

I live directly opposite a field in which panels are due to be sited - Low Farm, Saxlingham Nethergate. I want to reemphasise the comments I have made in previous submissions to Island Green Power to which unfortunately I have not always received a response other than a simple holding email.

I accept that solar "farms" need to be part of the country's energy generation in the future BUT this needs to be done in a way which is sensitive to the local communities in which they are sited. The lack of any satisfactory response to previous concerns raised leads me to believe that the developers and funders of this project are not concerned about this.

I want to emphasise again 4 points:

1. PROXIMITY OF PANELS TO HOUSES. It is unclear how close to properties the actual panels will be placed. Maps seem to suggest a buffer of 100-150m but I'm told they will be 50m away - so the maps are incorrect. This is too close. In order to make this tolerable then a buffer of 150-200m between actual panels and residential properties is needed.
2. NOISE. The one reply I did get from Island Green Power in relation to a point I made about construction noise was that they did not think it would be a problem and that no mitigation was necessary. I observed the nearby solar farm in Swardeston being constructed and the incessant pile driving for months was clearly a serious problem. This will be very difficult for me and my disabled wife living so close to a field where this will occur. Some mitigation is required.
3. TRAFFIC DISRUPTION. The proposed route for heavy traffic through Saxlingham Nethergate on a minor road, close to old buildings and with sharp bends is simply unsuitable and will cause damage to local buildings etc. A lot of heavy traffic will also impede emergency vehicles attending the village.
4. IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY. The bland reply that the developer is committed to a 10% biodiversity increase is meaningless. The fields to be used are agricultural for crops and not therefore managed for wildlife. One way of offsetting the impact should be to properly commit the developers to manage the solar fields for wildlife eg sowing wildflowers, grazing, creating good wildlife corridors.