

01:30:57.085 --> 01:30:59.265

of the 3000 acre solar development.

1686

01:31:01.655 --> 01:31:04.405

Again and again in all the information reports, the word

1687

01:31:05.095 --> 01:31:07.565

mitigation is used to bypass the real

1688

01:31:07.585 --> 01:31:11.205

and lasting effects of this vast industrial site on our much

1689

01:31:11.205 --> 01:31:13.845

valued and sadly fast disappearing countryside.

1690

01:31:14.745 --> 01:31:19.645

And then she wishes to finish with a quote from book by um,

1691

01:31:21.165 --> 01:31:23.525

bb, I dunno, who BB is the renowned author, artist,

1692

01:31:23.745 --> 01:31:26.725

and naturalist who was born and brought up in Lampo rectory

1693

01:31:26.905 --> 01:31:28.405

and lived his whole life in our county.

1694

01:31:28.785 --> 01:31:32.805

And this is the quote, the wonder of the world, the beauty

1695

01:31:32.985 --> 01:31:36.125

and the power, the shapes of things, their colors,

1696

01:31:36.705 --> 01:31:38.085

lights and shades.

1697

01:31:38.455 --> 01:31:42.445

These I saw looky also while life lasts.

1698

01:31:43.145 --> 01:31:44.405

And she finishes by saying,

1699

01:31:44.825 --> 01:31:47.125

please do not despoil our precious

1700

01:31:47.185 --> 01:31:48.725

and beautiful countryside.

1701

01:31:49.135 --> 01:31:53.135

Thank you. Thank you.

1702
01:31:55.275 --> 01:31:56.695
And now Chris Robinson please.

1703
01:32:10.375 --> 01:32:12.245
Thank you. My name is Chris Robinson.

1704
01:32:12.905 --> 01:32:14.205
I'm here representing myself.

1705
01:32:15.025 --> 01:32:17.005
I'm a local resident of me Ashby.

1706
01:32:17.945 --> 01:32:20.725
Uh, I'm not an expert in planning applications,

1707
01:32:21.465 --> 01:32:24.125
but my background is in project finance,

1708
01:32:24.275 --> 01:32:26.365
international finance guarantees

1709
01:32:27.465 --> 01:32:31.165
and I will make some recommendations that will help

1710
01:32:32.145 --> 01:32:36.165
and it's unclear from this whole deal

1711
01:32:36.585 --> 01:32:37.685
how it's being put together.

1712
01:32:38.385 --> 01:32:41.765
So my next summary would be it's the wrong deal

1713
01:32:42.355 --> 01:32:44.685
with the wrong company in the wrong place.

1714
01:32:45.985 --> 01:32:47.805
So I'm probably against this,

1715
01:32:48.745 --> 01:32:52.645
but if you pass a DC0, there need to be some cast iron

1716
01:32:53.205 --> 01:32:56.405
guarantees to support what this company is doing

1717
01:32:56.985 --> 01:32:58.245
in terms of its promises.

1718
01:32:59.755 --> 01:33:01.215
So if I start with the applicant,

1719
01:33:02.075 --> 01:33:04.615
the applicant is basically a hundred pounds

1720
01:33:05.205 --> 01:33:06.855
shareholder capital company.

1721
01:33:07.605 --> 01:33:12.515
It's a front, it has on the last 2004 accounts

1722
01:33:13.095 --> 01:33:17.235
around 6 million of tangible assets which are financed

1723
01:33:17.975 --> 01:33:19.915
by short term less than a year credit.

1724
01:33:20.815 --> 01:33:23.395
So the company has effectively no balance sheet.

1725
01:33:24.655 --> 01:33:26.865
It's doing this project on an overdraft

1726
01:33:27.745 --> 01:33:29.145
provided by certain investors.

1727
01:33:30.965 --> 01:33:34.385
So here is a company that is being purely speculative

1728
01:33:35.375 --> 01:33:38.035

making promises for the next 60 years

1729

01:33:39.595 --> 01:33:43.125

that does not add up to something that will be sustainable

1730

01:33:43.655 --> 01:33:44.845

going forward in the future.

1731

01:33:47.825 --> 01:33:50.765

So if I come to the, I think 1971 Town

1732

01:33:50.765 --> 01:33:52.965

and Country Planning Act, which I think you are experts in

1733

01:33:53.065 --> 01:33:54.925

rather than me, uh,

1734

01:33:54.925 --> 01:33:57.245

typically on property development there will be a section

1735

01:33:57.425 --> 01:34:01.205

1 0 6 legal agreement, which I'm reasonably familiar with

1736

01:34:01.205 --> 01:34:05.535

how those work that is dependent on the land owners

1737

01:34:06.675 --> 01:34:07.735

not on the applicant.

1738

01:34:08.975 --> 01:34:12.115

The applicant owns very little of this land, if any,

1739

01:34:12.145 --> 01:34:13.395

that I've been able to identify.

