



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
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Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
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Harold Goodwin
The Faversham Society
10-13 Preston Street
Faversham
ME13 8NS

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010085

Date: 20 August 2018

Dear Mr Goodwin

Correspondence regarding a proposed application by Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cleve Hill Solar Energy Park

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2018, and attachment regarding the consultation process conducted by Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd for the above proposal.

As this project has not yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) has no formal powers to intervene on consultees' behalf and we are therefore not in a position to supervise the statutory consultation process conducted by the developer.

Even though the statutory consultation period for this application ended on the 13 July 2018 the project is still in the pre-application stage. So I would therefore encourage you to continue to contact the developer directly with regard to your concerns. The developer has a statutory duty to have regard to all consultation responses received and this should be demonstrated in the Consultation Report as part of their Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

However, if you feel your comments are not being taken into account, I would advise you to write to your local authority and set out why you think the developer is failing to conduct its consultation properly.

Your comments should be taken into account when the local authority sends the Inspectorate its comments on whether the developer has fulfilled its consultation duties. The local authority's comments on the Applicant's consultation will be taken into account when the Acceptance Inspector makes their decision whether to accept the application for Examination.

Should the DCO application be accepted by the Inspectorate for examination, the applicant has a duty to notify the local community when providing information on how to register as an Interested Party for the purpose of the process.

The process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) has been designed to allow members of the public and statutory stakeholders to participate in examination of all DCO applications so that anyone interested in the proposed developments, their potential impacts and any relevant matters can be fully engaged in the examination process.

During the examination, the Examining Authority has a duty to take into account all matters assessed by the applicant in the Environmental Statement and may ask additional questions as required.

The Planning Inspectorate has produced several Advice Notes to help provide an overview of the Planning Act 2008 process and the opportunities to get involved. They are available at the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

The following are particularly relevant; Advice Note 8: *'Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others'*.

At the current pre-application stage we would recommend Advice Note 8.1: *'Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation'* and Advice Note 8.2: *'How to register to participate in an Examination'*.

Please be assured that anyone interested in the proposed developments, their potential impacts and any planning matters can be fully engaged in the examination process. A copy of your correspondence has been placed on our records and will be presented to the Inspector at acceptance together with the application documents and Local Authorities' comments on the Applicant's consultation.

Please note, in accordance with Section 51 of the PA2008, a summary of your query and our advice will be published on the project's webpage of the National Infrastructure Website.

If you require any further advice about the National Infrastructure process please contact the Cleve Hill Case team at the Planning Inspectorate. They can be contacted by email via the project mailbox at CleveHillSolarPark@pins.gsi.gov.uk or via the Customer Services Team on telephone number 0303 444 5000.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Williams
Case Manager

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