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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Jill Shingler
Development Management
East Hertfordshire District Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

2nd December 2021 (by email)

Dear Ms Shingler,

**Application no. 3/21/2781/FUL
Land east of Pelham sub-station, Maggots End, Manuden
Construction and operation of a solar farm. Erection of mounted solar photovoltaic (pv)
arrays and battery storage. Erection of inverter cabins, dno substation, customer
switchgear, fencing, cctv, landscaping and creation of access.**

I write with regard to the above application which has been made to Uttlesford District Council and submitted to yourselves without amendment. I note that the only portion of the application that applies to East Herts District Council is a trench and connection to a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, for which an application was made to yourselves in April this year under number 3/21/0969/FUL at Greens Farm, East End, Stocking Pelham.

CPRE Hertfordshire objected to the BESS facility on several grounds, including its prematurity on the grounds of its need in advance of a solar energy installation. We were informed, in a rebuttal by the agent for the applicants for the BESS, that the facility was required in any case for operational reasons.

We now see this rebuttal to be at best disingenuous, if not significantly misleading, and this current application has been made for as large an installation as is possible to be determined by a local planning authority for determination. Our objection remains to the BESS and to the wider installation, and we have prepared a policy statement for ground-mounted solar energy installations which I attach to provide you with detailed information on our position, all of which applies to this application. This can also be viewed on our website at:

<https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/our-policy-statement-on-solar-energy-installations-in-the-countryside/>

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 impacts of several large solar installations planned for the Essex – Hertfordshire border area would be devastating for the countryside and villages affected, and we urge the Council to refuse this application.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Berry
Planning Manager