1740

01:34:15.055 --> 01:34:17.665

They have leased from people like Castle Ashby,

1741

01:34:18.045 --> 01:34:19.185

Oxford University

1742
01:34:19.685 --> 01:34:23.745
and other farmers promising them a revenue per acre.

1743
01:34:24.585 --> 01:34:28.645
But the S 1 0 6 is dependent on the legal landowners.

1744
01:34:28.665 --> 01:34:33.155
Am I correct in that? I think you're the

1745
01:34:33.155 --> 01:34:34.315
experts on this rather than me.

1746
01:34:34.635 --> 01:34:36.315
I think if the applicant would like to respond to

1747
01:34:36.315 --> 01:34:37.755
that at the end if that's okay.

1748
01:34:37.755 --> 01:34:39.835
Okay. Yeah, thank you. We can take that there. Thank you.

1749
01:34:40.135 --> 01:34:42.195
But typically the financial responsibility,

1750
01:34:42.775 --> 01:34:44.835
as I understand the Town

1751
01:34:44.835 --> 01:34:47.795
and Country Planning Act we'll reside with the landowners

1752
01:34:48.595 --> 01:34:50.555
I have not seen in all the documents.

1753
01:34:50.595 --> 01:34:53.635
I have looked at a list of who these landowners are

1754
01:34:54.345 --> 01:34:56.435
that will be making these financial promises.

1755
01:34:59.075 --> 01:35:01.495

And if you look at the scale of the S 1 0 6,

1756
01:35:02.045 --> 01:35:03.535
that would be to support this project.

1757
01:35:03.675 --> 01:35:07.095
If I take some of the examples, so if I look at roads

1758
01:35:07.095 --> 01:35:08.175
and the HDV traffic

1759
01:35:08.395 --> 01:35:10.175
and all of the discussion documents,

1760
01:35:11.385 --> 01:35:12.895
those roads need to be upgraded.

1761
01:35:13.775 --> 01:35:17.015
I would expect those roads to be upgraded to a minimum

1762
01:35:17.995 --> 01:35:19.335
of a two-lane road.

1763
01:35:20.255 --> 01:35:23.755
Now I take the roads near me, Ashby where I live, it's half

1764
01:35:23.755 --> 01:35:24.755
for two cars to pass.

1765
01:35:25.665 --> 01:35:28.395
They will be using this road with HDV traffic.

1766
01:35:28.855 --> 01:35:30.275
So that road should be upgraded

1767
01:35:30.375 --> 01:35:31.675
by Norfolk Hampshire Council.

1768
01:35:32.435 --> 01:35:37.095
The cost of building a two-lane road Department

1769
01:35:37.095 --> 01:35:39.695
of Transport figures is 8 million pounds a mile.

1770
01:35:41.195 --> 01:35:43.765
When I look at the figures and the maps

1771
01:35:43.985 --> 01:35:47.005
and I'm, again, I'm not an expert, you could see easily

1772
01:35:47.525 --> 01:35:50.285
13 miles of road plus needs to be upgraded.

1773
01:35:51.645 --> 01:35:54.335
That will be a commitment of 104 million pounds

1774
01:35:55.235 --> 01:35:58.775
in the S 1 0 6 to provide that road infrastructure.

1775
01:36:00.255 --> 01:36:02.615
I would also recommend that road infrastructure is done

1776
01:36:02.615 --> 01:36:07.415
before the project commences not as part

1777
01:36:07.435 --> 01:36:08.655
of their rollout

1778
01:36:10.715 --> 01:36:12.495
and they need to put a guarantee in place

1779
01:36:12.525 --> 01:36:14.415
that they will make that investment beforehand.

1780
01:36:15.355 --> 01:36:18.605
So when we look at this 1 0 6,

1781
01:36:19.915 --> 01:36:23.005
what they are promising they need to put into legal words

1782
01:36:23.595 --> 01:36:25.485

that are dependent on these landowners.

1783

01:36:26.615 --> 01:36:28.475

So the relationship between the applicant

1784

01:36:28.535 --> 01:36:30.155

and landowners is critical.

1785

01:36:32.355 --> 01:36:34.655

Are the landowners gonna offer their land as collateral

1786

01:36:35.435 --> 01:36:36.615

to support this project

1787

01:36:37.755 --> 01:36:40.255

or are they nearly offering some sort of

1788

01:36:40.935 --> 01:36:42.015

temporary technical lease?

1789

01:36:43.865 --> 01:36:45.585

I would agree with the previous party

1790

01:36:45.685 --> 01:36:50.265

who said this is a temporary project, it's 60 years.

