

PUBLIC INQUIRY

APPEAL REF : APP/P3040/W/23/3330045

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 TOWN AND COUNTRY
APPEALS PROCEDURE [APPEALS] [INQUIRY PROCEDURE] [ENGLAND]
REGULATIONS 2000

This paper is my individual view as a resident of Hawksworth.

My name is Greg Stevens, I am a septuagenarian so as you can imagine I have a lot of life experience, and seen massive changes in ideology, laws, and lifestyles across those decades. I have recently chosen to semi-retire but retain Consultancy work in Financial Services at Director level, dealing with regulatory and political issues. Needless to say the current fraught political scenario is almost certain to involve yet more change across all sectors, not necessarily for the better, only the 5th of July will unveil the size of the political seismic shock.

I speak as a relative **newbie** to Hawksworth. My wife and I moved to Hawksworth just over two years ago, our 8th move during our married life. We have always tried to select a new home in a location that was friendly and served our social & business needs. We have travelled the length and breadth of the Country – Nottingham to Scotland, down to Hampshire and back to Nottingham again, having made great friends in many places.

I may be a **newbie**, but I am not a **nimby** during our travels we lived near Troon in Scotland where the Nuclear submarines armed with Polaris nuclear weapons travelled down the coast, we lived in Pamber Heath in Hampshire close to AWE Atomic Weapon Establishment 3 miles away. In both instances the quality of life for the children schooling, and making new friends was paramount.

We have recently downsized and we looked at several places in the Belvoir Vale, and outskirts before finding Hawksworth. It is a real pleasure to live in Hawksworth as the Village community is exceptionally strong and genuine, with friendship and kindness on tap. The Village website and community information is first class, and allows villagers to be completely immersed in village, or just informed according to their wishes.

We have always looked for a town, or village that gave us a property with a big sky, and provided a garden that Pam could tend, such is her love of gardening and flowers in particular. Our current garden at Orchard Cottage is far smaller than her last three, but nevertheless bursting with colour, and wildlife. We did not complete the RSPB recent Birdwatch this year but in the previous year there have been up to 18 species of birds, Grey Squirrels, Hedgehogs, and small rodents. When I returned home today from the hearing there were 5 species feeding on the bird feeders.

We do not agree with the wildlife assessment undertaken by RES, as it is not indicative of the range of birds nesting in, and around Hawksworth.

Over the years work stress related problems have blighted my life, and a garden with a big sky, and being one to one with nature has been an imperative. Walking in the Countryside, or Green Parks lift my spirit as they do with most people. The awful wet weather over the last 12 months in the Nottinghamshire area has precluded walking in the immediate roads on many occasions, as it was dangerous when lorries, or tractors passed, as the verges were water sodden, muddy, and very slippery. The narrow roads were also treacherous as potholes grew exponentially through the winter months. The thought of repetitive large HGV's on the roads for walkers, dogs, and horses, if the proposal did go ahead is that serious accidents [potentially life-threatening] would be a possibility.

I have fallen in wet conditions, and fractured a finger in the last few weeks [a Hospital reference number can be provided]. Hawksworth is our village but a multitude of runners, cyclists, and visitors see Hawksworth as their ' borrowed ' village as well, and will be at serious risk of injury. The proposed route Car Colston can be quite dangerous at the best of times around the bends, if cyclists are riding two abreast or in groups.

Over the years I have driven over 90,000 miles [many Company cars] and spent endless time on trains, and flights to London and beyond. Over the years Solar Farms and Wind Turbines have grown in number, I have always felt that Wind Turbines are calming , and blend into the Country side and habitat whether seen from the air, the car, or train. Black solar panels especially from the train & car are far less appealing as almost a solid block. I believe that they could be made from green glass to be less intrusive and more pleasing to the eye. I am led to believe that they are less profitable, and

that black is chosen because they are more productive therefore more profitable.

Maximising profit for the Solar Panel producers should not be the sole factor in deciding where they are placed, or the colour.

The ' current ' Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero Claire Coutinho [Conservative] in her statement of 14th May [Statement UIN HCWS466] [Addressing Cumulative Impacts] outlines supporting solar on rooftops , and poor quality brown field sites. She points out that the total area of agricultural land is very small, and even in the most ambitious scenarios would still occupy less than 1% of the UK's agricultural land. One has to assume that Secretary is being briefed properly, if so, why oh why, are we discussing the decimation of farming land on the edge of the Belvoir Vale – it defies logic!

She also states that food security is an essential part of national security, heightened geopolitical risk has brought this into a sharper focus and we think it is more important than ever that our best agricultural land is protected and our food production prioritised. The site proposed is good farming land, in a farming area, in an area of natural beauty. The fact that the pylons are already there is the reason for the request – not poor farming land,

In the same Statement the Secretary of State highlighted that increasing the deployment of rooftop solar remains a priority for Government. She announced that she had unlocked a key barrier for large-scale commercial rooftop solar, including farm buildings.

In my humble opinion we have to stand strong against wilful destruction of the natural habitat in and around Hawksworth, and the surrounding villages that are part of the Cranmer Group of Churches. In the Planning Meeting yesterday there was an isolationist view of the two villages, Hawksworth and Thoroton, which are an integral part of the Cranmer Group [of Churches] , with many interactive groups across the villages, which within the Belvoir Vale is the beating heart of fraternity and goodwill. We share a communal Vicar, and residents frequent other churches for pastoral, and pleasure purposes. This grouping of villages should be seen as important as a whole, not viewed as single villages.

As a resident of Hawksworth I object to the proposals put forward by RES.

Greg Stevens
Wednesday 13th June 2024

[Faint, illegible text block]

[Faint, illegible text block]

[Faint, illegible text block]

[Faint, illegible text block]