

Hambleton Parish Council enters the opinion of the council and the residents of Hambleton, but also the opinions of all the Parish Councils affected by the LVS Scheme. We are working together to combine our comments firstly because we share so many common concerns, and in an attempt to save duplication within this process. Our comments should be considered as speaking for the 12 Parish Councils.

Chairman: Councillor Maria Ferris

Clerk/RFO: [REDACTED]

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Hambleton Parish Council, together with the other affected parish councils, local groups and residents, continues to express concern regarding this matter. These concerns relate not only to the Applicant's proposal but also to the numerous other energy infrastructure projects that are under way, consented or proposed (see Q.1.9.1–Q.1.9.3).

Notwithstanding the Applicant's assessment that the landscape is of low sensitivity, the area retains a distinctly rural character, and the cumulative effect of the proposed energy projects is likely to result in its substantial urbanisation.

The Parish Councils have and continue to express concern over the Applicant's commitment to work with the Parish Council's on the subject of a mitigating Community Benefits package which, if the project is consented, will assist in delivering identified community infrastructure projects that go to the heart of community identity, and overall wellbeing.

We spoke in the Hearing Sessions in late July 2026. The Parish Council's have since met following that event and collectively share their disappointment to the Applicant's verbal response at the Hearing on the topic.

The Parish Councils accept the topic of 'Community Benefits' are to be considered outside the Planning Balance exercise, but equally consider it remains a topic closely related to the matter the Examining Authority have raised in Q.1.13.1 above.

The Parish Councils have read the Applicant's response the NYC LIR on this point. See LIR-NYC-17. It informs a Community Benefit Fund is proposed but contains no detail.

The Parish Councils also note the Applicant's response to Nick Billingham in Deadline 1, page 52. (Sept 2026). In that response, the Applicant references the Government's working paper on a potential mandatory community benefits fund as a means of mitigating the wider impacts of having such projects in their area. The Applicant then goes on to state they are discussing this with North Yorkshire Council.

There is no written evidence to support this claim and there is equally no reason as to why this is a matter for North Yorkshire Council. North Yorkshire Council have no mechanism for administering this type of fund.

Notwithstanding the Parish Councils collective continued concern towards the cumulative effects from these projects, they remain open to formalising the Community Benefits proposals through a Statement of Common Ground or a Memorandum of Understanding that would start with the basic adoption of the draft funding recommendations in the Governments working paper. The combined Parish Councils can administrate such a fund collectively and request this matter is raised with the applicant.

Hambleton PC has met with LVS in the early stages of the community meetings, to get a better understanding of the full project, questioned some of the traffic routes and we spoke about community benefits, specifically a road crossing and the prospect of a new or extended village hall. These conversations have been mentioned in later meetings also, so the applicant does have a record of our request.

Hambleton PC used AI in this document to ensure correct spelling and grammar only – the content of the document is the opinion of Hambleton PC and the combined affected Parish Councils and we have shared opinions, information and reference points as the basis for this response.



Chair

Hambleton Parish Council

Q.1.13.1: Cumulative Effects on rural communities

Cumulative effects on rural communities

- a) explain how the socio-economic assessment has considered the cumulative effect of multiple infrastructure developments on rural communities. In particular:
- identify the developments included within the cumulative assessment
 - explain whether repeated exposure to large-scale energy infrastructure has been considered
 - identify whether cumulative effects on community identity, perception of place, recreation and community wellbeing have been assessed
 - explain how the applicant has distinguished cumulative socio-economic effects from cumulative landscape effects
- b) provide reasons for any conclusion that cumulative socio-economic effects would be less than significant.