1791

01:36:51.655 --> 01:36:54.275

How are they going to reclaim the land at the end

1792

01:36:54.495 --> 01:36:56.155

and who's gonna support those costs

1793

01:36:57.475 --> 01:37:02.145

specifically if they sell the project On a normal way

1794

01:37:02.165 --> 01:37:04.705

to deal with this type of problem is

1795

01:37:04.705 --> 01:37:06.545

to request a performance guarantee

1796
01:37:07.085 --> 01:37:10.585
or a guarantee from the applicant to cover the full cost.

1797
01:37:11.905 --> 01:37:15.635
That guarantee will be issued by a major UK bank

1798
01:37:16.435 --> 01:37:17.905
which minimizes the risk

1799
01:37:18.885 --> 01:37:21.145
and that guarantee should probably be in favor

1800
01:37:21.145 --> 01:37:22.585
of Northville Hampshire Council.

1801
01:37:24.895 --> 01:37:27.465
It's very common for project developers of size

1802
01:37:27.465 --> 01:37:28.745
and scale like a BP

1803
01:37:28.745 --> 01:37:31.905
or a Shell to issue a guarantee for this type of project.

1804
01:37:32.975 --> 01:37:36.075
For a company with a 6 million pound balance sheet, it's

1805
01:37:37.335 --> 01:37:38.915
in banking terms laughable,

1806
01:37:40.445 --> 01:37:42.825
but they are making promises for 60 years.

1807
01:37:43.615 --> 01:37:47.505
They need to provide some type of fundamental guarantee,

1808
01:37:48.285 --> 01:37:49.625
be it a performance guarantee

1809
01:37:49.765 --> 01:37:51.425

or a straightforward guarantee,

1810
01:37:51.815 --> 01:37:53.185
they will complete this project.

1811
01:37:56.265 --> 01:37:59.265
Previous speakers talked about the community fund

1812
01:37:59.405 --> 01:38:02.825
and levy, that should be part of a section 1 0 6

1813
01:38:04.585 --> 01:38:09.095
again comes back to the landowners have to sign this as well

1814
01:38:09.095 --> 01:38:11.935
as the applicant's relationship with those landowners.

1815
01:38:13.325 --> 01:38:15.145
How will they provide that community funding?

1816
01:38:16.275 --> 01:38:17.855
It should be laid out clearly.

1817
01:38:19.555 --> 01:38:22.785
There should be a community levy to support this fund

1818
01:38:23.695 --> 01:38:26.595
and that should be written into the S 1 0 6 agreement.

1819
01:38:27.475 --> 01:38:29.805
Even though this is a project of national significance,

1820
01:38:31.145 --> 01:38:33.545
I would strongly recommend that is written down clearly

1821
01:38:34.485 --> 01:38:36.065
and how that levy should be applied.

1822
01:38:37.965 --> 01:38:40.005
I would agree with one of the previous speakers.

1823
01:38:40.125 --> 01:38:42.165
I won't repeat her impassioned arguments,

1824
01:38:42.905 --> 01:38:44.445
but if you look at the size of this project,

1825
01:38:45.075 --> 01:38:47.685
they could allocate say 50 gigawatt hours

1826
01:38:47.945 --> 01:38:50.325
to the local community to support growth

1827
01:38:50.325 --> 01:38:52.485
of business in a place like Northampton

1828
01:38:52.785 --> 01:38:56.445
or well Burgh which need to be regenerated

1829
01:38:56.985 --> 01:38:58.445
if we had low cost

1830
01:38:58.545 --> 01:39:00.045
or free electricity

1831
01:39:01.225 --> 01:39:05.445
so they could give 10% of their output

1832
01:39:05.585 --> 01:39:06.725
to the local community,

1833
01:39:07.395 --> 01:39:10.065
which would lower our bills meeting government objectives.

1834
01:39:11.925 --> 01:39:14.105
The DCO should be contingent

1835
01:39:15.125 --> 01:39:16.865
on future government legislation.

1836
01:39:18.335 --> 01:39:21.875

The current government is considering, uh, rules

1837

01:39:22.095 --> 01:39:25.075

to make local communities gain benefits from this.

1838

01:39:26.395 --> 01:39:30.015

If the DCO is issued now, it should provide a clause

1839

01:39:30.565 --> 01:39:33.415

that they will meet all future government legislation,

1840

01:39:34.115 --> 01:39:36.415

not just the current government legislation.

1841

01:39:39.025 --> 01:39:42.045

Um, let me just check my notes for then.

1842

01:39:42.145 --> 01:39:43.925

If I come onto biodiversity units

1843

01:39:45.135 --> 01:39:49.035

and how those work out, I am concerned about the bio.

1844

01:39:49.155 --> 01:39:52.475

I apologies I didn't manage to connect on Tuesday with teams

1845

01:39:52.895 --> 01:39:54.115

so I couldn't contribute

1846

01:39:54.215 --> 01:39:56.795

to the biodiversity meeting uh, earlier.

1847

01:39:57.775 --> 01:40:01.635

But on biodiversity, if I look at their biodiversity report,

1848

01:40:02.585 --> 01:40:06.595

there's an awful lot of self biodiversity here

1849

01:40:07.245 --> 01:40:10.315

where they allocate land within their own orbit.

