

SHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Open Consultation Meeting

July 8th 2015, Bradwell Village Hall at 6.30pm

Councillors: Mr M Linney- Chairman, Mr J Heyworth, Mrs Y Lay, Mrs K Robertson, Mr A Postan

Chairman Cllr M Linney welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 15 members of the Parish who attended the meeting. Cllr Linney informed everyone that Ecotricity intended to lodge an appeal on the 10th July against WODC Planners decision concerning Shilton Down Farm proposed Solar Farm. He also stated that the Appeal Inspector would only consider new objections.

The objective of the meeting was to engage residents and involve them in any strategic decisions that were made, in order to formalise a strategy to respond to the appeal. Cllr M Linney stressed that Shilton Parish Council would have a period of three weeks to respond to the Planners. Cllr ML was clear that he wanted the meeting to be open and transparent.

Mr Harry Metcalfe was invited by Cllr ML to speak at the meeting to clarify the situation concerning Ecotricity's intentions.

The public consultation meeting produced relevant and important concerns:

1. Lack of public consultation

It was felt that Ecotricity had not engaged with either Shilton Parish Council or the local community to discuss community benefits and had forged ahead, regardless, with their plans. Opportunities had been missed.

2. Excess unused Grid Capacity

Could another developer take up the excess grid capacity should Ecotricity decide not to go ahead?
Mr Metcalfe said it was probable as there was spare capacity available.

3. Access to and from the site

Cllr ML highlighted the single access point would cause disruption to residents nearby.

Mr Metcalfe confirmed the estimation of 60 deliveries, one delivery per day and that week 2 would peak at 3 deliveries per day.

SC asked whether the vehicles would be rigid or articulated as these would block Hen n Chick Lane during waiting times. It was agreed that WODC would not allow access through the dip at Shilton. It would also prove difficult for Lorries if any residents parked on the road out of necessity.

4. Scheduled Deliveries and Timings

Cllr AP queried what time of day would be appropriate for deliveries?

It was agreed that they should not be first thing in the morning when people are leaving for work and also not during school pick up and drop off times.

Cllr KR suggested that all these points could be raised at a Public Enquiry.

5. Meeting with Ecotricity

Cllr JH asked Mr Metcalfe whether Ecotricity would be prepared to meet with both Shilton Parish Council and its residents, within the next five days to discuss.

Mr Metcalfe stated this was a reasonable request.

6. Legal Support

Mr John Cleworth indicated that a pre-agreed amount of money could be made available from the Conservation Trust towards legal costs. WODC policy considered that neighbouring land was just as important as the conservation area.

7. Landscaping

Mr Metcalfe indicated that, should the works go ahead, the estimated time of the work was 6 months and that screening vegetation may be after this time depending on the planting season. It was requested that in order that the area is screened 'mature' trees and hedging should be planted.

8. Conclusion

Mr Metcalfe said he would speak with Ecotricity following the meeting and share the residents' concerns. There was a show of hands, with residents, who agreed that a meeting should be in place by Friday 17th.

It was also discussed whether a donation to the community would be appropriate.

