

Appendices to MPAG Written Representation

Appendix 16.....Background to Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG)

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Background

MPAG was set up early Dec 2021 a few weeks after Stage 1 consultation leaflets were received by residents. News spread fast and concerned residents across a number of villages convened a meeting and the action group was formed on the spot. Key contributors went away to form a committee and working structure.

Structure

A committee was set up, and a loose organisation structure, the key elements being

- Committee
- Community engagement teams (CET). A representative from each village was identified, their role was to set up a sub team to manage door to door communications and queries.
- Functional teams were set up on strategy, agriculture, biodiversity, flooding, technical, traffic and transport, heritage and so on, so individuals with certain skill sets and experience digest and assess the relevant areas of the proposed development, reporting back through the committee.

Everyone is a volunteer with differing levels of capacity and ability to get involved. Support ebbs and flows due to work commitments, family life commitments, physical and mental health issues. Everyone is appreciated for what they can do to help, rather than what they can't do.

Fund-raising

MPAG is classed as a not-for-profit community group, following the principals of an unincorporated association. We have a business bank account, initially set up to take some small donations from individuals to help with basic campaign costs e.g. leaflets, banners, posters etc. It very quickly became apparent though that we would need expert advice and a fundraising campaign was launched through GoFundMe and through direct bank transfer

Communications

1. Website – through which anyone can register for a newsletter (c900 distribution), donate or sign a petition, as well as find out details about the scheme and processes and deadlines.
2. Facebook group - today we have 839 members.
3. Leaflet – going door to door using the CET helps build 2 way relationships with the residents
4. Roadside banners to communicate deadlines or meetings (either MPSF or MPAG)
5. Village hall community meetings – either MPAG or collaborative meetings with Parish Councils and MPs.

Residents were/are both bewildered by MPSF and the process of an NSIP, its complexity and duration. MPAG are there to help everyone through that.

Aim of the group

To use our best endeavour to collectively oppose and challenge the proposal of Mallard Pass Solar Farm, believing that its unprecedented scale and location on productive agricultural land in such close proximity to rural communities, is inappropriate especially considering the fact there are no local benefits to the scheme.

Policies

All our policies are available on our website (mallardpassactiongroup) at the bottom of the home page.

1. Social media policy – we have strict policy and code of conduct and will not tolerate inappropriate behaviour.
2. Privacy policy – personal data is only used for the purposes of activities connected with Mallard Pass Solar Farm and MPAG activities, the data is never shared with a 3rd party.
3. Constitution. The objectives of the group are:
 1. To scrutinise and challenge where necessary all aspects of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm NSIP in an informed and logical fashion.
 2. To encourage local specialists to help in our aims and become members
 3. To keep all local residents affected by Mallard Pass informed of our activities on a regular basis.
 4. To encourage all local residents to take part in all Consultations giving them details of how and when.
 5. To seek use of best endeavours seeking help if needed and raise funds to do so.

Membership is open to anyone interested in actively stopping or reducing in scale the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm spanning land in Lincolnshire and Rutland as presented by the Windel and Canadian Solar run Joint Venture.