



Stonestreet Green Solar – Community Liaison Panel

Meeting: Fraser Room, Aldington Village Hall, 6pm-8pm, Thursday 9 June 2022

MEETING NOTES

Attendance: Robin Treacher (Chair), Cllr Paul Bartlett (Ashford Borough Council/Kent County Council), Linda Harman (Ashford Borough Council/Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council), Jenny Hollingsbee (Folkestone and Hythe District Council), David McQuillan (Aldington Primary School), Gavin Murphy (Mersham Parish Council), Giles Frampton (Evolution Power), Conor McNally (Evolution Power), Ben Lewis (Barton Willmore), Michael Taylor (Quantum Public Relations), Charlie Vavasour (Quantum Public Relations)

Apologies: Linda Arthur (Village Alliance), Claire Bell (Kent County Council), Andrew Swarbrick

1. Introduction by the Chair

Robin Treacher welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and briefly commented on the role of the CLP

2. CLP Member introductions

CLP members introduced themselves and who they were representing.

3. Meeting protocols – Chair

The Chair explained that the CLP meetings would be run under the same protocols as Parish Council meetings.

4. Presentation by Planning Consultant Barton Willmore

Ben Lewis from Planning Consultancy Barton Willmore gave a presentation on the Development Consent Planning Process and provided an explanation of current reports and surveys being undertaken.

PB stated that the Scoping Report had stated that Evolution Power had consulted with Parish Councils, and he didn't think this was accurate.

CMcN responded that the Scoping Report actually stated that Evolution Power had engaged with the Parish Council.

PB requested that Smeeth Parish Council was included in the consultation.

The Chair confirmed that the presentation slides would be circulated with the meeting notes.

5. Statutory Consultation Update by Quantum PR

Charlie Vavasour from Quantum PR provided an update on the proposed timings for the Statutory Consultation, which at this stage is likely to be during August and September 2022.

PB asked that a letter drop be included in the communications for the consultation.

CV confirmed that a leaflet drop would be conducted to all homes and businesses in the Core Consultation Zone.

LH inquired why an event would be held in Sellindge.

CV responded that part of Sellindge was in the Core Consultation Zone and that Evolution Power wanted to hold an event to the east of the site and Sellindge seemed the most appropriate venue. CV also confirmed that the venues had been agreed in consultation with ABC, FHDC and KCC as part of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

JH said it would be appropriate for Evolution Power to liaise with Otterpool Park.

PB said that Evolution Power should liaise with ABC to help promote the Consultation.

LH confirmed that ABPC had promoted the non-statutory consultation through the Parish Council website and through the Community Group.

DM said that if Evolution Power sent him an email he could arrange for details of the consultation to be put in the weekly school newsletter.

6. Community Benefit

Conor McNally and Giles Frampton discussed the Community Benefit fund that would come from the project and the type of projects that it could support, but made the point that it would be up to the local community how it was used, subject to some broad principles.

PB stated that the community benefit fund that came from the Inland Border Facility was used to develop two miles of new bridleways, along with repair work for the Church. The improvements to Public Rights of Way made the biggest difference to the community.

LH said that the Parish Plan included a number of highly ambitious plans.

DM stated that the connection of Public Rights of Way between Aldington and Mersham to urban Ashford for people to walk and cycle would be beneficial.

JH said that bridleways could go east from the site as well.

GF confirmed that Public Rights of Way would form part of the consultation.

DM commented that the school has a long list of things it wants to do.

7. Any other business

DM said he was surprised that more members had not attended the meeting.

LH stated that Derek Burles and Jonathan Tennant had terminated their relationship with the Save Aldington campaign.

LH commented that she had not received a reminder email about the meeting.

8. Items for the next meeting agenda

The following items were suggested to go on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Biodiversity gain
- Solar panel technology
- Planning status of solar farms
- Public Rights of Way

The Chair to add these items to the next agenda.

9. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in early August, prior to the Statutory Consultation starting. The preferred evening of the week is Tuesday.

The Chair to circulate the date of next meeting.

-Ends-

Acronyms:

CLP – Community Liaison Panel

ABC – Ashford Borough Council

ABPC – Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council

FHDC – Folkestone and Hythe District Council

KCC – Kent County Council