

Camblesforth Parish Council

Looking after your village, together

Parish Chairman: Neal Yates

Parish Deputy Chair: (Vacant)

Please accept this document as a response of Camblesforth Parish Council with regard to the proposed solar farm – this response is directly taken from the minutes of the November 2023

8.4 Cllrs to discuss proposed Helios Solar Farm – *in light of developer declining to attend the Parish Meeting, Cllrs to discuss formal response from the Parish Council to the consultation.*

Chair and Cllrs noted their disappointment that Enso, the developer of the proposed solar farm had decided not to attend tonight's meeting to speak to them and felt this was highly disrespectful – the meeting date had been changed and Cllrs had altered plans to accommodate the visit - it was further noted that this had happened with Enso on two previous occasions. In this vein Cllrs also heard that a Cllr who had attended one of the public consultations with Enso, felt that the (Enso) representatives attending appeared very 'standoffish and aloof' when dealing with residents.

Following on from the previous meetings at which Cllrs had advised that if residents wished to let the Parish Council know their views on the proposed development, they should contact the Parish Council, Clerk noted that as of the date of the meeting, only 28 residents had done this, and that it was hoped that more had taken part in the actual consultation and advised Enso of their views.

Clerk continued that he had written to Enso to request the statistics and summaries of resident comments which would be another way to gauge resident concerns / interest in this matter.

Cllrs discussed and debated the proposals as outlined in the consultation and expressed their respective views.

Resolved At the conclusion of the discussion, a vote was taken and by majority vote (five opposing the development and one abstaining) it is duly resolved that the Parish Council would not support the new solar farm.

For the purposes of these minutes, the summary headlines of the reasons for the Parish Council opposing the proposed solar farm are as follows:

- the scale / size of this proposal was of concern and unsuitable for a rural setting – it would be out of character with the area and visually obtrusive
- Camblesforth had 2 solar farms approved for the areas Cllrs felt that the Parish had 'done our bit' to help combat climate change
- The size of the proposed solar farm had major implications for wildlife and local biodiversity
- Again, the size of the solar farm would mean a detrimental change to the fields with the loss of a considerable amount of agricultural land