

26th November, 2021.

Subject:- Brynrhyd Solar Farm, Llanedi , DNS3260565

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you with concern and to object to the proposed development of a 65 hectare (165 acre) solar farm by Brynrhyd Solar Farm Limited a wholly owned subsidiary of Island Green Power on good quality agricultural land within the confines of the village of Llanedi.

There is already one solar farm in close proximity to the proposed Brynrhyd site namely **Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm**, Tycroes, and now the **Ty Croes Solar Farm** DNS 3227364 has recently been granted planning permission, therefore making it two solar farms in close proximity to this application.

The mere thought of a third development in such close proximity to the other two being approved in my view will be wholly inappropriate and detrimental to the wellbeing of residents, wildlife and the local environment.

I disagree with the claims made by the Pegasus Group, the development consultants acting on behalf of the applicants in their claim that it will not have any detrimental effect on the village as it will in many ways, notably: -

- There are red kites, bats, butterflies, buzzards, foxes, badgers, owls to name but a few which are regularly seen around the village, all of whom will be affected in some way by this. The claims made by the developers that the proposed development will enhance biodiversity in the area beggars belief and is far from credible.
- **Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Factsheet Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**
Biodiversity means the diversity of living organisms and underpins the health and resilience of all of our ecosystems. In turn, these support all life on Earth. Ecosystems that are more biodiverse tend to be more resilient and are better able to adapt to the pressures and changes we face, for example through the impacts of climate change. As part of our commitment to reversing the decline in biodiversity in Wales and increasing the resilience of our ecosystems, the Environment (Wales) Act introduces a new biodiversity duty, which highlights biodiversity as an essential component of ecosystem resilience. In relation to Wales, this new duty replaces the biodiversity duty in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (referred to as the NERC Act) which required that public authorities must have regard to conserving biodiversity. Whilst there have been some successes as a result of the NERC Act duty, they have not been as widespread as needed. Evidence presented in reports such as the 2011 National Ecosystem Assessment and 2013 State of Nature report show that biodiversity is continuing to decline and in 2010, Wales, alongside all other countries in the world failed to meet its Internationally agree Biodiversity Targets. We need to do more if we are to reverse this trend and meet our international commitments on biodiversity for 2020.

- The developers have little knowledge, understanding or even any care of the effect that this will have on the well being of the local population. Island Green Power are a multi national developer of solar farms and the main landowners the Dilwyn Llewelyn Venables family of Newbridge on Wye and Mount family of Camberley have no connection with the area whatsoever, all they will be interested in is the monetary gain achieved by it, nothing more, nothing less.
- The visual impact of 'glass' instead of 'grass' spoiling beautiful useable agricultural countryside for the current and future generations of the villages of Llanedi and Garnswllt over the next 40 years or so is not acceptable at all.
- The village has a Primary School situated on a brow and blind bend, there have been several 'near misses' by vehicles reported there to me as a School Governor. The subsequent increase in the use of the narrow roads within the village and to the proposed site by 4 axled HGV's weighing up to 32 tonnes gross weight increases the risk even more, also the cumulative damage and pollution caused by way of noise and exhaust emissions by such vehicles also increases.
- There are several public footpaths here used by many locals and visiting walkers, some of which will be affected by this. In addition to this we have the Caeau Afon Gwili and Graig Fawr, SSSI's for traditional meadows and grasslands, notable for its floral, reptilian, bird and invertebrates. The Bryn Y Rhyd bronze age standing stone is within 60 metres of the site boundary, it is beyond comprehension that such an ancient monument being in such close proximity to something so modern.
- As some of the villagers offer accommodation and hospitality to holidaymakers who wish to escape to and enjoy the beautiful countryside that surrounds us it will no doubt have an adverse effect on their businesses and that of local shops within the area.

I am not against the production of renewable energy by any means but the cumulative effect of so many solar farms in the same small area such as Llanedi is far greater than any one of the solar farms taken on its own, e.g. Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm. The benefits of the proposal in terms of renewable energy generation are far outweighed by the several negative effects that it will have on the environment, the wellbeing of the local and visiting population and the leisure and tourism sectors within the area.

Kind regards,

Gareth Owen.