

PUBLIC MEETING OF KINGTON & DORMSTON

Clerk Lisa Cope Tel- 07773793185 Email kndparishcouncil@gmail.com

Walcote, Top Street, Charlton, Worcs WR10 3LE

**To discuss the proposed planning application W/23/00270/FUL Solar farm at Roundhill
Held in Kington & Dormston Village Hall
Monday 13th March 2023 at 7:00pm**

Present:

Cllr M. Tilt (Chair)	Cllr I. Bull
Cllr R. Drake	Cllr V. Longmore
Cllr P. Collins	Cllr S. Richins
District & County Cllr L. Robinson	

In Attendance: Clerk and twenty-eight members of the public were in attendance.

Councillor Tilt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, it was explained that the meeting was an opportunity for the residents to share their views and opinions on the planning application before the Parish Council comment on the planning consultation. Due to the number of people in attendance Cllr Tilt asked residents to keep their comments to approx. 2 minutes per person.

All public in attendance were opposed to the planning application and the following reasons were discussed:

- Traffic and vehicle movement through the village was a large issue as Cockshot Lane would be used as a shortcut past the three way traffic system. Thought should be given for school children using this route and the safety aspect with lack of footpaths.
- Assurance was wanted that the company were not using forced labour abroad to produce the solar panels.
- Earls Common Road is a designated quiet lane and although it is not enforceable for HGV to not use this route to construction it is primarily for walkers and riders rather than heavy traffic- could HGV's meet the highway code using this lane?
- An example was heard of the 'Pile driving' construction noise which would be heard from 7am-7pm during construction. The noise pollution would heavily affect surrounding residents, business and people that work from home and would be affective for 6-9 months at least. The Church would also be affected which is meant to offer a haven of peace and tranquillity for visitors.
- An example was also heard of the noise produced during the lifecycle of the invertors which is a constant buzz/ alarm which would affect residents mental health hearing it continuously.
- Light pollution issues and the impact on the environment and the birds were discussed and the fact that the UK is already in the bottom 10% of the living planet index for protecting nature and the environment.
- Residents asked why grade 3 agricultural land was being suggested for the site rather than a brownfield site and queried if this was all because of cost implications.
- Fire risk could prove a major issue due to the road infrastructure being able to cope if there was a major incident, Roundhill wood is also very close and the difficulty of access to water. There is no consultation planned in the report with the Fire Service that can be seen.
- Cllr Robinson explained that as this is a major planning application it will go to committee in probably June at the earliest and suggested to speak with Bishampton and Defford Parish Councils who have learnings from their experiences with Solar Farms.
- A meeting is planned on 24th March with the Planning Officer, head of the Planning Committee and Inkberrow District Councillor and some Parish Council representatives-a possibility is could it be asked if residents could sit in on the teams meeting to listen but not speak?
- Cllr Longmore asked if the Parish Council would have access to the response written by lawyers on behalf of the opposition group to help their response- at present the answer was no but this would be looked into.
- An Ecologist report would be beneficial to help the opposition but was not planned as yet
- A petition from residents against the planning could also prove helpful.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm