

Swaffham Town Council Response to Action Plan No. 13  
Engagement with Parish Councils and Community Benefit

Swaffham Town Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Inspector's recent publication arising from Issue Specific Hearing 1, specifically:

Action Plan No. 13 – The Applicant to engage with Parish Councils, including on the subject of community benefit.

At the time of writing, Swaffham Town Council has not yet met with the Applicant to discuss potential community benefit arrangements associated with the Drovers Solar Farm proposal. As the principal service centre for the surrounding rural area, Swaffham provides a wide range of facilities, services and amenities that are used not only by its own residents but also by those living in neighbouring villages.

The scale, nature and long-term delivery of any community benefit package are therefore important considerations in assessing the overall impact of the proposal and in informing the level of local support or concern.

The Town Council has identified a number of priority projects that would deliver significant public benefit but currently lack sufficient funding, including:

1. Improvements to sports and leisure facilities.
2. Provision and enhancement of swimming pool facilities.
3. Development of safe pedestrian and cycle connections between existing routes and rights of way, including urgent improvements to routes serving local schools.
4. Reinstatement and enhancement of former railway corridors for walking and cycling, including links west towards King's Lynn, east towards Dereham, and south towards Watton.

In addition, the Town Council considers it essential that the Applicant provides a comprehensive Traffic Management Plan addressing both construction and operational phases of the development. Such a plan should fully assess and mitigate the impacts of traffic movements on:

- Air quality and pollution;
- Noise and vibration;
- Traffic congestion and highway safety;
- The town's historic environment and heritage assets; and
- Existing and proposed pedestrian and cycling routes.

The Plan should include clear measures to minimise heavy goods vehicle movements through the town wherever possible and to protect residents' quality of life, local amenity and the safe operation of the transport network throughout the lifetime of the project.

Swaffham Town Council looks forward to engaging constructively with the Applicant on these matters and expects meaningful discussions regarding community benefit to take place at the earliest opportunity.

1 June 2026

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