

STATERA PLANNING HEARING

My name is Jo van Riemsdijk and I live at [REDACTED].

I am speaking to implore you to refuse permission for this application due primarily to noise and light pollution and the fact that the application is of no advantage to the local community – it is in fact - to the complete detriment.

The existing Statera battery given permission in 2018 causes my family and residents of both Stocking Pelham and Berden a great deal of nuisance due to noise and the incessant low frequency hum. It is especially bad at night and has on several occasions woken me. Once you've heard the hum - you cannot then unhear it! In the summer we have to make the choice of being too hot, or keeping the hum out!

I've complained to Environmental health and during September 2022 they recorded noise at different times across an 8 day period from my home. The weather was both clear and overcast, raining and sunny and the recordings taken show that the low frequency hum was registering at between 100Hz and 200Hz. Low-frequency noise, in the frequency range from about 10Hz to 200Hz, has been recognised as a special environmental noise problem according to Finch Consulting and the Low Frequency Noise Sufferers Association.

East Herts Environmental Health subsequently visited the Statera battery – into which this solar development will feed – and noted that the hum that is causing so much bother is indeed coming from the battery. This application for the solar farm includes invertors placed along the substation road which runs parallel to my property less than 100 meters away – these invertors are NOT silent. Any further noise producing collateral will exacerbate the noise issues we already experience and make living in Stocking Pelham unbearable. I note that in your proposed conditions document you have not put any detail around noise mitigation shouldn't there be something as it has been raised as a concern from both East Herts and Uttlesford Environmental Health?!

I am concerned about light pollution also at my home and others nearby – the site will be visible from Berways during the winter months when the hedgerows are not in leaf – there will be light pollution in all seasons but most especially during the winter months. This along with the increased noise pollution will be unacceptable. I'm also concerned about CCTV invading our privacy and that of our neighbours. This completely industrialises our rural environment.

The applicant has absolutely no interest in the local community and they should not be trusted – it has surprised us all on the East Herts side of the border that NO consideration has been given to nearby residents in East Herts. No residents along Ginns Road near to the substation in Stocking Pelham received any information about the public consultation and Statera have not attempted to engage Stocking Pelham at all! A community fund or bribe - has been offered to Berden – but we note that nothing has been offered to Stocking Pelham who are equally affected.

When the battery was given permission by Uttlesford – there should have been some noise mitigation – there is not. One of the planning conditions was that there should be well established planting that screens the white cubes on the horizon – it looks today like it did when it was first put in. With a few scrubby dry sticks in the ground. How can this applicant be trusted to adhere to any conditions set out by you – when they already have form in totally disregarding conditions set out for their battery including the fact that the battery was supposed to be disguised as an agricultural barn type building with mature planting?

There is NO advantage whatsoever to the local community for this application going ahead. If this application is given approval – the local community loses everything. 40 years is not temporary – this will be most of the communities lifetimes. We will lose our beautiful rural environment, our quiet enjoyment of our homes and gardens and our wonderful open countryside walks. We will be living within the substation in an industrialised environment – this is not the right place for this development.

