

Simon Raywood

From: Dawn Leedham [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 June 2026 22:09
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Response to latest PDVP

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Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to formally object to the proposed community food growing area included within the PDVP solar development at Bladon.

The introduction of this element of the scheme has come as a complete surprise. I attended several of the public consultation events held by the applicant, and at no point was a community food growing area presented or discussed. Residents were advised that the fields forming the buffer between the solar farm and neighbouring residential properties would be left as wildflower meadows. The proposal for a community growing area therefore represents a significant, unexpected and unheralded change from what was presented during the consultation periods.

I live on Grove Road, and my rear garden directly backs onto the field now proposed for community food growing. As one of the residents most directly affected by this proposal, I have not been consulted at any point on this significant change.

My objections are as follows:

1. Impact on residential amenity and privacy

The proposed community growing area would introduce regular public activity immediately behind my property. Unlike a wildflower meadow, which would have very limited human activity, a community growing area would attract frequent visitors throughout the year. This would result in increased overlooking of my rear garden, causing a significant loss of privacy and adversely affecting the enjoyment of my home.

2. Security

The proposal would create regular public access directly behind neighbouring residential properties. This raises concerns regarding the security of homes on Grove Road, as the rear boundaries of our properties would become more accessible. Access would be via surrounding fields or Orchard Lane, a quiet private road with limited natural surveillance. Any incidents of trespass, anti-social behaviour or attempted burglary could therefore be less likely to be observed, increasing the vulnerability of nearby residents.

3. Ongoing access and site management

The application provides little information about how the community growing area would operate in practice. It is unclear how public access would be managed once the solar farm is operational, where visitors would park, what the hours of access would be, who would maintain the site, and how potential conflicts between public access and the operation of the solar farm would be addressed. These issues require proper consideration before planning permission is granted.

4. Lack of consultation on a significant change

The community growing area was not included in the proposals presented during public consultation. Had this use been disclosed, local residents would have had the opportunity to comment on its implications. Given the very different impacts of a publicly accessible growing area compared with a passive wildflower buffer, I consider that affected residents have not been properly consulted on this aspect of the application.

5. Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

I am also concerned that the proposed community food growing area would occupy land that is currently used for productive agriculture. The field is classified as Grade 3a Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and is currently supporting a successful crop of oilseed rape, demonstrating that it is capable of producing high-quality agricultural yields.

I therefore question the justification for replacing productive agricultural use with a community growing area. The application provides little evidence that there is a demonstrable need for such a facility in this location or identifies who it is intended to serve. Based on the information presented, it does not appear that the proposed facility would primarily benefit the immediate local community most affected by the development.

In my view, there is insufficient justification for the loss or change in use of productive BMV agricultural land for this purpose, particularly when the land is already contributing to food production and when alternative, less sensitive locations could potentially be considered.

Finally, more than a year ago, I invited representatives of both PDVP and the planning team to visit my property to appreciate the relationship between our home and the proposed development. Despite this offer, no visit took place and I received no response. Consequently, I do not believe the applicant or the planning authority has fully appreciated the close proximity of the proposed community growing area to the rear boundaries of the homes on Grove Road or the impact that this proposal would have on our privacy, security and residential amenity.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the local planning authority gives significant weight to these concerns and either refuses permission for the proposed community food growing area or requires its relocation away from the residential properties on Grove Road.

I thank you for your consideration of the points that I have raised.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Leedham

█ Grove Rd, Bladon, Oxon, █

Sent from my iPhone