

I am writing to formally raise a concern regarding the arrangements for public participation in the Springwell Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) process.

The scheduling of the Preliminary Meeting and associated hearings during standard weekday working hours creates a significant disadvantage for individuals who oppose the project but are unable to attend due to work commitments. This timing affords an unfair advantage to those who may support the development and are in a position to engage more freely during the day.

As someone who opposes the proposed development, I find this exclusionary and inconsistent with the principles of equal access and fair consultation. It is crucial that all members of the public, regardless of their working patterns, have a reasonable and practical opportunity to voice their views—both in opposition and support to the project.

I respectfully request that future hearings and public engagement opportunities be scheduled with more flexibility, including evening or weekend sessions, this will ensure a balanced and democratic examination process that fairly represents the views of the entire community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.