

Enborne Solar Farm CONSULTATION



FEEDBACK REPORT

23 September 2021
Drop in between 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Falkland Cricket Club
Enborne Street
Newbury
RG146TW

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CALLEVA
COMMUNITY ENERGY
www.callevacommunity.uk


Enborne Parish Council
www.enborne.org.uk

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Registered office: Holme Farm, Spalford. Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire NG237

ENBORNE SOLAR FARM CONSULTATION FEEDBACK REPORT

On 23 September 2021 Calleva Community Energy (CCE) held a pre-planning application consultation drop in evening at the local Falkland Cricket Club, Enborne Street, Newbury RG14 6TW. The evening ran from 7pm to 9pm.



This flyer advertising the event had been delivered to some 360 dwellings in Enborne and parts of Newbury adjacent to the site and posters were put up locally before the event.

Attending the event from the project team were Jane Grindey and Jo Slimin, Directors of CCE, and Phil Plant and Vicky Cawley from Midwest Planning Ltd., our planning consultants. On display were the maps of the planned site with drawings and information on the siting of the solar panels and associated equipment. The planned native species hedge planting and other environmental additions and the surface water attenuation measures were also shown.

Also available in hard copy were the draft reports produced on the flood risks and mitigation plans as well as the environmental impact report. A

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Powerpoint summary was also run on a loop on a large screen. These have now been added to the Enborne parish council website www.enborne.org.uk to be viewed by those not able to attend.

Those attending were asked to sign in and give feedback on a questionnaire which was handed out (see below for results).

Some 32 visitors attended the event mostly from Enborne. This included several members of Enborne Parish Council and several interested councillors from West Berkshire District Council who are the planning authority. In addition, representatives from Newbury College came as they are interested in exploring opportunities to involve their students in the development as part of the newly introduced college course on renewable energy production.

Feedback was very positive and those presenting felt that those attending had been reassured by the information provided and their questions had been answered.

Phil said "It was really encouraging to see the overwhelming support for the project from local residents who are very enthusiastic about the development, particularly as it represents a 21st century alternative to the original purpose of the Poors Allotment Charity which was to provide fuel for parishioners. The attendance by Newbury College representatives and their enquiry about getting local students involved in the development, monitoring and management of the solar farm is also very welcome.

Jane added " There was a good feeling in the room Many were impressed by the plans to help mitigate local flooding which affects nearby homes at the moment "

Chris Garrett a Trustee of the Poors Allotment Charity noted that "the visitors were from across the parish and adjacent areas of Wash Common and that a couple of known dissenters were now won over".

The questionnaire below with a summary of the responses made, was distributed to all signing in, 13 were completed and returned but many who

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attended were couples who chose to complete one between them and some councillors felt it not appropriate to provide their views at present.

Questionnaire

Thank you for attending this drop in session today. This consultation is part of the process leading to Calleva Community Energy submitting a planning application to West Berkshire District Council for a solar farm in Enborne.

Did you find the information useful?	All 13 responded Yes. Comments included: very helpful, the static boards were very informative but the slides flashed by too quickly.
Have you any local knowledge that could affect the application that we have not considered?	<p>10/13 had nothing to add. These were added :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of water in SW corner • Considerable rain water through gate entrance i.e. Andover Drive. Even flooding on some drives along AD. • At present entrance to site has a lot of water run off. Andover Drive freezes in winter. Need to improve drainage into the ditch.
Have you any other comments or questions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add hedging around the inverters and generally reduce visual impact on Andover Drove • Slight concern regarding Sandpit Road (end Andover road) • Slightly nervous. We own some of the land adjacent to the site. • Can you put another ditch and bund channel on south side of access rd? • We think it's a good idea

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being the proposed sheep farmer the field perimeter needs to be completely fenced or arrangement made to how grazing may be available. • Like the idea of wild wetland. • It will be interesting to hear of any financial advantages to the parish • Excellent for the environment and consistent with original purpose of the field. • An extremely laudable project • Good use of greenfield land
Is there anything else we need to add before submitting the planning application?	<p>12 said No or added no comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be any noise from panels or pumps?
Will you be supporting the planning application?	<p>9 said yes 2 said probably. 2 said agree in principle</p>

Calleva Community Energy can reply to questions or keep you updated on progress if you give us give us your contact details. We will only use this information for the purpose of keeping you informed about this project and you can unsubscribe at any time. **Please tick this box to indicate you agree to our using the information for this purpose only**

Name	Email or address for contact
	9 people gave permission to hold their email

This report will form part of the evidence on consultation with residents on the project

Jo Slimin, Calleva Community Energy

30 September 2021

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