

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council (Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]) - Response to The Examining Authority's 2nd Written Questions and Request for Information (ExQ2).

This document constitutes the formal response of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council (LAPC) (IP Ref: [REDACTED]) to The Examining Authority's 2nd Written Questions and Request for Information (ExQ2) in respect of Lime Down Solar Park EN010168-002228.

LAPC wish to make the following comments:

Ref: DC02.20

LAPC would wish to express our support for the **Proposed New Requirement – Register of Requirements** suggested by the ExA. The Parish Council agree that the complexity of the project documentation and the challenges of ensuring the applicant's compliance to approved documents and would be greatly helped by the establishment and maintenance of such a website. The access to a single repository of approved and authoritative documents will benefit local communities by assisting the local planning authority in terms of managing public, Parish Council and consultee contact and/ or any complaints before and during the construction phase; it would also assist the Community Liaison Group (CLG) which would be established pursuant to Requirement 4 of the dDCO.

Ref: ExQ2 S.E 2.3

The Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (REP4-061) between the applicant and Wiltshire Council, section 3.12.11, suggests a business compensation scheme [REP4-061]. Aside from the compensation to businesses there have been concerns raised by operators of community facilities that the proposal will result in their closure resulting from a lack of bookings during the construction, maintenance and decommissioning phases.

LAPC echo these concerns, and we feel that the protracted construction and commissioning phase is likely to have a very detrimental effect on community facilities and businesses within our parish. We have two village halls, a Community Pond and a Children's Playground which are run by small local charities and are dependent on generated revenue and donations to survive. All of these are likely to face significant financial disruption as a direct consequence of this proposed development. We consider the suggested Community Facility Compensation Fund a vital mechanism to ensure they remain open and functional during the aforementioned phases and available for community use despite any negative effects of the proposed development.

We do not consider the applicant's proposed Community Benefit Fund to be a viable mechanism to achieve this.

In our view, the suggested **Community Facility Compensation Fund** should be administered by a publicly accountable, visibly independent and overtly regulated organisation such as Wiltshire Council. Similar processes in association with previous s.106 agreements have worked well and have established credibility within

**Luckington and Alderton Parish Council (Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]) -
Response to The Examining Authority's 2nd Written Questions and Request for Information
(ExQ2).**

the local communities. Existing processes could be adapted to establish eligibility, priority and suitable criteria for applicants to the fund, and Wiltshire Council already have established consultation mechanisms with local Parish Councils to empower local decision making for such claims. We feel it is important that decision making rests with locally accountable public bodies and that the developer is not seen as an arbiter of claims for compensation so as to avoid potential conflicts of interest and undermining of the scheme's credibility.

We would support a model similar in characteristics to the previously commonplace s.106 agreement model.