1850
01:40:10.375 --> 01:40:13.935
To biodiversity a project of this nature,

1851
01:40:14.655 --> 01:40:16.615
I would recommend, first of all it needs

1852
01:40:16.615 --> 01:40:17.775
to be reviewed carefully

1853
01:40:18.115 --> 01:40:21.665
and by an independent party on biodiversity.

1854
01:40:22.445 --> 01:40:24.985
And I believe they will need to purchase a large number

1855
01:40:25.005 --> 01:40:29.005
of biodiversity units to offset what they've done

1856
01:40:29.005 --> 01:40:30.205
to their 3000 acres.

1857
01:40:30.395 --> 01:40:34.845
Yeah, and the nearby acreage

1858
01:40:35.225 --> 01:40:37.685
of things like the water lands around the Neen Valley,

1859
01:40:38.665 --> 01:40:41.015
which is not the land they're proposing on

1860
01:40:41.555 --> 01:40:43.775
but has a nearby biodiversity effect

1861
01:40:44.185 --> 01:40:45.375
which needs to be offset.

1862
01:40:46.955 --> 01:40:49.055
So if I look at the cost of biodiversity units,

1863
01:40:50.105 --> 01:40:54.325

basic agricultural land is about 20,000 pounds an acre

1864

01:40:55.435 --> 01:40:59.725

Waterways biodiversity units trade at over

1865

01:41:00.245 --> 01:41:02.965

120,000 pounds an acre.

1866

01:41:03.875 --> 01:41:06.585

There is a substantial amount of water acreage

1867

01:41:06.895 --> 01:41:08.225

that is affected by this.

1868

01:41:09.005 --> 01:41:11.885

So if you assume about 60 acres of water,

1869

01:41:12.295 --> 01:41:14.365

which is a conservative estimate,

1870

01:41:15.815 --> 01:41:19.915

that's 60 times 120,000 is about 24 million.

1871

01:41:21.275 --> 01:41:25.255

If you take their numbers of around a thousand acres

1872

01:41:25.835 --> 01:41:30.415

of regular biodiversity, which can be offset, that's

1873

01:41:31.035 --> 01:41:33.175

around 20 to 25 million,

1874

01:41:33.785 --> 01:41:36.655

which should be put into the S 1 0 6 agreement

1875

01:41:37.515 --> 01:41:39.215

for the company to rev provide the funding.

1876

01:41:41.125 --> 01:41:43.625

An alternative is biodiversity offsetting

1877

01:41:43.955 --> 01:41:46.865

where they can purchase land in alternative locations

1878

01:41:47.715 --> 01:41:49.175

to offset their biodiversity.

1879

01:41:50.295 --> 01:41:51.935

I think it's called send land.

1880

01:41:52.045 --> 01:41:54.735

From my experience where I've done property development

1881

01:41:54.735 --> 01:41:58.415

before, you have to buy land in another designated site

1882

01:41:59.035 --> 01:42:01.015

to offset the development you are proposing.

1883

01:42:02.815 --> 01:42:06.675

So you could propose within the DDCO that they have

1884

01:42:06.675 --> 01:42:08.155

to buy at least a thousand acres

1885

01:42:08.175 --> 01:42:10.715

of other land in a different place

1886

01:42:11.535 --> 01:42:13.275

to offset any biodiversity.

1887

01:42:14.715 --> 01:42:17.365

This starts to make the whole project rather uneconomic

1888

01:42:18.075 --> 01:42:20.005

when you start to look at the real costs

1889

01:42:20.225 --> 01:42:22.365

and who is providing the funding for this project.

1890

01:42:23.675 --> 01:42:26.975

So when I say this is in the wrong place, it clearly is

1891

01:42:28.795 --> 01:42:30.875

I know you've received submissions from lots

1892

01:42:30.875 --> 01:42:33.515

of other more expert people than myself

1893

01:42:34.135 --> 01:42:37.435

on things like national food security using grade one,

1894

01:42:37.435 --> 01:42:40.955

grade two farmland, uh, to provide these types

1895

01:42:40.955 --> 01:42:42.835

of services when there are brownfield

1896

01:42:43.495 --> 01:42:46.395

and lots of other places in the country to locate this.

1897

01:42:48.855 --> 01:42:51.355

So if I start to look at that

1898

01:42:51.355 --> 01:42:54.635

and I look at flood risk, I would probably add

1899

01:42:55.015 --> 01:42:57.555

to the S 1 0 6 flood risk

1900

01:42:57.555 --> 01:42:59.435

insurance provided by the applicant.

1901

01:43:01.325 --> 01:43:03.765

I don't know what their flood risk policies are,

1902

01:43:04.225 --> 01:43:05.725

but clearly they're increasing the

1903

01:43:05.725 --> 01:43:06.845

flood risk for everybody else.

