

PELHAM SPRING SOLAR FACTORY - IT'S NOT A FARM IS IT - EMAIL CONTENT SENT TO LOW CARBON/PELHAM SPRING ON 8TH AUGUST 2021

Good Afternoon Pelham Spring,

May I start by introducing myself. My name is Barry Sullivan, and I've lived in Berden for 38 years. Whilst I live in the centre of the village it's important to remember that whilst Berden is the village centre, all of the closely located areas – Brickhouse End, Little London, Park Green – all of these are Berdenites as far as I'm concerned. In essence it appears that your proposal effectively surrounds the village with industrial development, which surely cannot be right.

I will therefore outline below my feedback on your proposal and would ask that you please acknowledge safe receipt of my response, kindly also copying in the cc's to this email.

I have perused the proposals outlined in the introductory pamphlet you sent to residents and the community feedback form, will pose some questions on that, as well as providing my end position on your plans. I think one of the first things I was drawn to was the use of the word "Farm" to describe what you are doing. It seemed to conflict with my own very basic understanding of what a farm is, so I decided to check the dictionary, in case I'd missed something. When I saw the definitions as being:-

- "plots of land that are used to grow crops and raise livestock"

that certainly afforded with the understanding of what a farm was from my early years, and I've no reason to change that view close to seventy years on. With that in mind I have replaced any references to a "farm" with "factory" or "plant", as that is what it is, an industrial unit on prime agricultural land that surrounds our beautiful village.

So in front of me are two glossy brochures, with bee hives, wild flowers, sheep grazing, talks of grasses planted, if fact it sounds like utopia doesn't it? However that is far from the truth. What was initially outlined as a 180 acre site, albeit soon increased to one of 250 acres, it's all high perimeter fences, CCTV, buildings housing dangerous battery units, noise pollution, all of those and it quite simply engulfs and chokes us. On the subject of perimeter fences, you describe the maximum height of the panels as three metres, so ten feet – the height of a Rugby crossbar I think. That's high, but I can't seem to see how high the perimeter fencing around the panels is planned to be. Is that higher than three metres – please can you clarify this for me?

Your documents describe the following:-

- "following our initial consultation earlier this year, further available land has been identified in response to a number of suggestions received"

Would you be kind enough to articulate what the content of the "number of suggestions" were please, that prompted this change of plan?

You describe that 11,210 tonnes of CO2 would be saved each year from this scheme. Would you please be kind enough to tell me how many tonnes of CO2 are created as a result of the building, end to end, of your facility?

Solar Energy may sound great idea, but it generates electricity predominantly when the sun is out and high – as in the Summer – when demand for electricity is far lower than when the demand is at its highest – in the Winter. Indeed solar energy would seem to be a relatively inefficient way to go green, given one wind turbine would produce almost as much as the entire Pelham Spring plant. Also manufacture of the solar panels is very largely carried out in China, and as BBC China has reported they are fabricated using Uyghur forced labour. Not good I'm sure you will agree to have that association.

So on the table is a proposal for an industrial site, built on prime agricultural land, providing an order of magnitude lower efficiency when compared to other green energy solutions, that intrudes close to many parts of Berden and it's close outlying satellites, with precious little tangible community benefit. You've already moved the spec up, with a proposal now looking at a site close to half a square mile. That cannot be right and I for one object to your proposals in the strongest possible way.

Yours Faithfully,
Barry Sullivan