



**BYERS GILL SOLAR**  
**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**IP reference number BGSF-AFP412**

**Written comments on submissions received at Deadline 8**

Prior to the close of ISH8 Darlington Borough Council and the applicant met to discuss amendments to the Design Approach Document which sought to establish those locations that would be the focus of any reduction in panel areas at the detailed design stage, should an advancement in technologies allow. During the hearing, DBC expressed a view that these locations should take account of the views of the local communities. This position is reflected in the Statement of Common Ground between the two parties (DBC094).

DBC notes that the latest version of the Design Approach Document submitted at Deadline 8 refers at paragraphs 8.4.9 and 8.4.10 to illustrative suggestions from the local community, appended to the document at Appendix A, which would be taken into consideration in this process at detailed design stage.

Further to this, DBC notes and would support the position of BVAG as set out in their final SoCG with the applicant submitted at Deadline 8 (BVAG1) which require assurances of the mechanisms for enforceability of the proposed panel modifications and the potential for a technological baseline to be established against which any proposals to reduce, or indeed not reduce panel areas, could be assessed.

It is acknowledged that paragraph 8.4.11 of the DAD requires the applicant to communicate why a reduction in panel areas may not be achievable despite any advancements in technology at detailed design stage. The setting of a technological baseline and/or the establishment of a set of criteria or technology thresholds would enable the LPA to assess whether they are in agreement with the applicant's position at the time regarding technology advancements, in the interests of fairness and transparency to all parties.