1904
01:43:07.745 --> 01:43:10.645
Not in my village, which is on the hill, uh,

1905
01:43:10.705 --> 01:43:13.285
but some of the other villages in the local area.

1906
01:43:14.105 --> 01:43:16.125
So I would expect something to be attached

1907
01:43:16.905 --> 01:43:18.125
for both the fire service

1908
01:43:18.785 --> 01:43:23.495
and flood risk insurance within this S 1 0 6,

1909
01:43:24.025 --> 01:43:25.935
which comes back to this fundamental point.

1910
01:43:26.515 --> 01:43:28.535
You've got a 6 million pound company

1911
01:43:29.365 --> 01:43:32.415
proposing a major project.

1912
01:43:33.245 --> 01:43:36.415
What they're gonna do is they're gonna refinance it fairly

1913
01:43:36.415 --> 01:43:39.615
obviously and their parent company has a track record

1914
01:43:39.715 --> 01:43:43.335
of doing some of this, but will that pass on these promises?

1915
01:43:43.995 --> 01:43:46.545
And that's the fundamental part

1916
01:43:46.545 --> 01:43:51.225
of S 1 0 6 is it's a LA landowners that take that liability

1917
01:43:53.355 --> 01:43:55.895

and as yet they haven't said who the landowners are

1918

01:43:57.415 --> 01:43:59.995

and I know there are some small landowners who've signed up

1919

01:43:59.995 --> 01:44:03.395

to this who probably don't want that level of liability

1920

01:44:04.595 --> 01:44:06.435

attached to participating within this project.

1921

01:44:09.595 --> 01:44:14.205

Um, the other part I would add just from my experience

1922

01:44:14.205 --> 01:44:15.245

of planning applications

1923

01:44:15.785 --> 01:44:18.205

and the person mentioned it earlier that sidewalk is an area

1924

01:44:18.205 --> 01:44:19.485

of outstanding natural beauty

1925

01:44:20.345 --> 01:44:22.045

and I think under planning regulations,

1926

01:44:22.065 --> 01:44:24.885

if you are within seven miles of a site

1927

01:44:24.885 --> 01:44:28.245

of outstanding natural beauty, you have to uh,

1928

01:44:28.595 --> 01:44:31.965

make compensation to ensure that local environment

1929

01:44:32.065 --> 01:44:36.405

and again by offsetting land for anything you've done

1930

01:44:36.405 --> 01:44:39.485

that can potentially impact that local environment.

1931
01:44:41.295 --> 01:44:43.875
So potentially the applicant should purchase

1932
01:44:43.985 --> 01:44:45.915
land to offset that.

1933
01:44:45.915 --> 01:44:47.475
And I haven't noticed that got my compass out

1934
01:44:47.695 --> 01:44:50.755
and worked out where seven miles is from swell.

1935
01:44:51.415 --> 01:44:53.035
Uh, some of it when you look at the picture

1936
01:44:53.615 --> 01:44:55.075
is actually the other side of the road

1937
01:44:55.975 --> 01:44:58.755
to the fields adjacent to p Sewell Lakes.

1938
01:44:59.655 --> 01:45:04.475
And so I definitely think that should be considered in terms

1939
01:45:04.495 --> 01:45:06.155
of how this works overall,

1940
01:45:06.435 --> 01:45:07.835
I think the project shouldn't go ahead.

1941
01:45:08.775 --> 01:45:10.275
So I've said a lot about

1942
01:45:10.275 --> 01:45:12.275
what happens if the project does go ahead

1943
01:45:13.135 --> 01:45:15.355
and the commitments that should be made

1944
01:45:15.815 --> 01:45:17.355

and how they should be guaranteed.

1945

01:45:19.275 --> 01:45:21.815

But right now this is a speculative development

1946

01:45:21.875 --> 01:45:24.175

by a speculative company with no balance sheet.

1947

01:45:26.405 --> 01:45:29.025

It doesn't have make any sense in terms

1948

01:45:29.025 --> 01:45:31.665

of there's far better places to put things like this.

1949

01:45:32.055 --> 01:45:35.265

They're taking the easy option, it's straightforward.

1950

01:45:36.025 --> 01:45:38.625

I have no personal ax to grind in the middle of this

1951

01:45:39.165 --> 01:45:41.265

in terms of how this should be done,

1952

01:45:42.225 --> 01:45:43.685

but I think they need to provide

1953

01:45:44.525 --> 01:45:47.885

definite long-term financial guarantees to make this happen.

1954

01:45:48.465 --> 01:45:51.285

And they should be from a major UK based

1955

01:45:51.285 --> 01:45:53.485

international UK based bank.

1956

01:45:53.495 --> 01:45:56.325

Sorry, my career is a little more international,

1957

01:45:57.305 --> 01:45:59.765

but to support this from a UK government's perspective,

1958

01:45:59.915 --> 01:46:01.485

they need to be able to make this happen.

1959

01:46:01.585 --> 01:46:04.685

And overall my personal view is shouldn't go ahead.

1960

01:46:05.685 --> 01:46:06.985

So that's my input.

1961

01:46:07.545 --> 01:46:09.705

I support lots of VR people who've spoken.

1962

01:46:10.405 --> 01:46:11.945

Uh, my wife would be very

1963

01:46:12.655 --> 01:46:14.905

concerned about just the whole community impact

1964

01:46:15.525 --> 01:46:17.745

and the visibility and viability.

1965

01:46:18.445 --> 01:46:20.905

And just from a personal note, uh, like some

1966

01:46:20.905 --> 01:46:23.025

of the other people when I first came to Northamptonshire,

1967

01:46:23.325 --> 01:46:26.025

the first thing you see is the view the sky,

1968

01:46:27.095 --> 01:46:28.385

just the open spaces

1969

01:46:28.565 --> 01:46:30.345

and the open nature of our land here

1970

01:46:31.505 --> 01:46:34.485

is very different than London or any other place.

1971

01:46:35.145 --> 01:46:38.325

And what they're proposing does not support the local

1972

01:46:38.395 --> 01:46:41.765

community and process and everything in the Neen Valley

1973

01:46:42.185 --> 01:46:43.405

and everything that goes around that.

1974

01:46:44.795 --> 01:46:46.015

So that's my input.

1975

01:46:46.485 --> 01:46:49.605

Hopefully you can take some of that away in terms of

1976

01:46:49.745 --> 01:46:50.765

how it should be approached.

1977

01:46:52.435 --> 01:46:55.195

I dunno if you've got any questions of me in terms of

1978

01:46:58.055 --> 01:46:59.635

We don't currently have any, any questions.

1979

01:46:59.635 --> 01:47:01.195

Okay. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Robinson.

1980

01:47:01.195 --> 01:47:01.675

Thank you your Honor.

1981

01:47:06.665 --> 01:47:10.945

Yeah. So turning now to Angela Parker

1982

01:47:11.045 --> 01:47:13.105

who is joining us online today, please.

1983

01:47:13.195 --> 01:47:14.195

Thank you.

1984

01:47:24.875 --> 01:47:26.615

Can you hear me? That's the first thing

1985
01:47:28.585 --> 01:47:29.585
We can hear you. Thanks

1986
01:47:29.585 --> 01:47:30.445
Ms. Parker. Yeah,

1987
01:47:30.935 --> 01:47:31.935
Thank you.

1988
01:47:33.745 --> 01:47:35.075
Okay. Um,

1989
01:47:35.135 --> 01:47:37.955
my name's Angela Parker from the Village of Mes Ashby.

1990
01:47:37.975 --> 01:47:39.715
And I'd like to say good morning to you all

1991
01:47:39.775 --> 01:47:42.195
and to the people I met yesterday while I was on the site

1992
01:47:42.195 --> 01:47:43.915
visit on the mini bus yesterday.

1993
01:47:44.395 --> 01:47:45.555
I found it very useful

1994
01:47:45.655 --> 01:47:47.835
and it helped me to focus on the points I would like

1995
01:47:47.835 --> 01:47:49.675
to detail in my speech to you today.

1996
01:47:50.585 --> 01:47:52.075
Once to support all the points

1997
01:47:52.075 --> 01:47:54.595
of opposition which have already been presented

1998
01:47:54.695 --> 01:47:58.035

by other people who will be impacted by this solar farm.

1999

01:47:58.345 --> 01:48:00.235

This morning I want to talk about the unfairness

2000

01:48:00.295 --> 01:48:01.995

of this particular development

2001

01:48:02.295 --> 01:48:04.595

and our historic village of mayors Ashby

2002

01:48:05.495 --> 01:48:07.675

for whilst they agree that the UK needs

2003

01:48:07.675 --> 01:48:10.595

to become self-sufficient in energy, I think the burden

2004

01:48:10.695 --> 01:48:12.955

of this lands too much on mayors Ashby.

2005

01:48:13.505 --> 01:48:16.355

This whole Green Hill development encompasses nine village

2006

01:48:16.415 --> 01:48:18.795

in our area using a massive three

2007

01:48:18.795 --> 01:48:21.835

and half thousand acres of land around these villages.

2008

01:48:22.175 --> 01:48:25.795

But we in Mayor Ashby are having to take almost a third

2009

01:48:25.795 --> 01:48:28.515

of the development whilst the remaining eight

2010

01:48:28.675 --> 01:48:29.795

holder, the rest of the burden.

2011

01:48:30.175 --> 01:48:33.195

And whilst the matter the development of the warehousing

2012
01:48:33.255 --> 01:48:34.595
and new housing in the area

2013
01:48:34.975 --> 01:48:37.515
and I believe we're the third biggest warehousing area in

2014
01:48:37.515 --> 01:48:42.035
the UK shoulder, none of this burden, the big companies,

2015
01:48:42.335 --> 01:48:43.955
the construction companies

2016
01:48:44.215 --> 01:48:46.595
and the house builders have got off scot free.

