**Destruction of Cowfold**

West Sussex County Times, 5 Oct 2023, Gerry Huggett (Mrs), Stonehouse Lane, Cowfold

Cowfold is being turned into an Industrial Estate.

Plans are afoot to build a massive substation to the East of Cowfold and a large Solar farm to the west of Cowfold. Residents lives will be made a misery.

The substation will take up to 6 years to build (so we are told, but could be longer) with heavy machinery and noise creating havoc for residents.

There is talk of up to 80 HGV's per day turning into the site at Oakendene with so called 'temporary' traffic lights in place for at least 6 years. The A272 is already congested especially during the rush hour in the morning and evening.

Having traffic lights outside Oakendene on the eastern side will make the tailbacks horrendous with exhaust fumes being pumped out whilst everything comes to a standstill.

On the west side of Cowfold - still on the A272 - the plan is to have acres and acres of solar panels on farmland that is, at present, producing food or sustaining grazing animals.

With both of these projects no thought whatsoever has been given to the residents. The solar panels will be squeezed in in the fields between residential houses. Solar panels with some of them just the other side of the garden fence. There is glare from these panels, the land underneath is ruined and the rain runoff channels that result will cause flooding to some of the houses.

Solar farms have security lights on 24 hrs per day so there will be no darkness at night resulting in poor sleep for both humans and animals. Birds and bats will become totally confused.

Birds can land on solar panels believing them to be water and that causes them injury or death. Despite what the public is told solar panels do make a noise. All the views that the residents have at the moment of open fields will be views of solar panels. Can anyone who is reading this letter honestly say that that is what they would like to look out on?

Whilst building the solar farm the lanes that the HGV's need to go on are mostly single track used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. HGV drivers do not drive cautiously

down narrow lanes, they turn off the main road and put their foot down - they are after all bigger than anyone else.

Along the stretch of the A272 between Buck Barn traffic lights and Cowfold there are weekly collisions which sometimes are serious and sometimes end in someone's death. This will only get worse if the plans for the solar farm and Substation go ahead.

The substation to the east of Cowfold will impact the A272 as far back as the junction with the A23 at Bolney and the Buck Barn traffic lights at the junction of the A24 and A272 - this is six miles of traffic chaos with Cowfold stuck in the middle of it. What will life be like for the residents with traffic jams/ chaos for 6 years plus.

The side roads will be used as shortcuts which will further impact on the residents and not just the ones living along side the A272. The substation will destroy upwards of seven acres of fields, local habitats for newts, frogs, bats, birds and a myriad of further species. It will be able to be seen, it will be able to he heard, will have security fencing and lighting again making residents lives a misery.

Why does this substation have to be built right next to peoples house surely there must be somewhere these people can find that does not impact on peoples lives. All this traffic chaos will, again, cause accidents as peoples frustrations with the waiting get the better of them.

Yes we need alternative energy but is it right to have it at the expense of everything else. Why aren't solar panels compulsory on all new building, on the top of buildings in industrial estates, there is, after all clear spaces all round them. Two new storages facilities have been built at the junction of the A272 and A23 why weren't solar panels put on the top of them?

Cowfold may be small but it is still home to many people, people who do not deserve to have their normal way of life completely and utterly destroyed in the quest for profit because that is all it is, it's cheaper to build on sites that have good access than it is to put these places out of the way.

‘Normal way of life completely and utterly destroyed in quest for profit’