

Council 22 March 2023

Item 5: Participation of the public

Public question from Karen Squibb-Williams, Chair of the Stop Botley West Campaign, Oxfordshire.

“In the current stages of proclaimed climate emergency, energy crises and the lemming-like rush to renewables, is this community (Oxfordshire) at risk of being led to believe that the proposal for the UK’s largest ever ground mounted solar park is actually a good thing,

bearing in mind that:-

- a. The so-called informal “public consultation” provided by the Developer (“PVDP”) was notably lacking in any detail, and could not, and did not, help the public to appreciate just what was being planned;
- b. The Developer’s boast that BWSF will provide enough electricity for 330,000 homes (impliedly in Oxfordshire) is utterly misleading, given that any generated electricity will be fed into the National Grid;
- c. The assault on Oxford’s Green Belt is quite unprecedented and seriously damaging to the whole intent and purpose of green belts; this proposal intends to build about 75% of its industrialised landscape on Green Belt land including most of the “middle section” from Bladon and Begbroke to Cassington, and all of the southern section at Cumnor;
- d. Solar energy is proven beyond doubt to be the least efficient means of renewable generation, especially when compared to wind power, and the most damaging to the natural environment, with absolutely no evidence to show that solar farms can be reasonably restored to agriculture at the end of their useful life without considerable cost.”

As my request is made before your deadline of 12 noon today, I look forward to receiving your confirmation at your earliest convenience.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Andy Graham, to respond at the meeting.