2017
01:48:47.375 --> 01:48:49.115
Now I do understand that this is

2018
01:48:49.115 --> 01:48:51.915
because it's not been legislated for by the government

2019
01:48:52.215 --> 01:48:55.235
and I believe that will come in due course if we allow this

2020
01:48:55.655 --> 01:48:57.835
and other similar developments to happen.

2021
01:48:58.495 --> 01:49:01.355
And the UK does become self-sufficient in energy

2022
01:49:01.455 --> 01:49:03.235
by including installation of solar,

2023
01:49:03.445 --> 01:49:05.155
solar panels on farmland.

2024
01:49:05.655 --> 01:49:08.595
The emphasis for change to force new builds

2025
01:49:08.595 --> 01:49:09.995

and warehouses to put solar,

2026

01:49:10.485 --> 01:49:13.475
solar panels on their roofs will be negated.

2027

01:49:15.785 --> 01:49:19.285
So just let me scroll down my notes.

2028

01:49:21.685 --> 01:49:24.665
I'd like to tell you about Me's Ashby where I live

2029

01:49:24.765 --> 01:49:26.825
as you didn't see very much of it yesterday.

2030

01:49:27.845 --> 01:49:30.265
It was the one you went to after lunch at Beckworth.

2031

01:49:31.135 --> 01:49:32.585
It's a very small and pretty

2032

01:49:32.725 --> 01:49:36.305
and historic village square in shape with the road

2033

01:49:36.305 --> 01:49:37.305
around the perimeter.

2034

01:49:37.475 --> 01:49:39.545
Let's call that the Mayor's Ashbury Ring Road.

2035

01:49:40.155 --> 01:49:42.825
While it's an honor to live in such a rural envo

2036

01:49:42.825 --> 01:49:45.025
environment, we have almost no facilities.

2037

01:49:45.985 --> 01:49:47.605
Beckworth is closest but I still

2038

01:49:47.605 --> 01:49:48.765
half a mile from the village.

2039

01:49:48.865 --> 01:49:52.365

But it is our closest place to buy an emergency local bread.

2040

01:49:52.945 --> 01:49:55.885

We have no bus service, no village shopped to buy essentials.

2041

01:49:56.065 --> 01:49:58.045

We have very few pavements within the village.

2042

01:49:58.275 --> 01:49:59.965

Nevermind, once you get to the edge,

2043

01:50:00.135 --> 01:50:01.805

thankfully we've got a pub.

2044

01:50:02.385 --> 01:50:05.455

But let's go back to this unusual village set up

2045

01:50:05.455 --> 01:50:08.175

with a square shaped ring road going round the outside

2046

01:50:09.185 --> 01:50:11.365

on every corner that there's a road out

2047

01:50:12.685 --> 01:50:15.505

in every corner there is a road out to somewhere else

2048

01:50:15.765 --> 01:50:17.465

and there are two roads on one of them.

2049

01:50:18.585 --> 01:50:20.445

So that's five roads out of the village.

2050

01:50:20.545 --> 01:50:23.205

But we have no pavements along any of these roads

2051

01:50:23.225 --> 01:50:24.405

to walk anywhere.

2052

01:50:25.185 --> 01:50:27.045

We have to walk along the side of the road

2053

01:50:27.385 --> 01:50:30.565

and if a car comes along, we leap onto the grass verges.

2054

01:50:30.705 --> 01:50:33.645

And that terrain is quite similar to the lumpy bumpy stuff.

2055

01:50:33.645 --> 01:50:36.045

We walked along yesterday on the site visit.

2056

01:50:36.705 --> 01:50:40.085

So to go anywhere we must all drive to go to the villages

2057

01:50:40.085 --> 01:50:41.765

of ELs Barton where the co-op,

2058

01:50:41.785 --> 01:50:43.765

the library buses can be caught

2059

01:50:44.265 --> 01:50:47.285

to visit anyone in our next door village of swa, we have

2060

01:50:47.285 --> 01:50:50.125

to drive and we even have to drive to backwards

2061

01:50:51.225 --> 01:50:53.885

or drive to the local supermarket in the

2062

01:50:53.885 --> 01:50:55.245

nearby town of Wellingborough.

2063

01:50:55.865 --> 01:50:59.005

So me Ashby residence whilst living in a beautiful location

2064

01:50:59.555 --> 01:51:02.845

already have to get to other places is a bit hard

2065

01:51:03.305 --> 01:51:05.805

and this development will make our lives a lot harder.

2066

01:51:08.835 --> 01:51:11.975

If this goes ahead in its current form, we will be left

2067

01:51:11.975 --> 01:51:13.895

with little of our previous environment.

2068

01:51:14.765 --> 01:51:17.575

It's a hard ask and not any of you would relish it.

2069

01:51:18.035 --> 01:51:21.135

The countryside views from four of our five roads in

2070

01:51:21.135 --> 01:51:24.815

and out will be blighted During the installation phase,

2071

01:51:25.115 --> 01:51:27.575

the four roads will have temporary traffic lights.

2072

01:51:27.925 --> 01:51:29.495

This just makes our lives harder.

2073

01:51:30.435 --> 01:51:32.975

If we are talking about getting green power,

2074

01:51:33.635 --> 01:51:35.335

surely it's even more green

2075

01:51:35.515 --> 01:51:38.415

to put panels on warehousing than viable farmland.

2076

01:51:39.505 --> 01:51:41.155

It's all about fairness to me.

2077

01:51:41.855 --> 01:51:44.795

Me Ashby is set to shoulder the lion's share of this burden.

2078

01:51:45.375 --> 01:51:48.115

And if you can reject this solar farm application,

2079

01:51:48.615 --> 01:51:50.435

you might just be helping encouragement,

2080

01:51:51.115 --> 01:51:53.835

encouraging government legislation which will force

2081

01:51:53.835 --> 01:51:56.555

developers to utilize large roofs and car park

2082

01:51:56.975 --> 01:52:00.555

and house solar panels and not farmlands going forward.

2083

01:52:01.215 --> 01:52:04.515

If not, we face the prospect of good farmland being covered

2084

01:52:04.515 --> 01:52:08.515

with solar panels whilst nearby warehousing roofs are empty.

2085

01:52:08.835 --> 01:52:11.315

A truly mad scenario is unjust,

2086

01:52:11.815 --> 01:52:13.555

but you can perhaps alter this

2087

01:52:13.575 --> 01:52:14.955

and force some change in policy.

2088

01:52:15.935 --> 01:52:18.995

And finally, one thing that has not been mentioned as far

2089

01:52:18.995 --> 01:52:20.195

as I can see is

2090

01:52:20.195 --> 01:52:22.555

that Northampton has an annual balloon festival

2091

01:52:22.745 --> 01:52:24.995

with balloons regularly landing in the fields

2092

01:52:24.995 --> 01:52:26.275

around me's Ashby.

2093

01:52:26.705 --> 01:52:29.795

With so many solar panels in our fields, I wonder

2094

01:52:29.815 --> 01:52:31.875

how the installation of panels will affect their

2095

01:52:31.875 --> 01:52:33.235

ability to safely land.

2096

01:52:33.745 --> 01:52:35.515

This only occurred to me yesterday,

2097

01:52:35.775 --> 01:52:37.995

so I haven't had a chance to research this further,

2098

01:52:38.375 --> 01:52:40.035

but perhaps it could be considered.

2099

01:52:40.935 --> 01:52:43.835

And another thing I dunno the answer to is who's going

2100

01:52:43.835 --> 01:52:46.645

to clip the new head rolls along the, along the pathways?

2101

01:52:46.645 --> 01:52:49.885

Once Greenhill are out of the picture, we have no guarantees

2102

01:52:50.235 --> 01:52:51.765

that these will be maintained

2103

01:52:51.905 --> 01:52:54.805

and thus may become overgrown, meaning the access they seek

2104

01:52:54.805 --> 01:52:56.205

to deliver is restricted.

2105

01:52:56.545 --> 01:52:58.205

And I'd like an answer to this, please.

2106

01:52:59.095 --> 01:53:03.285

There are far more solar plant farms planned in the UK than

2107

01:53:03.285 --> 01:53:04.965

is needed to achieve the government.

2108

01:53:04.995 --> 01:53:06.685

Same. So I ask you

2109

01:53:06.685 --> 01:53:10.565

to reject this development in its current form, at least

2110

01:53:10.585 --> 01:53:12.605

to ensure our tiny village is not

2111

01:53:12.625 --> 01:53:14.085

so comprehensively impacted

2112

01:53:14.225 --> 01:53:15.885

by this overlay large development.

2113

01:53:16.345 --> 01:53:19.605

If you cannot reject this entire Green Hill solar Farm plan,

2114

01:53:19.795 --> 01:53:22.085

then at least consider cutting back your plans

2115

01:53:22.145 --> 01:53:23.405

for the mayors Ashby section.

2116

01:53:24.095 --> 01:53:25.095

Thank you.

2117

01:53:32.155 --> 01:53:33.945

Thank you Ms. Parker. We're now going

2118

01:53:33.945 --> 01:53:37.345

to take a short break, uh, with the time being 1153.

2119

01:53:37.555 --> 01:53:39.345

We'll come back at 1205.

2120

01:53:39.805 --> 01:53:42.065

So the hearing is now adjourned until 1205.

2121

01:53:42.115 --> 01:53:42.865

Thank you everyone.