



Sutton Bridge Solar Farm Community Liaison Group
2.30pm, Wednesday 25 May 2022
The Curlew Centre, Sutton Bridge PE12 9SA

MINUTES
FINAL

Members

Name	Role/organisation
Cllr Michael Booth	District Councillor/business representative
Cllr Chris Brewis	District and Parish Councillor/voluntary sector representative
Robert Smith	Clerk, Sutton Bridge Parish Council
Cllr Jack Tyrrell	County Councillor

In attendance

Name	Role/organisation
Andrew Bennett	Development Manager, EDF Renewables
Matt Jones	Construction Manager, EDF Renewables
Kerry MacPhee	Community Liaison Officer, EDF Renewables

1. Welcome

EDF Renewables welcomed the group.

2. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from the South Holland District Council Planning Officer.

3. Minutes

No minutes to share

4. Terms of Reference

The group agreed that the meeting should be informal and did not require the election of a chair or the adoption of terms of reference.

5. Project update

AB reiterated some of the development work to date including the online consultations and positive reception from the Sutton Bridge community. He thanked the group for their engagement to date and will hand over to MJ for future CLG meetings and project updates.

MJ updated the group on the start of EPC enabling works by ANESCO who began work on April 11th 2022 on the compound, perimeter fencing and UXO surveys. The surveys found a crate of practice bombs and three other points of interest so work is still ongoing.

Questions from the group:

- Lease length? 40yr site lease with panels having a 25yr warranty
- Depths of instalments? Rack and structures will be multiple depths depending on wind loading and flood risk on parts of the site. Max height likely to be 3.5m.

- Decommissioning process? At the end of their lifetime, panels and roads will be completely removed and restored.
- Panel cleaning? Cleaning generally takes place every two years.
- Additional planting? Hedgerow of approximately 2.4km length to be planted which is improved since initial plans were published.
- Date of panels arriving? Approximately 15th September.
- Grass planting and wildflower planting? This is being considered and looked into by EDF-R who endeavour to support biodiversity on site. Sheep grazing on site also being considered.
- Change in site footprint? This is reduced since initial plans as solar panels have improved and less of them are required for the 49.9MW.
- Panel theft possibility? The site will have CCTV security to mitigate against this.
- Number of homes to be powered? Approximately 22,000.

6. Community Benefit Fund (CBF)

The group had a short discussion on CBF and mooted the Power Fund and Sutton Bridge Parish Council as potential fund holders. Keen to use monies locally initially for play park upgrades and keen to use the parish council who can claim back VAT on any spend. [A further meeting after the CLG meeting with Sutton Bridge Parish Council (Clerk Robert Smith, Vice Chair Ann Scarlett and Chairman Simon Booth) yielded the same discussion and thoughts.]

7. AOB

None.

8. Actions

- The group agreed that a meeting every two months would be beneficial.
- The group requested that the next meeting be held on site however EDF Renewables have asked that this takes place at the Curlew Centre due to health and safety implications during construction. A site meeting and visit will be arranged on completion.
- The group requested a short update and photos before the last Tuesday of every month that they can take to their Parish Council meeting to share.
- The group are happy to share information locally on social media and through their respective community channels.
- The group requested further site visits upon completion for local school groups and press which EDF Renewables will certainly accommodate.
- KMP share contact details so the group can contact her directly.
- KMP to share information with the group on models of CBF and how they're held and distributed. KMP to confirm stock requirements from EDF Renewables on CBF.
- KMP to confirm whether CBF funds have to be spent within the year or can roll over.

9. Date and venue of next meeting

Late July/Early August (TBC)