

Cleve Hill Solar Park Project Development Consent Order application

Preliminary Meeting 30th May 2019

Submission of behalf of Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party.

Anne Salmon BA MCD MRTPI has confirmed that she will be attending the Preliminary Meeting on behalf of Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party. Anne Salmon will wish to speak at the Preliminary Meeting on the following agenda items:

Item 3.

1. None of the Principal Issues set out in the table included with the letter and supporting material for notifying of the Preliminary Meeting includes the matters relating the need for the development raised by GREAT in their late submission on the proposal. This refers to discussion of the need for the proposed development outside the parameters identified by the developer. This seeks to compare the need for the need for large scale solar power at the proposed location compared with other types of power generation including non-fossil power and their relative efficiency at generating electricity. This also includes whether the impact of the scheme on the land would therefore be justified. This would apply the test in the European case law of 'People over Wind' requiring that there should be over-riding public interest in pursuing the project when it would damage sites including functionally linked land adjacent to RAMSAR sites or Special Areas of Conservation.

Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party support the need for discussion of the issues raised by GREAT about the need for this development in the context of its comparison with other potential sources of power generation and storage and their relative efficiency in supplying the network. The European case law on over-riding public interest is applicable to Development Consent Orders such as this case.

Discussion of these issues is likely to require an additional Specific Hearing in the second round of such hearings proposed in the week commencing 9th September 2019 so that the evidence on these matters can be collated.

Item 5

2. Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party propose that there should be a Specific Hearing on the subject of traffic and transportation. This is necessary because it is not clear what is the level of increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles during the construction period except a provisional figure of eighty movements per day on average. The increase in lorry traffic will have harmful effects on students at Graveney School, facilities in Graveney village including

the school playing field, public house and church which are on the opposite side of the road from most of the houses, the impact on pedestrians and cyclists within and passing through the village and the potential disruption to the 660 bus route through the village. It is also not clear what is the level of vehicles including HGVs during the operational phase because of any need to replace batteries and other equipment during this period. A Specific Hearing would give residents and other local organisations together with KCC the opportunity to question the developer on these matters.

3. Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party would prefer a change to the date of the Specific Hearing on birds. This is scheduled for 17th July when Anne Salmon will be away on holiday. Anne Salmon understands that she would be able to make a written submission on this subject in advance of the hearing and that she would be able to view the transmission of the hearing and respond to it. However, it would be preferable to FSEBLP if our representative could attend a hearing on this subject in person at a date when she will be available.

Other deadlines

The FSEBLP notes the dates for submission of written representations on the subjects raised in its representations including birds and landscape and visual appraisal. We will advise by the appropriate deadline if we wish to speak at the Open Meeting on 22nd July.

Anne Salmon BA MCD MRTPI

Representing Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party.