



**Greg Smith MP - Statement for Central Buckinghamshire
Planning Committee re 23/02077/APP**

I wish to put on record my continued opposition to this application, as I have previously outlined in written comments.

As I have made clear in my own response, the cumulative impact of the applicant's proposal alongside similar projects in the area is unacceptable. The growing number of separate nearby solar installations must be considered a material impact resulting from both the construction and operation of this particular installation.

This scheme is in conflict with all three of the Aylesbury, Wycombe and Chiltern local plans and should not be permitted to proceed.

The highly inappropriate location chosen by the applicant risks damaging surrounding roads and public rights of way during construction. My constituents in Ford, Meadle, Owlswick and Kimblewick, as well as in Longwick, Monks Risborough and Princes Risborough will all be affected by construction traffic over several months without any compensation.

Access to the site is extremely limited, barely allowing a horse and rider and a cyclist to pass one another. Having visited the site along with local ward members, there was unanimous agreement that this unmaintained road is not remotely suitable for use by heavy vehicles during but not exclusive to the construction period.

The site will worsen an existing blight on the landscape from similar sites in the vicinity. Its proximity to the Chilterns AONB would impact the wider Ridgeway area and in turn threaten the contribution from tourism that local businesses are dependent on.

This site as selected is simply the wrong one for this development and even fails the applicants own published site selection criteria by being on sloping and elevated land which further increases the developments prominence and visual impact within the landscape.

The cumulative result from the applicant's proposal, combined with existing installations, risks severely impacting food security and disrupting the local supply chain, upon which many small businesses are dependent. The construction of a solar installation, despite what the applicant has claimed, will result in the land being contaminated and unable to support future food production, thus permanently changing the rural character of the area.

Far more suitable alternative locations are available in this area for solar panels. Warehouses and other large industrial buildings in Aylesbury and High Wycombe have vast amounts of empty roof space that when combined provide as much if not more space than the applicant requires, whilst forgoing a significant amount of disruption for this rural community. I believe this alternative has not been duly considered by the developer.

We have taken our fair share of energy infrastructure in Buckinghamshire. This scheme will not benefit the local community – it will permanently disrupt the rural way of life. I would therefore urge Members of the committee to reject this application.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Smith'.