



Guildhall
Marshall's Yard
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA

Telephone 01427 676676
Web www.west-lindsey.gov.uk

Your contact for this matter is:
Russell Clarkson

Eve Browning
Project Development Manager
Cottam solar Project
FREEPOST CAWB SOLAR PROJECT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

18th May 2022

By Email: info@cottamsolar.co.uk

Dear Eve,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – s47 draft Statement of Community Consultation

**Application by Island Green Power (the Applicant) for an Order granting
Development Consent for the Cottam Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

LOCATION: Cottam Energy Park

Thank you for your email dated 19th April 2022, which enclosed a copy of your draft Statement of Community Consultation ("draft SoCC"), in order to comply with your general duty to consult the local authority in accordance with s47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

We have now taken the opportunity to review the draft SoCC, and as a host authority, wish to make the following comments to be taken into consideration under s47(5).

Figures 2 & 3 – We would recommend that this is accompanied by maps at a lower scale in order that people can further see detail.

Page 7 – We welcome a six week statutory phase 2 consultation.

Page 9 – Consultation Reporting. We consider it would be helpful for the final SoCC to set out how feedback from the host authorities has been given regard, in addition to formally reporting this within the submission Consultation Report.

Page 10 – We agree that there is the possibility for consultation confusion and fatigue, on the basis that your proposed consultation would take place at the same time as that proposed by Low Carbon for the Gate Burton Energy Project. We agree that your consultation launch and events should be staggered to avoid conflict with the schedule put in place for Gate Burton.

We agree with your suggestion to make direct reference to the Low Carbon consultation, within your own consultation materials.

Page 11 – Core Consultation Zone. It is noted that this is to be set at 2km and “extended further where proportionate and reasonable..”. As the draft SoCC does not provide a clear map / diagram of the Core Consultation Zone, we cannot yet comment on its extent. We will require sight of this and will wish to agree it. Fundamentally, we will wish to see that all settlements in proximity of the site are included within the core consultation zone.

Joint consultation – We agree to the approach to undertake consultation on both the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects simultaneously. We believe this will help reduce the possibility of consultation fatigue and confusion.

P12 – Hard to Reach Groups. The draft SoCC does not set out the organisations that you have identified. This should be clearly set out. Your proposal to use free-to-use communication via email, freephone and freepost is welcomed.

P14 – Meeting events. It is noted to hold six ‘in person’ events – of which, four (Willingham by Stow; Blyton; Marton and Gate Burton; and Saxilby) would be in West Lindsey district. It is considered that more events should be held – at Sturton by Stow / Stow; and Corringham in addition to those proposed in the draft SoCC.

It is recommended that two webinars be held – one towards the start, and one towards the end of the consultation period.

Details of the above events (time and venue) should be set out in the final SoCC.

Literature – consultation leaflets to all properties in the consultation zone is agreed. This should be clear – is this only for residential properties? Will business properties be included? A copy of the leaflet should be included within the SoCC.

It is recommended that the Consultation Strategy includes a press release issued to all local newspapers / media at the start of the consultation event – and that adverts are placed in local newspapers.

P15 – online information. Consideration should also be given to using social media – particularly in seeking to engage with marginalised groups.

Proposals to provide posters to the Parish Councils and businesses are welcomed.

P16 – Community Access Points. We are agreeable to using WLDC offices. Please note that public opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am -5pm.

It is trusted the above is of assistance, and it is requested that this is given regard to, in accordance with s47(5).

Yours Sincerely,

**Russell Clarkson BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI
Development Management Team Manager**

On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

CC – CottamSolarProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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