

**Paul Francis**

*Wesleyan Cottage, Screveton Road, Car Colston, Nottingham, NG13 8JG*

21 May 2024

J Woolcock BNatRes MURP DipLaw MRTPI  
C/O Kerr Brown  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Ms Michelle Dunne  
Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Rushcliffe Arena  
Rugby Road  
West Bridgford  
NG2 7YG

**Planning Proposal Reference 22/0224/FUL – Proposed Renewable Energy Generating Solar Farm – Public Inquiry 10 June 2024**

Dear Sir,

I am the Chair of the Parish Meeting in Car Colston, Nottinghamshire. I am not able to attend the hearing of this application commencing on 10 June 2024. Nonetheless I wish to place on record the view of the Parish Meeting having consulted with residents of the village. There is a very large majority of residents who feel very strongly that Planning should not be granted for this Proposal. These views were made known at the time of the original applications and on their behalf, I repeat them in this letter.

Residents fear significant damage to the local rural area in Thoroton and Hawksworth but also to our own village, Car Colston. We believe that the development will result in the loss of valuable (Grade 3a) arable farmland at a time when food and agriculture security should be paramount. Were the Proposal to proceed throughout its construction all materials and traffic would pass directly through our village on roads that are not suitable for HGVs. Already we have had dangerous damage to our roads from traffic passing through the village on route to the chicken farm in Thoroton and other locations.

This is demonstrated in the photograph below where a young mother and her child had to be retrieved from a stranded vehicle due to damage to the highway and drains. This damage has still not been repaired and all the roads in and around Car Colston are in a shocking state of repair with potholes and cracks. Frankly routing even more heavy traffic through our village would be dangerous to all users of the road such as walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorists.

Car Colston is a conservation village in the Vale of Belvoir which includes 27 acres of registered common land and two village greens, the Large Green being used for grazing and one of the largest in England, and includes a cricket pitch with a boundary just 10 metres from the roadside.



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Car Colston's open and picturesque aspect attracts many walkers and over 20,000 cyclists a year – the road across the Common weaves between listed buildings and a Roman villa and the additional HGV traffic during construction would constitute an unacceptable risk to pedestrians, dogwalkers, horses and cyclists.

In addition to these risks, there would be damage to the highway, high noise levels and an overall negative impact on a conservation village environment.

We do not think that the Proposal is in keeping with the rural nature of Car Colston and the neighbouring villages and the quality of the local infrastructure. We therefore restate our strong objections and request that the Public Inquiry move to reject the appeal for Planning Consent.

We also invite the Inspector to visit Car Colston and see the setting and assess the risks at first hand.



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I can be contacted at the address above if you wish to discuss this matter further.  
Thank you advance for considering our views.

Yours sincerely

Paul Francis

Car Colston Parish Meeting Chair

[Redacted]

[Redacted]