

COOPERATION BETWEEN BANES & MENDIP

COUNCIL ON A CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUE

12th JUNE 2013

Councillors and Members of the Cabinet

My name is Steve Mansergh and I am a resident of Charlton near Kilmersdon which falls within Mendip District Council jurisdiction however I am speaking tonight regarding an issue that will impact residents of Haydon which lies within BANES jurisdiction.

We have been made aware of a proposal to build a 35 acre, 5 megawatt solar farm on agricultural land near Haydon. The proposed site touches the BANES boundary with Mendip District Council but lies fully within Mendip Planning Authority jurisdiction.

A planning application has not yet been made to Mendip Planning but we understand that an application can be expected towards the end of July. Only a small number of residents in Haydon, Charlton and Kilmersdon have been notified of this proposal by the developer and these letters are included with this petition.

We believe that if this development goes ahead it will have a major visual impact on the landscape, and be overbearing and out of character with the area and have a direct impact on the residents of Haydon.

The proposed development site is only a short distance from the new Haydon Community garden to the South of the Village and the garden currently looks out over open farm land and open countryside. If this development were to go ahead the garden will look out over 5 acres of solar farm.

The developer has not engaged in any meaningful pre-planning public consultation with resident of Haydon, Charlton or Kilmersdon despite in excess of 50 letters being sent to the developer. There has been no response to date.

Our petition is being presented to request that BANES and Mendip Council planning authorities coordinate fully on this cross boundary planning issue as required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

We also request that BANES Council does everything possible to ensure that the developer engages in full public consultation with the residents of Haydon before and during the planning application process as advised in the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol for Bath and Northeast Somerset.

Thank you for hearing me.

Enc: Petition & Covering Letter
Pegasus Notification Letter
INRG Solar Pamphlet