

Stonestreet Green Solar – Written Representation A (revised 21-01-25)

I am submitting this document as a resident of Aldington who has gained an informed viewpoint of the Stonestreet Green Solar project, based on an engagement with the project throughout the consultation process.

Sham

The EPL001 Limited community consultation process was widely considered by the community to be a sham. This paper briefly explains some of the reasons why?

1.The applicant company's identity

The application emerged under the name of Evolution Power Limited and morphed, without explanation, into EPL 001 Limited (coinciding with the only time that the 165MW rated capacity was made public via a document not intended for broad community consumption)

2. The applicant's propaganda

When announcing the project, the applicant falsely stated that it would 'act as a buffer to future housing development'

3. The community consultation process

The process failed to meet the legitimate expectations of residents living in the vicinity of Aldington and Mersham. Namely that they would be consulted in a fair and open way and be provided with enough and proper information and evidence, so as to make an informed decision and to be able to comment in an intelligent manner

An Adequacy of Consultation Representation was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 31st January 2024 and copied to Ashford Borough Council and the Parish Councils, all of whom failed to provide a response

4. Misleading consultation content

4.1 - In 2021 the project was stated to cover 400 acres. It is now close to 500 acres

4.2 - The consultation process documentation repeatedly portrayed 99.9MW as the planned capacity, whilst failing to disclose 165MW as the intended figure

4.3 - The image on the applicant's home page falsely portrays the project as being on level ground, with mitigation provided by significant numbers of mature trees. Whereas the site occupies a great deal of undulating land, which prevents effective mitigation

5. The applicant company

The only EPL001 address is in the financial area of the City of London

EPL001 Limited has no operational premises

EPL001 Limited has no operational staff

EPL001 directors have not provided any evidence of prior experience of the construction of solar arrays, battery storage systems and supporting infrastructure

6. Speculators or developers?

There are more indicators and evidence in the process to date which suggest that the applicant is a financial speculator rather than a project developer

It is acknowledged that such a status is legitimate. Indeed, the existing Partridge Farm solar array in Church Lane was developed by a company who openly declared their speculator status

This lack of clarity raises doubts concerning the applicant's ability to meet their post-construction obligations, such as to maintain the required levels of mitigation throughout the lifetime of the project

Similar concerns undermine the efficacy of such as the applicant's support for the government's energy policy, when their aims appear to be financially orientated and motivated

7. Conclusion

It is beyond belief that the application was allowed to proceed given the inadequacy of the consultation process

(285 words) **ENDS**