

Tye Lane Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)

Minutes

Tuesday 26th June 2024

Parish Room, Ship Lane, Bramford, IP8 4AN

FINAL

Members

Name	Role/organisation
Chloe Anderson	Planning Enforcement Team, Mid Suffolk District Council
Councillor James Caston	Bramford Ward, Mid Suffolk District Council
Councillor Chris Chambers	Gipping Valley division, Suffolk County Council
Bron Curtis	Planning Department, Mid Suffolk District Council
Sarah-Jane Hatt	Community Grants and Development Manager, Mid Suffolk District Council
Samantha Main	CARE Suffolk
Councillor Adrienne Marriott	Blakenham ward, Mid Suffolk District Council
Anne Raymond	Owner of Little Sage Hill Campsite at Copenhagen Cottage on Tye Lane.
Councillor Andrew Stringer	Cabinet Member for Heritage, Planning & Infrastructure
Councillor Caroline Wolton	Bramford Parish Council

In attendance

Name	Role/organisation
Ian Booker	Engena Ltd
Mark Collins	Construction Manager, EDF Renewables
Darren Cuming	Head of Development, EDF Renewables
Kerry MacPhee	Community Liaison Officer, EDF Renewables

Apologies

Name	Role/organisation
Laura Butters	Community Grants and Development Manager, Mid Suffolk District Council
Rob Clements	CARE Suffolk
Ed Foden	Business Development Manager, EDF Renewables UK
PC Katie Jarrett	Suffolk Police
Councillor Lester Powell	Chair, Bramford Parish Council

1. Welcome

KMP welcomed the group.

2. Introductions and apologies

KMP provided an introduction. See above for apologies.

3. Minutes Accepted

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. Pecuniary Interests

EDF Renewables UK (EDF) confirmed that pecuniary interests are not an EDF matter and we have never asked for such matters to be declared at similar meetings. These are meant to be informal, albeit minuted meetings that are intended to provide a forum for discussion on a range of topics relating to the solar farm.

BC confirmed that she has no pecuniary interest in the project and reiterated that: there is a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) between Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) and EDF to ensure there are sufficient resources to prioritise work on the EDF project in a timely and efficient manner. A PPA is essentially a project management tool which enables me, and other MSDC officers, to plan for and prioritise work on the EDF project, including interactions with residents and the parish council, such as attending the community liaison group. There is guidance on both PPAs and disclosable pecuniary interests on the gov.uk web pages should you need any further information.

5. Project update – Mark Collins

Very little physical progress on site from our last meeting, however EDF have been working hard with Engena and SCC in the background on all the planning discharge conditions.

EDF are hoping that the main solar works will commence mid-August, on completion and approval of our planning conditions.

EDF are also looking to commence the Tye Lane road improvement works towards the end of July 24. This will take approximately four weeks to complete and will require night closures on Tye Lane to undertake tarmac.

5.1. Questions

Q. Will there be security and flood lights?

A. There will be cameras but pointed towards the site and floodlights will be used during winter and whilst the compound is being erected.

Q. How high is the perimeter fence and how will mammals get through?

A. The fence is 2m high to deter deer though they will still be able to jump it. Smaller mammals can bury beneath.

Q. Is the fixing of bolts likely to be a noisy job?

A. They will be noisy but drills are battery driven so not as noisy as a pneumatic drill.

Q. What will the contractor hours of work be?

A. 7.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri and 8am-1pm Saturday, in line with planning conditions, however personnel will be arriving approx. 30 min before works starts.

Q. Are radios used on site?

A. No.

Q. Is smoking allowed on site?

A. There is a dedicated smoking area.

Q. Is there a litter policy?

A. Workers carry out chicken run litter picks regularly.

Q. Why were bodies removed from site and what happens thereafter?

A. See actions.

Q. Do highways get repaired if there is any damage?

A. Yes, any damage is repaired at the expense of EDF.

6. Community Benefit Fund

Project boundaries were discussed and it was agreed that as Little Blakenham shares a boundary with the project, they should be in receipt of a portion of the Community Benefit Fund. No representative from the parish was present so an invitation will be extended to continue discussions and decide on fund split. No other parish is impacted by the development. MP confirmed that the MSDC's Communities Team will be invited to tender for management of the community benefit fund. This process will start in early 2025.

7. AOB

None.

8. Actions

- EDF to update the group once construction start date is confirmed.
- Roy to continue dialogue with CJ Frost and monitor peak traffic times to lessen impact when construction traffic increases.
- DC to speak with archaeologist and arrange an update to the community on site findings and process when bodies are found on sites. Also to explore opportunities for education engagement with the local community.
- MC/Roy to maintain contact with local residents and horse owners nearby on when to expect disruption.

9. Date and venue of next meeting

The group are happy with a meeting every second month alternating between daytime and evening meetings.

Next meeting 6pm, Tuesday 24th Sept 2024 at the Parish Room.