

From: Evans, Rebecca (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd)

Sent: 07 November 2021 16:18

To: PEDW – Seilwaith / Infrastructure <

Cc: Stowell, Claire (Staff Cymorth yr Aelod | Member Support Staff) Holland, Victoria (Staff Cymorth yr Aelod | Member Support Staff) >

Subject: Brynhyfryd Solar Farm

Dear Planning and Environment Decisions Wales,

Re: Brynrhyd Solar Farm, Llanedi

I write solely in my capacity as Member of the Senedd for Gower, and am making representations on behalf of my constituents.

A number of constituents have written to me raising their concern and objection to the proposals by Island Green Power to build a 160-acre solar farm in the village of Llanedi. They are concerned that this could result in 3 solar farms in their village, and believe it would have a detrimental effect on the village of Llanedi, on its residents and on the environment.

They raised the objection firstly due to the visual impact of the proposed development on the countryside, and fear it would turn good agricultural land, currently farmed by local inhabitants into an industrial site. My constituents also fear that although the proposed solar farm would have an operational lifespan of 40 years, by the end of this time the company behind the scheme might no longer be in existence, and they worry about the negative effect this would have.

The constituents also feel that building a 160-acre solar farm will not enhance biodiversity in the area. They note are many species including butterflies, bats and red kites would have their natural habitat destroyed by this scheme. They call for consideration to be given to the wildlife of the area and to both small and larger wild animals. They fear that the fenced enclosures around solar panel fields do not allow space for wild animals to pass through, e.g if the enclosure is placed on a hedgehog "road" to its feeding ground it is not likely to find its way around the outside perimeter, but instead will eventually be starved of food and die, noting that hedgehogs are on the endangered species list already.

The constituents also raise the negative impact on several families whose homes would be almost surrounded by solar panels. They shared that there is evidence that proximity to the existing solar farm has a negative impact on the value and saleability of property primarily on account of the noise produced by the solar farm. This scheme, they note, is far larger than the existing Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm and thus will produce more noise and have a detrimental effect on more families in the area.

In conclusion of their objection, my constituents raise that they feel it will have a negative impact on leisure activities and tourism in the area. They believe many people come to stay in Llanedi to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside and walk the public footpaths and roads around the village, but fear this will be no more if the area is surrounded by several hundred acres of solar farms, which in many places will cover both sides of Heol Troeon Bach, and those offering accommodation and hospitality to visitors will be adversely affected.

I would be grateful if you would give due consideration to these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca