

From: Melissa Sharman [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2023 14:04
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to S62A/2022/0011

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation, Maggots End Road, Manuden, CM23 1BJ.

My name is Melissa Sharman, and I live at [REDACTED]. I lived in Stocking Pelham for over 20 years and my family still live in the village. The sheer scale of this development is huge. It will fundamentally change the countryside and life for the villagers in every way, in terms of the beautiful views, the damage to wildlife, not to mention the heavy traffic.

At a time when we are beginning to experience food shortages and change in the climate, it is scandalous to take valuable arable land and turn it into solar panels. Bishop's Stortford, where I live, has been undergoing an incredible amount of development for years and continues to do so, yet as far as I am aware, none of the housing estates have any form of solar panelling. Surely, it would have been sensible to ensure that every new house had solar panelling, rather than take up acres and acres of beautiful and essential arable land to make up for oversights in previous planning applications?

The villages surrounding Stocking Pelham often experience flooding and the risk to the residents of run off from the solar panel fields will endanger properties and livelihoods. Let alone the damage it could do to the thriving wildlife in the area including deer, pond life and a number of red listed bird species, who will all be hugely affected by the panelling.

The other main concern is the fire risk of the battery plants to the tiny villages in the area. These batteries are planned to be put within a few hundred metres of residents. If there is any fire, by the time the local fire brigade can get anywhere near the area, the properties could be wiped out. There is a real risk to life to put these in areas so close to houses.

People live in the countryside because they want to enjoy the fresh air and enjoy walks and live with nature. The risk to the mental health of the residents when all this is gone, their properties value diminished, and the constant threat of fire, is heartbreaking.

I thoroughly object to this proposition and hope the council value their residents well being over the economic benefit of a few.

Yours faithfully

Melissa Sharman