

Prepared By [REDACTED]

Apologies – A further comment on Community Benefit.

We heard several voices of concern that Botley West developers are treating residents unfairly.

£5000 per MW seems fair when so many residents and such high value land and landscape is being compromised. While there is no process in place for calculating community benefit it would hard to swallow if the developers of this very large solar farm manages to slip their agreement under the wire before the UK Government can finalise process/produce guidelines, etc. It would be so ethical if they voluntarily used an acceptable calculation (such as the Scottish) – but am I being too naïve?

Could it be possible that the developers, with all their resources are not prepared to do the kind of research we were able to do? They should come up with a voluntary figure close to what is fair. We have hard-pressed them to get this far. Instead, they have had secret meetings with parish councillors who really have no experience of these matters and were not prepared sadly prepared to say anything at the hearings. I have been told (today 4/6/25) that the figure has now been increased to £440,000 per annum (10 times less than it should be i.e. £523/MW). £5000 per MW would give £4.2million per annum. This is not 'proportionate' as the applicant put it. This is a huge loss to communities. These lost funds if agreed could have been used for the widespread decarbonising of neighbourhoods, insulating homes, improving community facilities, etc. We agree with Cherwell Collective who said " £5000 per MW. We strongly suggest this benchmark be set for Botley West as a contingency for approval".