

# Hatton Parish Meeting's observations ref. planning application S/079/01078/22

This community vehemently objects to this planning application based particularly on the following four reasons.

## **1. Loss of good agricultural land**

The removal of 182 acres of good, mostly grade 2, land from production would go contrary to the aims of the Government Food Strategy which is to produce more, not less, of our own food requirements. Particularly pertinent in the current global situation. Lincolnshire has been known traditionally as the food basket of England.

In 2021 Sir Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for housing, communities and Local Government wrote "The National Planning Policy Framework expects local authorities to protect and enhance valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity and recognise the character and beauty of the countryside and the benefits of the best and most versatile farmland in their policies and decisions."

## **2. Impact on the landscape**

The siting of solar panels on such a large scale represents a negative impact on the beauty of the landscape bordering our community, this being our last remaining amenity. Over time we have lost our village school, our village pub and our village hall, added to which internet speeds are diabolical! We cannot afford to lose this remaining amenity, the beauty of the countryside, situated as we are in the foothills of the Lincolnshire Wolds, an area of outstanding natural beauty.

## **3. Transport infrastructure**

The road system the developers propose using for access is not suitable for the heavy traffic that would occur. By whichever route is proposed from the A158 major road, it would involve traversing at least a mile of narrow poorly maintained roadway, little more than single traffic country lanes.

## **4. Dubious claims by the developer**

It is stated that there would be a large saving in carbon emissions but this assumes that the development necessarily replaces dirty fossil fuel production of electricity. There are clean alternatives. Also, solar farms are not neutral in contributing to global warming, for example there is the Photovoltaic Heat Island effect.

Finally, in 2013 Greg Baker, Minister for Energy and Climate Change said "Not at any cost, not in any place, not if it rides rough shod over the views of local communities. As we take solar to the next level, we must be thoughtful, sensitive to public opinion and mindful of the wider environment and visual impacts."

And I quote from Eric Pickles, former Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government "meeting our energy goals should not be used to justify the wrong development in the wrong location and this includes high-quality land. Protecting the global environment is not an excuse to trash the local environment."

We claim this proposed development is without question the wrong development in the wrong location and on good quality land. It must not happen.