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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Ms Ashley Ransome
Development Management
East Hertfordshire District Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

29th September 2021 (by email)

Dear Ms Ransome,

Application no. 3/21/0969/FUL
500MW Battery Energy Storage System with associated access, landscaping
and other infrastructure works
Land at Greens Farm, East End, Stocking Pelham

We write in response to further correspondence from Savills as agents for the above application for a battery energy storage system facility (BESS), as we are referenced in their letter of 6th August 2021.

For CPRE Hertfordshire, and indeed our neighbouring charity in Essex where a number of adjacent applications have been made, a key issue is the cumulative effects of the several proposals for ground mounted solar energy installations and associated infrastructure, including battery storage, on the Herts-Essex boundary. These proposals will have a severely detrimental effect on open and highly valued countryside.

To suggest that in our response to a single application we should not raise the issue of the need for the BESS in relation to potential future solar energy installations is disingenuous given the nature of electrical power. It is not reasonable to assert that the establishment of the subject BESS at Greens Farm is unrelated to future proposals for generation in this area. In fact it could be seen as irresponsible not to identify storage provision when it would clearly be needed if any of the proposals go ahead.

The justification provided by the agent for the applicant is general and non-specific and we re-iterate our concerns that provision for storage is being made prematurely when future generation proposals in the area are still to be considered. Substantive concerns remain with regard to the detrimental effects of all aspects of ground-mounted solar energy generation on the countryside, agriculture and rural life, and CPRE Hertfordshire will continue to object to each proposal where appropriate, and their cumulative impacts.

CPRE is working nationally and locally for a beautiful and living countryside

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO

Chairman: Allan McNab

Registered Charity 1162419



The present method of considering individual applications separately is clearly not fit for purpose. We are investigating how cumulative impacts may be better assessed so that decision-making can appropriately reflect the full implications of several concurrent proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Berry
Planning Manager