

NIA GRIFFITH

Member of Parliament for Llanelli

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1st December 2021

Planning application: DNS/3260565 Brynrhyd Solar Farm, Llanedi, Carmarthenshire.

Objection from Nia Griffith MP

I wish to register my strong objection to the above planning application on the following grounds:

Loss of good agricultural land.

This is a completely unsuitable site for this solar farm, proposing as it does to cover a huge expanse of good agricultural land. This would be a poor, wasteful use of this land, and it is particularly perverse given that, with the mining and industrial history of the area, there are many former industrial and brownfield sites, as well as some very poor 'agricultural' land which would be much more suitable candidate sites for solar panels. There are also industrial rooftops, which could be used for solar panels, which is a better use of resources. We all want to see the best possible use of the land resources that we have, and it would be irresponsible and short-sighted to use this land for solar panels.

The scale

The scale of the development is completely disproportionate to the area. It maroons local properties in an absolute sea of solar panels. Some residents will find themselves completely surrounded by solar panels.

Over-intensification of solar farm development

In very close proximity, there are already two other large solar farms, Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm and Ty Croes Solar Farm DNS 3227364

The noise

I had not realised just how much noise solar panels make. I was quite shocked to be able to hear the constant loud humming of an existing solar farm right across the valley. The size of the proposed solar farm would mean that the noise would cause considerable constant disturbance to local residents throughout daylight hours, day after day.

Loss of amenity

Situated in an elevated position just outside the big centres of population Swansea and Llanelli, this area is popular recreation area, particularly for cyclists and walkers who come to enjoy the greenery and the view. This scale of solar panel development would destroy this amenity.

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Loss of biodiversity

Large amounts of public money have been spent on preserving hedgerows and planting trees, to improve habitats, foster biodiversity and help with decarbonisation. It would be therefore be completely contradictory to allow a development such as this to remove any trees or hedgerows.

In conclusion

To conclude, I would like to stress that I am a strong supporter of renewable energy, including solar – indeed I have solar panels on my own roof – but solar panels would be the wrong use of this valuable agricultural land, and I would therefore urge you to reject this application.



Nia Griffith MP