



City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Our ref: jj - 4064

Date: 4th September 2014

The Planning Department
London Borough of Enfield,
Civic Centre
Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XA

Dear Planning Dept

Re: Proposed 15.2MW Solar Farm, Sloemans Farm, Whitewebbs Road, Enfield, EN2 9HW - 14/02397/FUL

I strongly encourage you to support this planning application, which is on the agenda of the Planning Committee meeting this evening of Thursday 4th September.

This solar farm proposal would have the installed capacity to supply 15.2MW, that's the equivalent to about 4,000 house solar photovoltaic roof installations, avoiding the emissions of 6,000 tons of CO₂ each year and increasing the solar generated electricity capacity in the whole of London by about a third (according to the Feed in Tariff register, the total installed solar capacity for the whole of London is currently 49MW).

The planning officer's report has recommended its refusal, highlighting a number of reasons. These include the applications failure to justify '*very special circumstances*', referring to para 91 of the National Planning Policy Framework. However, the same paragraph also specifies '*Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources*'. Given that this scheme would increase the solar electricity generating capacity of the whole of London by a third, it could equally be argued that this policy supports such a scheme.

The planning officers report states (para 8.1.1) that the development is '*obstrusive and over dominant form of development that is clearly discernible from a number of vantage points*' and includes two photos of vantage points that are visible from the roadside (M25 to east & west). I have been informed that these form only minor parts of the view from the roadside and are visible from cars for a matter of seconds. Perhaps a few more trees could be planted, if this is a real concern.

The planning officers report states (para 8.1.2) that there will be a *'loss of high quality viable and productive agricultural land'*. However, the application's Agricultural Assessment (Kernon Consultancy Ltd) clearly contradicts this statement. It states (para 6.1) *'As the land will not be irreversibly developed and therefore not lost to future generations, in policy terms no significant weight needs to be accorded to the effects on agricultural land, as it will not be lost'*. Furthermore the assessment states (para 5.2) that the site could *'be swiftly returned to an agricultural use if required'*.

The application's Agricultural Assessment (Kernon Consultancy Ltd) (para 5.2 & 6.3) states that the site will benefit from increased bio-diversity as the majority of the monoculture arable crops are replaced with permanent green cover under and between the panels.

Regarding insufficient information on ecological impacts, regarding bats, great crested newts and badgers could this not be addressed by requiring further surveys and putting in place conditions prior to the commencement of any works.

The officers report also mentions the loss of mature trees. Surely the road could be routed around the trees.

London needs to develop clean energy sources, not only to cut our carbon emissions that are accelerating dangerous global warming, but also to help address the looming electricity supply disruptions that the Mayor of London predicts in the next few years. Solar generated energy has the greatest public support of any energy generating technology and without the environmental risks. For the reasons I have set out above, I hope that you will be able to support this application.



Jenny Jones
Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb
Green Party Member of the London Assembly

Cc emailed to:
Members of Enfield Council's Planning Committee
Director of the Environment

cllr.toby.simon@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.abdul.abdullahi@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.lee.chamberlain@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.dogan.delman@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.christiana.during@enfield.gov.uk
Cllr.christine.hamilton@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.ahmet.hasan@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.suna.hurman@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.derek.levy@enfield.gov.uk
Cllr.Andy.Milne@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.anne-marie.pearce@enfield.gov.uk
cllr.george.savva@enfield.gov.uk
ian.davis@enfield.gov.uk

Direct telephone: 020 7983 4358 **Fax:** 020 7983 4398 **Email:** jenny.jones@london.gov.uk
London Assembly website: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/members/jenny-jones>