

ISH3 – Summary of oral representation made under agenda 3.3 – Population

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council represented by [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

Wildfires and Battery safety

Considerable concern has been expressed with these large solar developments with regard to battery safety and the dealing with potential battery fires. However, this summer has shown that wild fires or field fires have become significant hazards. This has already been referred to in connection with the section on biodiversity during these hearings with reference to mowing strategies. However, it is a subject of considerable concern to the residents of this area, not least Sporle that had a straw stack fire on the edge of the village a few weeks ago.

It is noted that tanks are being included to provide for damping down areas around a BESS unit fire to stop it spreading, hoping of course that the internal fire suppressant does its job. It is also apparent that water will be required to be brought onto site to clean the solar panels on a regular basis. It is clear that the site does not have water available to fight any fire that might arise across the site.

It is also clear that Norfolk Fire Service were hard put at the height of the heatwaves this summer to be able to deal with the number of incidents they were called to.

In connection with this what can the Applicant do to strengthen its outline management plans and thereby be secured by the DCO to ensure the site and surrounding settlements are protected from what is likely to become an increasing problem in the coming years?

Would the applicant consider, in partnership with landowners, to build further water storage that could provide a source for both cleaning panels and wider firefighting across the site?