



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Adrian Kirkham  
Planning Manager  
North East Derbyshire District Council  
2013 Mill Lane  
Wingerworth, S42 6NG

22 January 2024

*Dear Adrian,*

**Re: Eden Meadows Solar Farm**

I am writing in relation to the proposed Eden Meadows Solar Farm (23/01089/FL). Having received a number of emails and messages on social media, as well as speaking to local residents, I know this is a key issue for Morton. I recently launched a local survey to better understand the thoughts of local residents regarding this proposal and I am now writing to outline the results of the survey, alongside additional comments by residents, which I have enclosed for your consideration. The results from the survey are as follows:

**Had you heard about the proposals for a new solar farm near Morton before taking part in this survey?**

- No: 34% (35)
- Yes: 66% (68)

**Have you received any information about the Morton solar farm proposals?**

- No: 50% (52)
- Yes: 50% (51)

**Do you support the increased use of solar power to generate electricity in the UK?**

- Yes: 57% (58)
- No: 25% (26)
- Don't Know: 18% (18)

**From what you have heard so far, on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being strongly opposed and 10 being strongly in favour, how much do you support the proposals?**

- Strongly Support (10 - 9) = 11% (11)
- Support (7 - 8) = 10% (10)
- Neither Support nor Oppose (4 - 6) = 17 = 17% (17)
- Oppose (3 - 2) = = 12% (12)
- Strongly Oppose (1 - 0) = 51% (52)



**What are your TWO biggest concerns for the development?**

- Overdevelopment i.e., the size/scale of the proposals = 57% (59)
- Loss of green space = 50% (52)
- Environmental issues like wildlife protection = 42% (43)
- Visual impact and destruction of countryside views = 37% (38)
- I do not have any concerns = 15% (15)
- Disruption during the build phase = 10% (10)

The results, which reflect around 20% of households in Morton, outline how nearly 6 in 10 people support energy generated through solar power, but 63% oppose or strongly oppose this specific development. The village already has an existing solar farm and has previously been failed by developers not following through with promised mitigation measures.

Residents are concerned with the sheer size and scale of the development, roughly 92 football fields, which feeds into their other concerns regarding loss of green space, environmental issues, and the destruction of the countryside, especially arable farmland.

Whilst I am supportive of clean and renewable energy projects, this has to be in appropriate places and in consultation with local communities. I hope you will give strong consideration to the legitimate concerns of local residents when deciding on this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**MARK FLETCHER MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BOLSOVER**