

## Email response – Vale of White Horse District Council Tuesday 08/08/2023

Thank you for your email seeking comment on the final draft Statement of Community Consultation (July 2023) for the Botley West Solar Farm.

I have liaised with our inhouse communications team and The Vale of White Horse District Council make the following comments.

### Comments on Section 4: Our Public Consultation Process

Phase One consultation:

- Incorrect date highlighted below, should be 2022.

This SoCC relates to the delivery of the Phase Two consultation. If there are any subsequent consultations (including any targeted consultations) following Phase Two that may be triggered by events such as a material change to the red line boundary, or as a result of feedback from the Phase Two consultation, they will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC to the extent they are relevant to the subsequent consultation.

Phase One consultation (3 November 2022 - 22 December 2023)

This non-statutory consultation introduced our early-stage proposals for Botley West to the community. We received feedback on our initial concept plan and the community's knowledge of the local area, allowing us to understand and refine our proposals.

- Suggest adding more information:
  - How many properties were included in the consultation zone and what proportion of the total did these 22,000 properties represent.
  - How were the in-person events advertised.

Examination process

- Provide information on how members of the public can register as interested party and submit their views once the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Where will this information be provided to members of the public? Will this be included in the comment form for Phase Two? Will the consultation report inform readers of this opportunity?

### Comments on Section 6: Who Will We Consult?

Other interested stakeholders:

- Suggest that the consultation, the events and the availability of informative consultation materials be also advertised on social media within the Core Consultation Zone (CCZ), and on social media and with the use of posters in areas outside the CCZ.
- It is not clear how members of the public living outside the CCZ can register an interest and be added to the register of interested individuals. Where will this information be made available?

Other groups

- Suggest that all venues that are chosen to hold events be accessible and can be reached by both public and private transport.

## **Comments on Section 7: How Will We Consult**

### Meetings and events

- Suggest asking parish councils to include publicity of the consultation in their local newsletters/magazines.
- Suggest making meetings and briefing sessions with local parish councils essential and not just optional.
- Suggest noting rail strikes as a potential impact of in-person events and that events may be moved to ensure they'll be accessible via public transport. Similarly, awareness of any post strikes so that mailed materials arrive in a timely manner.

### Literature - feedback forms

- Suggest that feedback forms be posted or emailed to those on the register of interested individuals.
- Will the leaflet include a QR code to materials online?
- Suggest that the feedback form and consultation material be available in alternative formats and that this is clearly communicated on the leaflet/posters/local media adverts and other promotional material.

### Advertising and local notices

- Suggest advertising Phase Two consultation with posters to hang on village notice boards.
- Will the web address for the consultation be included in local press adverts?
- Suggest consideration of paid social media advertising targeting specific geographical groups (i.e. CCZ) and seldom-heard or under-represented groups.

## **Comments on Section 8: Community Access Points**

- Suggest finding a few more CAPs in other village locations. Currently there are no CAPs in Begbroke, Tackley, Hanborough, Cassington, Bladon and Cumnor.