

**Longfield Solar Farm**

**Braintree District Council**

**Unique Reference: LOSF – 0003**

**ExQ2 - Responses to Written Questions**

ExQ	Respondent	Question	BDC Response
Draft DCO			
2.5.3	Host Authorities	<p>Art 43 (and Schedule 16) - The ExA notes that this article has been amended to increase the period after which consent is deemed to have been given to 8 weeks.</p> <p>At ISH1, the Host Authorities, while seemingly agreeable to the 8 week period, nevertheless expressed concern with this timescale, noting that a 13 week period would be preferable. They also sought further assurances that the proposed 8 week period could be extended in the event that it was not possible to meet the timescale.</p> <p>In response, the Applicant expressed a willingness to continue discussions on possible mechanisms, including a memorandum of understanding, which would give further assurance to the host authorities that agreement on extensions, if required, could be reached.</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing between the Host Authorities and the Applicant on this matter. Rather than using an MOU it is now likely to be the case that the Applicant is able to provide sufficient reassurance to the Host Authorities in relation to how the discharge of requirements process would be forward planned and managed to satisfy the Host Authorities general concerns. Current discussions are focused on this and a 10 week period is also being discussed. BDC have also requested that a commitment is made to the use of a Planning Performance Agreement with associated funding to cover the discharge of requirements phase if the DCO is granted.</p>

		<p>The Applicant and the host authorities are asked to provide an update on discussions and to confirm at Deadline 5 whether or not the 8 week period now referred to in Article 43 and Schedule 16 is agreed.</p>	<p>BDC anticipate that the issue will be bottomed out to the satisfaction of both the Host Authorities and the Applicant by Deadline 5 as requested by the ExA.</p>
2.5.4	Host Authorities	<p>Please comment on the Applicant's proposed amendments to Art 11 and Schedule 6 of the dDCO.</p>	<p>Article 11/Schedule 6 – the additional limit of '50 metres' at a time for PROW closures is supported as it will minimise the impact on PROW users at any one point in time.</p> <p>In general terms BDC defer to ECC for assessment of the acceptability of the impact of the proposed amendments on PROW.</p>