

## Sophie King

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**From:** Lizanne Southworth  
**Sent:** 19 January 2015 15:27  
**To:** LDF  
**Subject:** Question number - 54 - Village name North Duffield

Name Mrs Lizanne Southworth

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 Topic / Chapter

Question no. 54 North Duffield Village Plan

Comments :

As I understand this is the background for North Duffield: 5.84 To the east of North Duffield lies the River Derwent which is also the administrative boundary of the District. The Lower Derwent Valley is an international wildlife site. It is also designated as an Area of Restraint under the existing Selby District Local Plan.

**Q54 a) How should North Duffield grow and develop?** Re Planning Application: Solar Farm Ref 2014/1150/FUL at Redmoor Farm, North Duffield, Selby. Area of Restraint – We expect SDC to adhere to this important point.

At Skipwith Station Holidays we have set up a very successful self-catering business here at the old station in the last 8 years. We run a tidy, clean and well landscaped business. We followed very strict planning requirements when we established the business. Now we have at least 70% occupancy and 30% repeat business, it would be such a shame to damage this business with an ill thought through solar farm on the boundary. We understand that there will be 8km of metal fencing down the public footpath from Redmoor House to Bonby Lane and beyond – this will be ugly. It resembles prison fencing. The character of the area would therefore be compromised, especially as it is adjacent to Skipwith Common and Crook Common, a wildlife area.

The amount of traffic going up and down the small lane, by Skipwith Station to the solar farm, will be quite unacceptable throughout construction. The planning proposal mentions cutting hedges and trees back to allow access, this is not acceptable. The lane is too narrow and the passing places already in place would be churned up during the wet months. The drain at the top of the road has been damaged by the turf lorries and other similar large/heavy vehicles, this now causes localised flooding. We have a damaged water main at the moment caused by continual heavy traffic up the lane. The problem will only get worse, this lane is not suitable for heavy traffic relating to the proposed Solar Farm. The Highway Agency need to visit the site, not just to see the state of the lane but to see the turning area from Skipwith Common Road – it is too tight. This lane was never meant for heavy traffic.

The sight of row upon row of black solar panels makes my heart sink, especially in a part of North Yorkshire which is adjacent to Skipwith Common Nature Reserve SSSI. I believe that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) needs to be completed by Selby Council as the solar farm is to be sited next to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Surely, large installations such as this solar farm surely fall in to the same category as intensive pig or poultry farms and therefore an EIA would be essential.

The planning proposal talks about financial recompense for the North Duffield Parish Council (irrespective of whether they agree or not to the proposal) during the life term of the solar farm – 25years. (£250,000) The Parish Council of North Duffield (NDPC) and the village itself, will not require any financial recompense from this solar farm - they will not even see it! There will be only three properties along the lane who will feel the impact, ourselves, Station House and Station Yard. All other properties along the lane are owned by Redmoor Farm. We are all completely ignored on this matter.

To sum up, the government Environmental Secretary, Liz Truss, does not support the ever increasing subsidisation of new solar projects in the UK and Mr Cameron, the Prime Minister, is also very concerned that the subsidies for solar projects are pushing up the price for every unit of electricity produced in the UK. Solar panels should be on our roofs, not on our agricultural land, compromising the success of our agricultural industry. I understand that government subsidies for farmers will cease this year for all solar farms going through planning. Existing and planned solar farms cover a staggering 18,700 acres of land in the UK. This land should be in agricultural use producing food or sown as grassland for animals to graze.

**b) What else is needed in North Duffield that could be allocated a site?**

Solar energy is the way forward, but with panels on buildings – roofs of residential homes, industrial buildings and farm buildings. A comprehensive plan by SDC is needed to wake up to the available footage on our properties – not using up our valuable agricultural land or lining the pockets of 'renewable' businesses.

Also, a public footpath connecting Skipwith Parish and North Duffield Parish is essential. The traffic is fast and a danger to cyclists.

Question no. 54  
Comments

**Comment Submission Statement**

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Council cannot guarantee that all identifiers will be removed prior to publication of consultation records.

Name Lizanne Southworth