

Open Floor Hearings
Worlington Parish Council
Paula MacKenzie

Introduction: I am Cllr. Paula MacKenzie and I speak for the residents of Worlington and Worlington Parish Council.

I would like to start by saying the application has already effected so many of our residents lives for well over 2 years now and we hope that this is where it will end. I personally have had the privilege to meet some wonderful people who have fought this application, people who sadly will never know the out come.

Worlington has a vast farming history dating back centuries, Roman artefacts including agricultural implements have been found within our parish boundaries, and we are listed in the doomsday book.

We are a small parish of 500 residents, consisting of a high elderly population, many of whom are unable to attend such meetings as these or easily access online information and even if they can access the vast amount of literature submitted by the applicant, like the rest of us, they have found it a mammoth task reading through the poorly organised poorly produced and poorly presented documentation.

We, Worlington Parish Council recognise that the value of our residents' houses in monetary terms is not a consideration in this application.

BUT what about the true value of our homes?

Our homes are not just the bricks and mortar of a building, A home is the village you live in, the community you grow with. It is where you celebrate and commiserate life events, they are where we go at the end of the day. They are our sanctuaries.

As previously stated, this proposal has already affected us and how we see where we live. I for one will not be staying in a village so dear to my heart if this application is passed and I know I am not the only one to feel like this.

A once desirable village where houses were snapped up quickly now sees residents loosing buyers time and time again. No one wants to move to a village which will be transformed from a rural setting into an industrialised area.

The applicants have made Worlington and the other villages like ours feel insignificant, not even worthy of consideration. We are but an inconvenience to them, just another obstruction to climb over in their pursuit to line their pockets.

Our residents are not insignificant, they have farmed your fields, provided food for your tables, paid their taxes and contributed to their local areas, They do not deserve to be subjected to the applicants application which will see us imprisoned in our own village and homes.

40 years is not a temporary installation.

A defendant convicted for life will spend 15 – 25 years behind bars, we will be sentenced to 40 years.

I reiterate 40 years!

Our residents will be forced to live through the construction phase resulting in a huge increase of traffic and noise within our quite village.

Large vehicles which our roads are not suited for, as I believe some of you experienced first hand on site visits at the Walnut tree junction.

And though traffic will decrease initially after construction what happens when the panels/ batteries need replacing? Will these large HGV's be present again? And for how long? How often?

Badlingham lane,

One of the few right of ways on our door step. Used frequently by our residents and those of our neighbouring parish of Freckenham. This footpath will be closed for an unverified amount of time.

The applicants proposal straddles this green lane, our views of fields will be replaced by solar panels and fencing. How can we believe this will not impact our residents and not change our vista for a life time....

40 years? it will never be the same.

Right now Badlingham lane it is a haven for wildlife including Worlington's beloved bats. The applicants destruction and disturbance of this foot path including removal of trees and scrub to lay cables, increase in noise, vehicles and people will have a sever and detrimental effect on their roosting sites and flight paths.

Our countryside is vulnerable, it is not infinite and it needs to be protected from such large scale developments that will effect the area for decades to come.

The application is far too spread out over a far too large an area and as previous councillors have stated it “goes against all local planing guidance.”

It will cut our villages off from our neighbours.

It will change our landscape from a rural setting to an industrialised area.

Worlington Parish council are yet to be convinced to the carbon efficiency of this scheme.

The applicant needs to stop hiding behind the countries need for green energy, this application is nothing more than a buy back money making enterprise. With an excessive amount of solar arrays to justify 77 acres of batteries storage.

Lastly I would like to implore that the applicant stop trying to paint a picture of grazing sheep below the panels. Within the application I have failed to find any genuine provisions being put in place to accommodate sheep.

This is purely a fantasy on their part, for so many reasons. We are crop farmers with pigs on rotation, there are very few sheep farmers in this area. So where are these sheep coming from? What on site provisions are being put in place?

With sheep and solar good stewardship of the land is needed, weeds need to be removed, grass needs to be kept at a certain height and Stoney soil is problematic when cutting as it presents a direct risk to the panels themselves. The grass is effected by both grazing and the panels so it is advisable to re seed every 3-5 years.

Thank you for your time.