

Michael Cussons

From: Melanie Woodward <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 26 June 2022 09:25
To: Planning Comments
Cc: helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Formal Objection to Planning Application: 22/501335/FULL - Marden Solar Farm

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Dear Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee

We are writing to formally object to the proposed Solar Farm on the following basis:-

The land is Grade 2, 3a and 3b; good quality food producing agricultural land - NOT "relatively low grade", as stated by the developer. Solar farms should have their place on brownfield sites, disused airfields, poor quality land, new buildings, office blocks and warehouses - not on productive greenfield land. Given the national food shortage crisis - it is obvious that the UK needs to be more self sufficient and huge areas of fertile farmland should not be sacrificed to industrial scale energy production, when there are other sites that are more appropriate.

The village of Marden area has already lost much of its farmland and countryside to housing development & the Widehurst solar farm. Any further major development is wholly inappropriate. The size of the site is too large and rows of glass panels would be a scar on the beautiful low Weald landscape. The public rights of way with views across open farmland from footpaths at the site would be diverted and become corridors enclosed by high metal security fencing, CCTV cameras and a wall of hedging.

The construction of the solar farm would displace existing wildlife & animals such as deer will have their traditional routes blocked. The land would be severely impacted from a biodiversity perspective, with a major proportion left in permanent shadow. Rain water and rain water run-off will create set channels without proper dispersal. As a result the land will become severely degraded.

As long-term Marden residents in a Grade 2 listed property, we are cognisant with the importance of maintaining historical integrity; adhering to the strict rules imposed by MBC when renovating our own property. In accordance with MBC's own stance/rules - the numerous listed buildings, along with ancient woodland and historic parkland that surround the site must be protected.

We strongly urge MBC to decline this application.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie & Mark Woodward
Murzie Farm, Hunton Rd, Marden, Kent, TN12 9SH.

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