



Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Background information regarding Solar Panel Farm Installations in Mid Staffordshire

Councillors at Stowe by Chartley Parish Council, are all, very aware of the growing concerns, regarding, the very large numbers of plans to install solar farms across large swathes of agricultural land, in our area.

At the time of preparing this document proposals have already been passed for schemes at Lower Farm, Drointon (Stowe by Chartley PC) and at Moreton Brook, Newton, (Blithfield PC) and these two sites, are just 1.3 miles apart. There are also plans for another site at Yew Tree Farm, in the village of Drointon, next door to Lower Farm. If the Yew Tree Farm site is approved by Stafford Borough Council, it will mean 80% of the hamlet of Drointon, will be covered by solar panels.

Also adjoining the site at the Moreton Brook Newton, we believe there are plans for a very large 2500 acre site known as the Crab Tree Farm and other land, on Steenwood Lane, Blithfield, (this site is in both Blithfield and Colton Parish Councils) which we understand stretches for several miles, towards Rugeley. Please note, this site will not be considered by the East Staffordshire District Council, but will go straight to the Secretary of State for approval due to its size.

If both the above additional schemes are also passed by the relevant authorities, Stowe by Chartley Blithfield and parts of Colton Parish Councils, will be join by Solar Farms, which will stretch to approximately 5.23 miles of almost continuous solar panels (as the crow flies), which will totally blight the beautiful Staffordshire countryside and rural landscape, for the next 40 years plus.

The Mid Staffordshire area is referred to as the Trent Valley and it is in very close proximity to the de-commissioned former Rugeley Power Station, so all the necessary electricity connectivity and infrastructure is still available on this site to connect directly to the national grid, and ready to be commissioned immediately to accommodate all these proposed solar farms, in the area.

In addition, to this information we believe that in the Stafford Borough Council and surrounding District Council areas, there is at least a further three projects being mooted, which we understand could just be the "Tip of the Iceberg". Please view these planning applications, on the attached spreadsheet which includes a list of all the solar farm project in Staffordshire and the status of their application. Also, listed on the spreadsheet are a further three proposed applications, which have not yet been submitted, but as councillors, we are aware from two developers, that they are planning to make submissions very soon, regarding these further projects.

We also believe that developments on this large scale will seriously alter the nature of the countryside and should not be allowed to proceed. However, if the size of the issue is as great as we believe, the concern is one for all parish councils in the Stafford Borough Council and also surrounding councils.

Councillors at Stowe by Chartley Parish Council, believe that rather than each Parish Council, trying to resist all these applications, that perhaps we should join together to oppose, what appears to be widespread developments on our doorstep. Therefore, we feel we should contact those concerted voices to take actions across the many effected parishes, which will be impacted by these Solar Farms.

So, councillors at Stowe by Chartley Parish Council, are suggesting that perhaps we should join together, to pool ideas and resources, which may then assist and help parish councils, who find themselves effected by this situation. As a council we believe several parishes, may wish to investigate the possibilities of working together, to counteract, what we fear may well become a tsunami of increasingly large developments, which we also believe will force some parishes, villages and hamlets, to have to fend off the solar panel developers, who are all very anxious to further their plans to expand solar farm projects, in many local areas. The recent "Green Light" received from the government regarding solar applications, will make it even more difficult for parish councils and local residents to oppose any solar farm plans.

A meeting will be held for councillor's and clerks at **Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall, ST18 0LG on Monday 19th May 2025 at 6.30pm** to discuss Solar Farms. Please note, councillor's and clerks may attend the meeting in person, however, there will be a limit of 90 due to the lack of space in the village hall. There will also be an opportunity for any councillor, clerk or individual to attend the meeting virtually, as our sponsors Cloudy IT will provide this facility, and there is no limit on virtual attendance, to join the meeting online via Teams, Please return the attached pdf reply slip by **Wednesday 14th May 2025.**

For details regarding the meeting go to www.stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk or contact the clerk@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk

Please feel free to forward this email and attachments to any other third party person or persons, who may have concerns regarding Solar Farms and may also want to listen to the meeting.

This event has been sponsored by **Cloudy IT**, who are specialist experts, advising over 300 parish, district, borough and county councils to manage their digital presence and cloud storage. www.cloudyit.co.uk