

Springwell Scopwick

2h ·

Minutes of Cliff Villages Solar Action Group held on Thursday 16th January 2025 at The Venue, Navenby.

Mike Burt (Chair of Navenby Parish Council) opened the meeting.

Marianne Overton MBE (County and District Councillor) gave an overview:

The Springwell, Fosse Green and Leoda proposed sites have an area greater than the area of Lincoln. There are more applications expected in our area. If it were a housing or industrial application for this area of land, it would be refused. The proposals would result in an industrial environment with thousands of acres of steel glass and concrete.

There are alternatives such as the 600,000 acres of south facing commercial and industrial roofs that at present are empty. Technology is developing so fast with modern panels thin and light, able to go on any built surface. These panels coming from China are quickly outdated. Yet we are tied with long term contracts and paid by us with increased electricity bills and creating a drain of funds out of the UK. Food security is a big problem. It's risky to lock agricultural land away for 40+ years.

There is hope we can stop this. Previous public opposition has helped to win

against applications. Also, after January 29th no new applications will be considered. If all applications up to date were passed there would be a 10x over-supply of energy. They cannot all go ahead. Let ours be one that never happens.

Ru Yarsley, District Councillor (East Lindsey) spoke about her success in fighting against unwanted applications.

Statement from the County Council Portfolio Holder, Colin Davies. The County Council is opposed to solar industrialisation on good agricultural land.

Mike Burt - Battery Storage Site concerns.

Cllr Burt pointed out the dangers of lithium batteries with the possibility of overheating, toxic smoke and explosion. The battery site of 325 container-sized batteries is so close to Navenby village. The only way to try to stop combustion is to mitigate heat. A video was shown of a battery storage site in Australia which combusted and one in America which developed fires twice in one year. Fire fighters tackled one of the American fires for 2 weeks using water to reduce heat. Where is the source of water if the Green Man Road battery storage overheated with the risk of combustion?

Peter Overton - Impact and tourism

There is no win for residents. The generated electricity will be exported to urban areas. Our countryside will be seriously impacted and become industrial. This will have an effect on tourism. The rental payments to farmers will inflate agricultural land prices. Companies may purchase the land, sold off to foreign interests.

Simon Mountjoy - Property prices

The Heath land is graded 3a,3b,3c. Solar panels are allowable on Grade

3b however this grade of land has grown potatoes. Potatoes need good land so

3b land should not be used for solar panels. Who will clear the land when the developers move out? Why is there no law that every new property has solar panels installed? If the substations are built, more applications for solar panel areas will come in. The substation accept/refusal decision is NKDC's. The substation site near Navenby is chosen because it gives easy access to power lines. The solar panel area application is imminent and goes straight to Milliband.

There is no Government policy for dealing with possible fires.

House prices: there is no evidence of what these applications has done to property prices but it will not increase them.

Two members of the audience gave examples of a house sale falling through

and one of a reduced price. A third person said that searches before they bought did not bring up the solar proposals that haven't yet been passed. A member of the Springwell opposition group commented on the Birmingham University research about house prices near a 200 acre panel site. They found a 6 to 10 percent drop in house prices.

A fire at a Liverpool battery storage site occurred in 2020. Where did the water come from to control it? Where would the water come from to control a fire at the huge battery storage on Green Man Road? How would chemicals from damaged batteries be prevented from entering the aquifer below and polluting our water supply?

Mike Burt said that if the substation on Heath Lane Navenby is allowed there will be another 4 applications for areas of solar panels which will feed into that substation. The site for the substation is on Heath Lane was chosen because it is easy and cheap for the company to connect to the 2 pylon lines. It is far too near the village and fumes would put the whole area at risk.

Michael Campbell. (Fosse Green Opposition Group):

Mike raised concerns over sourcing the panels and for how quickly they will become obsolete. It is doubtful that the panels will be recycled or recovered due to contamination. Who will be left with clearing the sites when they are no longer working? The panels are made in factories using coal fired power station energy and shipping to Europe which further damages climate. Michael shared his concerns about the business side of the companies applying to create the

Fosse Green Site. Fosse Green Energy Incorporated 2021 has a share capital of £100.00 to pay out in case of need. In 2023 they had losses of £573,066. In 2022 they showed a loss of £85,616. The increase of losses is due to increased creditors (and FG Inc only has assets of £100.00) They say they are a "going concern" because they are underwritten by another company. But those companies give the same story, leading back to a Chinese company director. It is very easy for them to exit from agreements with so little at risk.

Martin Elvin (Springwell Opposition Group) EDF are pushing this 4,200 acre development because of its size, this is an application of National Significance and would go to the Government.

YOU CAN APPLY ON-LINE TO REGISTER TO BE AN INTERESTED PARTY and you can voice your concerns. You will need to do this by February 17th.

Please use the link below to do this.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspect...>

Nick Lyons Chair at Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council (Opposing Fosse Green) FG is a 3500acre site, 240MW, and proposes for a 10Km underground cable to link to the Navenby substation. FG are working on planning going in in Autumn 2025 and the development being complete by 2031. However, the substation at Navenby will have to be approved and underway otherwise there is no point in building the solar panel area. 2029 is the intended finish of the Navenby substation construction. A survey in Thorpe on the Hill showed that 76% of the residents were opposed to the FG development. Money suggested from FG energy for community funds from the developers is unlikely to materialise.

A member of the audience gave information of a pipeline that runs from Immingham docks to Buncefield Oil depo near Hemel Hempstead, the pipeline goes under Heath Lane within 500metres of the substation and within 1km of the Springwell battery storage and substation.

What can you do?

1. Register as an interested party (see above) and send your concerns.
2. Tell people about what is happening and explain the scale and nature of the developments.
3. Leave your contact details and come to future meetings for information and to find out more about how to help stop these developments.
4. Attend the Leoda information meeting on Tuesday 4th February, 6:30 to 9:30pm at Leadenham Village Hall. LN5 0QB. Or Thursday 6th February 4 to 8pm at Welbourn Village Hall LN50LZ.
5. Sign the petition and take a letter for Ed Miliband, the Secretary of State.
6. Write to councillors at NKDC at LCC, our MP and the ministers.
7. Donate to the Cliff Villages Action Group

national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Register to have your say about a national infrastructure project - National Infrastructure Planning