

Subject: Community Benefit prepared by [REDACTED]

I'm [REDACTED]. I'm representing the views of sustainable Woodstock. I spoke earlier in the week on community benefit and, I really don't understand, why everyone thinks that the community benefit doesn't play any part in the application ... when it clearly does play a part in reality. We can see other proposals where there have been significant amounts of money going to communities for various projects.

We know that in Scotland that there are guidelines. We know that in England there are no guidelines. Obviously, we would like there to be guidelines for these kinds of developments. We've spoken about various ways of dealing with that. And of course, it can be with an amount per megawatt, which in Scotland is for the wind farms is £5,000 per megawatt generated. And it's easy to do that calculation, if £5,000 times 840MW, then it's £4.2 million per year index linked as well.

And that's for 37 years. That's a large amount of money going to communities to use in a way in which they decide how they should be used, strategic or community specific. So if this isn't necessarily concrete, there are other examples around England where the money has been agreed. We know there are consultations on community benefit in the background, and it would be good to use this project, if it is consented, to become an exemplar for the whole of England, for all the other future proposals that are going ahead.

We've heard about 17 communities I think that are going to be affected by the proposal. So, you know, while the onshore wind turbines are slightly different, those wind farms are often in not exactly remote, but they may affect very few residents compared with what's happening in this Botley West. And consequently, I think there's an equal weight to a solar farm here as a wind farm elsewhere.

So for this particular proposal, because it's in the vicinity to people, communities and to World Heritage sites, all those reasons that have been noted earlier in the week. So I just feel that there should be much more pressure to put on something more concrete for this particular one and then use it as an exemplar going forward.

But, I think that we've had a couple of meetings with, with PVDP in the last couple of years as a community group. There's obviously been movement. I mentioned this, we started off with zero. We went to £50,000 and people said, well, that's wonderful, isn't it? £50,000 between how many. Then it leapt to £200,000 and it's still woefully low compared with £5,000 /MW, which I feel communities should receive that money and manage it effectively for communities.

Note: There was a previous benchmark stated nearby at the hearings - an existing 4.5MW solar park. The community benefit is £45,000 per annum. That's for 4.5MW. That is £10,000/MW. Granted this is a community project but they have contributed already 300,000 in about 5-6 years. This plan is for 840 MW and I don't think you need to be a professor to work out the difference in what is being offered.