

Riston Parish Council

Report by Councillor Britton

Subject: Peartree Solar Farm

1. Questions put to developer on behalf of residents and answers from meeting 24th January 2024

Submitted for Council meeting on 7th Feb2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is a proposal for a 2000 acre solar farm known as Peartree Solar Farm which will be developed within the parish boundaries of Riston Parish and other local parishes with consultations currently ongoing and future development likely from 2028.

A representative from JBM Solar Ltd, the developer of the Peartree Solar Farm, held a meeting at the village hall, Long Riston, 7pm 24th January. Attending were councillors of Riston Parish Council - Councillors RF Wilson, RS Wilson, D Hammond, J Darling and Britton.

JBM Solar, the developer, has since been bought by RWE the German energy company.

Prior to that questions and issues to be raised by residents of a property known to be specifically affected by the proposed development were presented to the developer to answer. Questions were also raised by councillors at the meeting based on the presentation documents given by the developer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The issues raised and answers from the developer - JSR Solar Ltd are as follows:.

1. ***What would the access routes be before, during and after the building of the project?***

Access would be created using hard-core to support heavy machinery and lorries. After this, the access will be used for monitoring which would likely be a van so therefore much lighter. However the high quality road would be left. Specifically access would **NOT** be using Riston Carrs Lane.

2. **With the fences around the panels, how does wildlife cross bearing in mind there are significant numbers of deer in the area?**

There are already mammal openings to allow foxes however, it was recognised that in this area that there were deer and consideration would be to allow corridors for deer to pass through

3. **How are weeds controlled - if the weeds are not controlled, the seeds would blow across adjacent farmland causing problems?**

Meadow flowers would be planted under the solar panels and wildflower mix around the edges. Sheep grazing would be offered to keep the grasses down under solar panels. Grazing of sheep would be available commercially.

4. **Would there be compensation for potential devaluation of a farm?**

JBM Solar replied that they have not seen any devaluation of buildings, though consideration could be made for this special circumstances

5. **Would there be any accommodation for distribution of the panels around a farm - specifically with one farm surrounded on plans by panels?**

With the proposed Dogger Bank wind farm cable passing over fields just north of Riston Carrs Lane, rather than isolating a single farm within solar panels it may be possible to leave the solar panelling at a distance from a farm or completely open on the east side of monks dyke in the region of Riston Carrs Farm.

6. **Will the battery storage and transformers be placed away from residences due to their noise?**

Special consideration will be made where to locate these batteries storage sites so as to avoid affecting residences

Specific residences to be affected.

JBM Solar are aware of a specific number of houses which would be highly impacted or be very close to the development. A personal relationship will be/has been made with these residents and all issues will be addressed with them.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

There are significant community funds that will be made available from the development. There are reported significant increases in wildlife around these developments that are monitored monthly by ecologists.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Planning consent for this project rests with the secretary of state.

Councillor James Britton 1 Feb 2024