

The planning Inspectorate, Major Casework team,
Room3J Kite wing, Temple Quay House,
2, The Square,
Bristol, BS1 6pn

John Tippett

Your reference S62A/22/0006

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Consultation on 62A/22/0006 – Development of a ground mounted solar farm with a generation capacity of up to 49.99MW, together with associated infrastructure and landscaping.

The purpose of this letter is to register my objection to the aforementioned development. Firstly though, I should state that I am generally in favour of solar development and even more so now that the evidence is so clear that we collectively must act to forestall the effects of global warming. So, my objection is not to the development of solar energy per se, but rather the somewhat blunt instrument of using acres of prime farm land in order to do so.

This proposal is one of four proposals that are being made in close proximity to my village, the village of Berden, Essex. If they were all allowed the whole village would be surrounded by solar factories thus seriously undermining access to the local countryside and the joy and freedom that engenders. Such a valuable commodity to those of us living in the community and to visitors too.

That prime farm land should be used for solar energy manufacture is surely being short sighted. Would you not agree that farm land should be used for food production. At a time when we are attempting to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing the import of produce from outside the U.K. it seems difficult to argue against the use of prime farm land for any other purpose.

So, my point is that we must be so much more creative in generating energy. In Bishops Stortford, a town just a few miles away, there are almost 1,000 new homes being built. This pattern is being replicated country wide. Not one of the houses in Bishops Stortford, and I would wager elsewhere in the country, are being fitted with solar panels. Surely it is possible to make this idea sufficiently attractive to builders and buyers alike?

The number of commercial properties on industrial estates seem to have been bypassed in the strategy to generate energy. Why not use the roof tops and walls of these buildings.

I recently read of a country using the central reservation of their motor ways to generate solar power.

My point is there is a paucity of inventiveness in the creation of solar energy. There is now a national strategy and though the strategy contains some new measures to promote solar power the plan as with other aspects of the strategy appear to lack any real concrete proposals. Well let me make a clear proposal that solar energy be promoted in all new commercial and residential properties. That funding be provided to encourage commercial properties and other residential properties to use solar energy and that other creative options e.g. motorways are investigated.

I repeat my objection to the aforementioned.

Yours faithfully

John Tippett