



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sue Hanley
Chief Executive
Bromsgrove District Council
Parkside
Market Street
Bromsgrove
B61 8DA

2 December 2024

Dear Sue

24/00960/FUL – Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Hunnington

I am writing to you on this occasion to formally object to planning application **24/00960/FUL** which proposes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure on land off Illey Lane, Hunnington.

Impact on agricultural land

First, as the application itself references, the proposed BESS will be built on agricultural land. At a time of great global insecurity, we should not be building on agricultural land and impacting our domestic food security.

Second, the 3.8 hectare site is within green belt land. It is my firm view, and that of constituents, that we should not be developing on precious green belt land, especially when this land is already under assault from the Government's revised National Planning Policy Framework.

My constituency is 89% green belt I was elected with a mandate to protect our green belt and to fight against inappropriate green belt development to protect our rural way of life. I will only support development in the right locations and on brownfield land first. Clearly this proposal fails both those tests.

Impact on local highways

Third, it's notable that the Highway Authority, Worcestershire County Council, has concluded that this application should be refused. I agree with the County Council that this application would lead to an unacceptable highways impact.

822 two-way HGV movements (arrivals and departures) during the construction phase and 10 and 20 vehicle trips per month to support site operations will have an unacceptable impact on residents' quality of life.

As the County Council has highlighted, the consequences of this HGV and operational activity are contrary to paragraph 114, 115 and 116 of the 2023 NPPF.

Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove and the Villages

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Heightened possibility of future flooding events

Fourth, I note the objection of North Worcestershire Water Management. Given the proposed BESS will be in close proximity to Illey Brook, which downstream in Halesowen is known for flooding after heavy rainfall, it's vital that this proposal does not exacerbate this known problem.

Local wildlife impacts

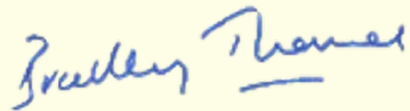
Fifth, I would also highlight the objections of Team4Nature. They have rightly cited that the proposed BESS will pose additional risks to the Hunnington Disused Railway which is a designated Local Wildlife Site.

They have also highlighted the potential impact this proposed application will have on local wildlife and nature – something both I and my constituents care deeply about. I agree with Team4Nature that the disturbance, noise and light pollution from this application during construction and operation will impact bats, birds and other wildlife.

Taking all of these points into account, it is clear that both statutory and non-statutory consultees are concerned at the impact of this proposal on both the local environment and highways infrastructure, whilst the application also undermines our food security, distinct rural identity and increases the risk of flooding.

I strongly urge Bromsgrove District Council to oppose this application and ensure we preserve this land for agriculture and for the betterment of local nature and wildlife.

Kind regards



Bradley Thomas MP
Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove and the Villages