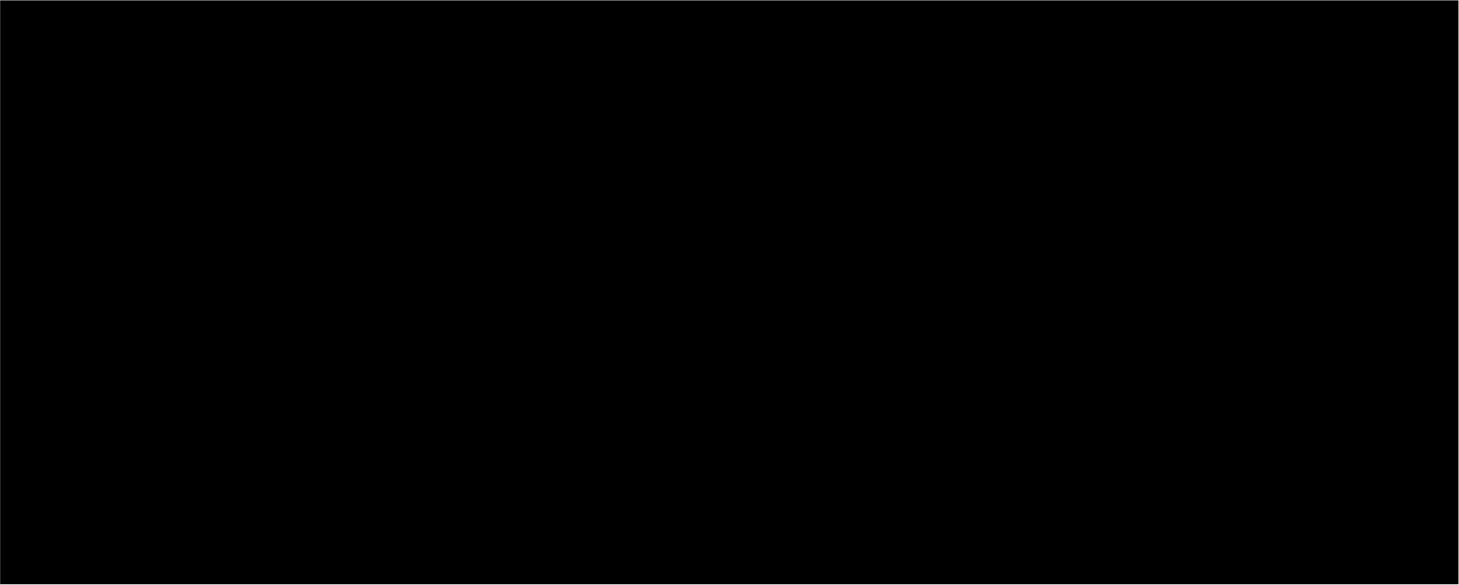




Sent: 10 September 2015 16:21

To: Planning


Subject: Planning application BN/29/15/PL

For the attention of Karl Roberts and Richard Temple

Planning Application BN/29/15/PL at Barnham Court Farm and related matters

I wish to raise an objection to this application and may welcome an opportunity to speak at the Planning Committee at which it is considered – the date of which I do not currently know.

My objection is not to the installation of renewable energy projects in principle but rather

1. To the proposed means of access via Church Lane, Barnham. This is a traffic route that has not been modified in over half a century that goes in its last few hundred metres through a Conservation Area. Through ‘development creep’ – of which much appears not to have had formal planning permission – Church Lane is already subject to a considerable of lorry and van traffic, over and above the agricultural and equestrian vehicles that use the area. Much of it fails to respect either the speed limits or the verges.

The application referred to will put a significant extra load of traffic through this route – much of it very large. Almost every resident of Church Lane and Highground Lane is expressing concern about this and the Traffic Management Plan of the company seeking to develop this project addresses very poorly only the convenience of their contractors with no discernible attention to the needs and convenience of local residents. This is utterly unacceptable.

2. Research into the background of this application and attention to similar projects in the last few years has revealed that the Council appears to be abdicating its responsibility for the management and care of a fast dwindling rural element in this part of West Sussex.

The creation of the South Downs National Park generated the need for a much sharper focus on the balance of character to be protected in the West Sussex Lowlands which appears to have been neglected so far by the Council. The need for improved infra-structure (the building for example of the Bognor Bypass) and pressure for new housing is dramatically eating away countryside within the Council's borders.

To add to this by the amount of 'development' of so-called solar parks that have sprouted in our area recently is frankly negligent. It is of particular note that hardly any of the new housing authorised for the area has as a stipulated condition the requirement to put solar panels on all new roofs with a southern aspect profile. This should be reviewed as a matter of urgency and until that review has been conducted all applications for solar park developments should at least be deferred if not rejected.

I and many of my immediate neighbours as well as many in the wider community call upon the Council and its Planning Committee to take these major aspects of Planning Policy very seriously and to act in the medium and short term to protect the fast diminishing countryside of our area from despoliation.

On these two main grounds the Council should at the very least defer this application until a clear vision has been made explicit as to how to maximise resources for solar energy and to minimise the deleterious impact upon the rural environment, and preferably reject all future applications of this nature while insisting that no new buildings of any kind be erected without solar energy installations wherever a roof faces any direction between east of South-East and south of South-West.

Yours sincerely

Roger Pask

