



Our Ref: AH/SMM

10 January 2024

Mr Robert Sparey  
Planning and Environment Officer  
PEDW  
Crown Buildings  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Dear Mr Sparey

**Ty'n y Waun Solar Farm application on land near Heol-y-Cyw lodged by Cenin Energy. Application number is DNS/3279521**

I have visited the area and met residents and share all of their concerns. I am, therefore, opposing this development.

About 30 households will be impacted by this development in the Heol Laethog area. This includes several rows of cottages plus smallholdings and farms. There is a fear that the development will destroy the rural way of life that they currently enjoy. Some of the residents have commons rights and keep horses and other animals on the adjoining Coity Wallia Common.

They also have grave concerns about the effect of the development on wildlife. There are many birds including owls roosting in the area, plus bats and other small mammals. Detailed environmental impact studies need to be carried out so that PEDW can properly assess the impact that this scheme will have on the ecology not just of the actual site but of the adjoining common.

But their main objection is the proposed access. They argue that using the country lane that serves their homes will cause major problems both during the construction period and also afterwards when routine maintenance has to be carried out.

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During construction, heavy lorries will be travelling up what is a single lane road from its junction with the main Bryncethin to Heol-y-Cyw road. Although the construction traffic will only travel a short distance before turning into the site, there is a second access point onto the existing farmland.

This access is opposite the children's playground. While it is accepted that traffic accessing the site once it is operational will mainly be for maintenance purposes, residents point out that local children walk along this road, which has no pavement and very inadequate street lighting, to reach the main road on their way to school. There are eight school-aged children in the community but they cannot have a school bus because the weak bridge over the old railway line at the start of their road means that buses cannot travel over it.

Residents argue that an alternative access lane is available on the opposite side of the solar farm site and using this would remove all the traffic from their access road. There is only one home located along this lane and it is sited well back from the road. I would urge PEDW, if minded to grant the application, to require the applicant to use this access and not the one that serves the community of Heol Laethog.

Villagers also object to the visual intrusion of the solar farm which will be located opposite many of their homes and will be extremely visible from bedroom windows even if there is planting to screen the site at ground level.

They fear that their homes will be devalued, and there is evidence to prove that this has happened in other areas with solar farms.

The farmer currently keeps cattle and sheep on this land but once the solar farm is in situ, only sheep will be able to graze there. This represents a loss of land for agricultural and food production purposes.

I understand that Coity Wallia Commoners and also the Board of Conservators for the common have been consulted as the solar farm will affect the common although it is not being built on common land. All the land involved is owned by Dunraven Estate.

I have been contacted by some commoners who are opposed to the plan. They have concerns about how the site will be linked either to the grid or to Cenin's proposed energy park at Bryncethin. How will the power be transmitted? Will the transmission lines be buried or will they be carried on poles alongside the road?

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**Senedd Cymru**  
Welsh Parliament



The solar farm will provide power for 12,000 homes but villagers say that they have been offered no opportunity to use any of this power for their own homes. They rely on coal or wood fires and electricity to heat and power their homes because there is no mains gas.

Residents of Heol Laethog feel very strongly that they will be suffering all of the disadvantages and inconvenience of this development while getting no benefit at all. At the minimum, they would like a pavement installed for road safety purposes, paid for by the developers, along their country road especially if lorries and vans from Cenin will be using it.

There are also fears that the scheme will affect the natural drainage in the area especially as in heavy rain there is a massive run-off from the nearby hills down onto this land and their road.

Yours sincerely



**ALTAF HUSSAIN MS**  
**Shadow Minister for Equalities**

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