

BYGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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4 May 2022

Planning Department
North Hertfordshire District Council,
PO Box 10613, Nottingham, NG6 6D

Dear Sir,

Objection to Planning Application 22/00741/FP SOLAR FARM BYGRAVE

Bygrave is a small village within a farming rural landscape.

The proposals for the installation of the solar farm are to utilise high grade agricultural land, thus preventing the use of 147 acres for the ever-increasing need for growing crops particularly now with the world unrest and war zones most recently Ukraine and wheat production.

The Village Parish Council wants to highlight what is happening to the village as it is threatened with losing its identity:

- On the east side adjacent the A505 there is a Biomass anaerobic digester that was promised to have no impact on the village. Fact: this plant issues the most obnoxious odours that do reach the village.
- On the South side between Baldock and Bygrave there is still the possibility of an estate of some 3000 houses. These could be built on what was known as Bygrave Common.
- With this proposed solar farm the village will literally be bounding the edge of an industrial area.

The Parish Council wants to point out the edges of this proposed solar farm that it borders

- to the south blighting a number of dwellings in the village:
- to the west beside the ancient Icknield Way:
- the North in the view of the scheduled ancient monument of Arbury Banks:
- Additionally this highly visible undulating area of beautiful countryside will be surrounded by high fencing with security cameras and the proposals will remove the rural pursuits of walkers and horse riders and will destroy habitats of birds and animals. This area is important for exercise and mental health.

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Construction

The presentation given by PACE to the Parish Council open meeting prior to planning submission was misleading in the information produced, particularly the images across the field or regarding the visibility from Arbury Banks. This was considered a biased approach to the local people and gave the impression of being a poorly considered scheme particularly when the field slopes to the North.

We the Parish Council have received from Pace own literature, that there will be 5 large Lorries per day for 36 weeks. This equates to 1800 return trips + fitters vehicles from the A1 through Baldock to the Bygrave Road and then up the minor road through Lower and Upper Bygrave village entering and leaving the site on a sharp blind bend known as Cat Ditch Corner.

The Parish Council wants to highlight that this road is regularly used as a scenic route by motor cyclists, cyclists, walkers, dog walkers, horse riders in addition to commuter traffic and school buses as well as the local bus route

General

The Village Parish Council acknowledges the need for renewable energy and would promote looking at options to implement the principle in the village.

The Parish Council considered all the above and concluded that this proposed site is unsuitable and defies a number of village principles that have been brought to the Parish Councils attention and defies a number of recognised industry and Government guidance documents.

Therefore, the Parish Council conclude, RIGHT IDEA WRONG PLACE.

Bygrave Parish Council is supported in their descion by: MP the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC and the Local County Councillor Mr Steve Jarvis and Local District Councillor Mr Tom Tyson.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk to Bygrave Parish Council