



## Halesmere Estate Briefing 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Resident,

You may or may not be aware that a planning application has been submitted to Bromsgrove District Council by a company called Grenergy, for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the vicinity of Goodrest Farm, Hunnington. The BESS will comprise 60 lithium-ion batteries each the size of a container and will link to the Kitwell Green electricity sub-station. The purpose of the BESS is to take power from the National Grid at periods of low demand, and feed electricity back into the Grid at peak times, i.e. energy balancing. You may have heard that there are potentially 2 other BESS sites within close proximity, Lowlands Farm (agreed following appeal) and Illey Brook Farm (appeal decision awaited). All 3 BESS sites will be within a one mile radius of each other.

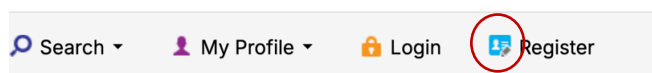
Hunnington Parish Council (HPC) have lodged a detailed objection to the Goodrest Farm BESS on the Bromsgrove Planning Portal. The reason for this briefing is that we have identified the close proximity of the site to Illey Brook as a key risk, as the site is close to streams which feed into it. The fire risk from BESS sites is well documented, the batteries can be subjected to “thermal runaway” causing fire and explosion. These fires are uncontrollable except for extravagant water cooling and the fires give out toxic gases such as Hydrogen Fluoride and Methane and Ethylene.

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFR) have identified that in the event of a fire they would use approximately 5.5 million litres of water over a 24-hour period and that the resulting run off of polluted water would have a significant impact on the surrounding area. HPC have therefor raised the issue of the potential downstream flood and pollution consequences, and we have highlighted the flooding of the Haslemere estate in 2007/8 as a specific example of Illey Brook flooding. North Worcestershire Water Management have also objected to the application due to its closeness to Illey Brook.

**The purpose of this briefing is to gain support to our objection from those of you on the Halesmere estate, and to reinforce our claim that it is a potentially significant flood risk.** It is anticipated that the Goodrest Farm application will be considered by the Bromsgrove Planning Committee at their meeting in February 2025, and objections can be made up to the decision date. If you disagree with the application, you can lodge your objection with Bromsgrove District Council via their Planning Portal. Access to the portal is via the link shown below, or simple search for “Bromsgrove Planning Portal”. The application can be found by typing in the reference 24/00960/FUL in the portal search option. You do not have to be a resident of Bromsgrove to object.

<https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Alternatively, you can simply Google “Bromsgrove Planning Portal”. Once on the portal you have to register to lodge a comment or objection. To register select “Register” shown at the top of the page. You will then have to register your name, address, email address and set a password. Once registered you can log in, search for the application reference, and then the “Make a Comment” option will appear.



Please note that when typing your objection there is a 30-minute timeout limit so if your response is lengthy, it may be wise to type in a separate document and paste into the portal.

You can also email your objection directly to the Case Officer at: [paul.lester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:paul.lester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

If you wish to see an overview of the application, then please look at “Hunnington Parish Council Objection” listed in the many documents available on the Portal (it’s near the top).