

We have lived in Penrhiw Cottage Heol Troeon Bach, for nearly 40 years. We moved here for the country side the views and the environment. It is also in the green belt so no house building keeping the land for farm animals and wildlife. The road is a single track lane the biggest vehicle that comes through is the refuse lorry once a week. We object to the proposals by Brynrhyd Solar Farm Ltd a wholly owned subsidiary of Island Green Power Ltd, to build a 160 acre solar farm on good quality agricultural land in the village of Llanedi accumulating in the area of Heol Troeon Bach for the reasons below:

There has been a solar farm (Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm) for many years it is an eyesore and noisy. There has now been permission granted for a second solar farm Ty Croes Solar Farm - DNS/3227364 which will border the existing Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm. The Brynrhyd Solar Farm would be the third solar farm in the area. We believe that the cumulative effect of a third solar farm in close proximity to two others would have a hugely detrimental effect on the villages of Llanedi the connecting road Heol Troeon Bach, Tycroes and Garnswllt - on their residents, and on the environment. This development would be using good quality agricultural land that is currently used for milk and beef production. There is no shortage of former industrial land in East Carmarthenshire and there are already some good examples of where solar panels have been located on land that could not be used for agriculture— for example on the former site of the Cynheidre colliery 3 & 4 shafts.

There is the visual impact of the proposed development on the countryside. The new panels would be clearly visible from many properties in the village and from Ebenezer Road (B4279) which runs from Fforest through Llanedi to Tycroes. It would turn beautiful unspoilt countryside into a mass of glaring glass and would turn good agricultural land, currently farmed by local inhabitants into an industrial site. The proposed solar farm would have an operational lifespan of 40 years, by which time the company behind the scheme might no longer be in existence leaving a blot on the landscape for others to decommission. This part of West Wales is still dealing with effects of coal extraction and the public purse has to foot the bill of clearing waste created by coal production. It is very likely that history will repeat itself when the time comes to remove the photo-voltaic cells and their supports.

Contrary to the claims made by the developers, building a 160-acre solar farm will not enhance biodiversity in the area. There are many species including butterflies, bats, curlews and red kites which would have their natural habitat destroyed by this scheme. The developers also claim that allowing sheep to graze within the solar farm is maintaining the agricultural use of the land, but that is hardly a justification for turning green fields into an expanse of glass.

Several families whose homes would be almost surrounded by solar panels are worried for their mental health and physical health as these panels have not been around to know the long term effect on humans. There is already 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 is far larger than the existing Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm and the soon to be built Tycroes Solar Farm and it will produce more noise and have a detrimental effect on more families in the area. For those living in nearby Garnswllt

the glint and glare created by the development will not only be visually undesirable, but dangerous to the drivers of vehicles coming down Heol y Mynydd.

It is clear from the proposals that the main beneficiaries of this scheme would be Island Green Power, a multinational developer of solar farms and the main landowners, namely Sir John Michael Dillwyn-Venables-Llewelyn of Llysdinam, Newbridge-On-Wye and David Richard Mount of Camberley, Surrey. On 29 May 2020 they granted an option for a lease to Brynrhyd Solar Farm Limited to access the land that they own at Brynrhyd. Venables-Llewelyn is also a director to the two major estates that own land locally – Penllergaer Investments Ltd and Parcmawr Investments Ltd and if this scheme is accepted, we would not be surprised if further applications were made at other locations in the vicinity. It is true that two local farmers have added some land that they both own, but the bulk of the land and therefore the financial benefit will go to Dillwyn-Venables-Llewelyn and Mount. Once again land in Wales will be exploited in order to provide energy and as happened in the case of coal, the economic benefit will not be felt locally. Local residents and their elected representatives firmly oppose this development and object to the fact that it being imposed on the communities of Llanedi and Garnswllt by people who have no connection with area and care even less about its wellbeing.

There is the negative impact that this scheme will have on leisure activities and tourism in the area. 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. No one is going to want to go for a walk or cycle in the middle of several hundred acres of solar farms and those offering accommodation and hospitality to visitors will be adversely affected. The very fact that an existing footpath passes through this site.

Access to the proposed site is via two very narrow lanes. The disruption that will be caused by the high volume of HGVs that will need access will be considerable and the safety of those travelling along Heol Troeon Bach and Heol Ebeneser will be severely compromised. Considerable damage will certainly be caused to both roads, and it is likely that damage will also be caused to hedgerows, particularly along Heol Troeon Bach. As previously stated the biggest lorry that travels down Heol Troeon Bach is the refuse truck the volume of construction traffic along with that of workers arriving at the site will cause a dramatic increase in pollution in what is currently an unspoilt area.

Whilst wholly supportive of renewable energy generation, we believe that this scheme is far too big for the area, especially considering the existence of Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm and the Tygroes Solar Farm. The benefits that it will provide in terms of renewable energy generation are far outweighed by the many negative effects it will have on the environment, the residents of Llanedi and Garnswllt and the leisure and tourism sector in the area.