

Submission ID: S39B7C28A

Good Morning.

This response is a joint response from the undersigned Parish Councils and it is also being brought to the attention of key people at North Yorkshire County Council and the local MP.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Hillam Parish Council

Dear Sirs,

We the undersigned Parish Councils wish to submit the following response:

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.

The joint Parish Councils and other local impacted groups and residents continue to express concern over this topic which relates not only to the Applicant's proposal but the many other energy infrastructure projects underway, consented or proposed (See Q.1.9.1 to 1.9.3).

Notwithstanding the Applicant's proposition that the landscape sensitivity has a low value, the landscape in this area remains rural in character and the proliferation of energy projects in combination will no doubt change its character from rural to urban.

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.

The Parish Council's spoke on this matter in the Hearing Sessions in late July 2026. The Parish Council's have since met following that event and collectively informed of 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 has 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 Government's working paper. The combined Parish Councils can administrate such a fund collectively and request that this matter is raised with the applicant.

For and on behalf of:

Hillam Parish Council

Hambleton Parish Council

Riccall Parish Council

South Milford Parish Council

West Haddlesey Parish Council