



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

Eve Browning
Project Development Manager
Cottam Solar Project
On behalf of Island Green Power

Our Ref: N/A
Officer: Daniel Galpin
Email: planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk

12th May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

West Burton Solar Project: Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

I refer to your email dated 19th April, 2022 relating to a request for comments relating to the proposed West Burton Solar Project.

General Comments

The document covers the issues that we would expect to find but it is generally lacking in detail. More specifically, the documents reads as more of a generic strategy outlining intentions, as opposed to a specific consultation plan with clear commitments. The consultation offer does not feel definitive. Whilst it is acknowledged that some specifics may still be emerging, and that more detail will inevitably feature in the subsequent Consultation Report, it would be helpful for clearer information to be included up-front. This will not only enable consultees to appreciate exactly what opportunities for interaction are available, but will also display a clearer commitment on the part of West Burton Solar to getting the best out of the community. It may be useful to have a look at the SoCC produced for the Gate Burton Energy Park, by way of comparison.

Specific Comments

Please find below comments relating to various elements of the SoCC:

Paragraph 8 (Other Solar DCO Consultations). It would be useful to produce a map that articulates the relationship between the various schemes, including Gate Burton, even in a schematic form.

Paragraph 10 (Core and Wider Consultation Zones). It would be useful to know exactly what materials will be mailed to properties in the Core Consultation Zone. In addition, it would be helpful to know the specifics of the publicity proposed, including proposed publications, outlets, platforms and dates.

Section 7: How we will consult

In terms of information events, as above, the commitment to hosting a varied schedule of events is welcomed, but it would be helpful to know the specifics (locations, dates, times) in order to assess their suitability. For instance, the two events in Bassetlaw would ideally be

arranged to provide different offers as to date, day, and time of day, with a view to maximising opportunities for people to attend.

In terms of briefing sessions, discussion of the potential to host briefing sessions with parish councils etc. seems a little weak. This could be reinforced, potentially through suggesting that additional sessions / briefings will be hosted as required, to meet the needs of consultees, and that they are initially encouraged to make contact to discuss their requirements.

In terms of next steps, a useful addition would be to reiterate / detail the next steps after Phase 2 has completed, particularly in respect to how the comments received will be acknowledged, processed, reported, and if / how consultees will be notified of subsequent updates to the project (including any GDPR considerations, as appropriate).

Section 8: Community Access Points

Inclusion of the opening days and times of the venues would be a useful addition.

Other Comments

The Nottinghamshire County Council Rights of Way Team has requested that the following organisations are consulted as part of the consultation process:

- The Ramblers – Nottinghamshire group and head office
- Nottinghamshire Footpath Preservation Society
- British Horse Society
- Cycle UK
- Sustrans
- Trail riders Fellowship
- Open Spaces Society
- British Drive Society
- Byways and Bridleway Trust
- Auto-cycle Union Ltd
- Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum (managed by NCC)
- All Parish Councils with land within the development boundaries

If there is anything else you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the Local Planning Authority again.

Yours faithfully,



Development Team Manager