

## LLANFAIR YN NEUBWLL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Council's Extra Ordinary Meeting - 7.00 pm, Thursday 7th February 2019.

**Present:** Cllr. Beryl Salisbury (Chairman)  
Cllr. Gwilym O. Jones  
Cllr. Gordon Owen  
Cllr. William Victor Owen  
Cllr. Sharon Wyn Parry  
Cllr. Dyfed Williams

1. Cllr. Salisbury opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and introducing Mr Mike Rutgers (Head Of Development) from Low Carbon who had been invited to come and talk to the Council about the proposed Solar Farm Development.

She explained that members of the public attend at Community Council meetings but she had made time for a public participation session before the Council Meeting.

Recording of the proceedings was not permitted.

- 1.1 Mr Rutgers explained that the proposal was at a very early stage and that the purpose of this meeting was to make everyone aware of what's happening so that there was no misconception.

**Key Points noted as follows:**

The initial proposal was for seven solar farms, two were in Llanfair yn Neubwll the others were in Bryngwran and Bodedern Community Council areas.

A site map had been sent with the initial letter to interested parties but it was noted that it included a parcel of land by Cymunod which was not part of the proposal. This had now been corrected.

The proposals were within the working areas outlined on the map but there could be some movement within those areas.

- 1.2 Landlord consultations had taken place and the intention was to have a 40 year commercial arrangement with those landowners.

Consultation would take place with the County Council. Community Councils, local residents, the RAF, RSPB, NRW, archaeologists, ecologists etc.

The company had set up a web page to provide more detailed information and access to the pre-application document (35 page document). Any material changes would be posted on there.

Signature .....Chairman

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There had been no response from RAF Valley but it was noted that solar farms have been installed next to airfields globally.

Qualified Engineers will be consulting with the County Council on transport issues, including road networks, loading on bridges etc.

- 1.3 Factors taken into account in determining the siting of the proposals included the proximity to a transmission network to take the power generated, the existing power station in Caergeiliog and the fact that Anglesey has the highest solar radiation in the country.  
The sites would be connected to the grid by underground cables. (They were currently consulting with land owners on this).

The exported power output was expected to be 50MW.

- 1.4 It was unclear how many properties would be affected, but there would be visual tests and the ability to landscape if there was a visual impact.

Each site would be protected with inward facing deer fencing, motion sensors and CCTV.

The sites would continue to be suitable for sheep grazing.

There would be no impact on public footpaths

- 1.5 Work would be carried out by a large construction company with specialist knowledge and experience of solar farm projects. The company would be carrying out a rigorous audit process and it was anticipated that civil works would be done by local companies. They were to be encouraged to put their names forward for consideration by the main company.

It was unlikely that full time permanent jobs would be created but there would be a requirement for operational maintenance (fencing, cleaning, security etc.)

- 1.6 The panels would be secured by a variety of mechanisms to galvanized steel peers driven into the ground. Experts will examine the rigidity and composition of the soil in order to determine the load bearing etc. the full details will be published with the engineering design.

The panels were likely to be sourced from abroad but the sourcing of the steel would be based on best quality and price.

- 1.7 Planning requests would be made for 40 years of operation after which time there could be a further application (the panels should still be working at 80 to 85% efficiency at that point) or the site would be decommissioned. All commercial arrangements with the landowners would include a decommissioning bond. Decommissioning was not

considered to be a problem as the scrap value of the materials was very high.

- 1.8 A meeting was scheduled with the County Council to discuss the possibility of a community benefit.
- 1.9 Surveys suggest that 84% of people support solar energy and there was no evidence to suggest that solar farms have an impact on tourism.
- 1.10 The proposal was considered to be a Development of National Significance and would therefore be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS Wales). It was expected that they would be informed that the company intended to make an application on 1 April 2019. The company must consult with owners, Councils and other interested parties for a period of six weeks before submitting their application.

Once the application is made it cannot be changed.

PINS Wales will then carry out their own formal consultation process by writing to consultees.

1.11 **Summary of concerns:**

Visual Impact

Too many sites within in the same vicinity.

Impact on immediate residents and devaluation of properties

Impact on the community

Impact on farmland

Wind impact and how this risk is dealt with

The sites have listed/ancient buildings or are within AONB and SSI

Changes in ecology under the panels

Impact on tourism

Impact on roads and public footpaths

Health and Safety

Community benefit would not compensate for the negative impact on the householders.

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**1.12 Contact Website for further information:**

**[www.parc-solar-traffwll.co.uk](http://www.parc-solar-traffwll.co.uk)**

Community Council Meeting commenced at 8.20pm
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**2. Apologies:** Cllr. Einir Thomas

**3. Declaration of Interest – none.**

**4. Minutes of the last meeting to be brought forward on 19th February 2019**

**5. Matters arising from the minutes.**

1. Playing Field – MacVenture Playgrounds had completed the work on the play area.
2. Old School Caergeiliog - agreed that Cllr. Gordon Owen would inspect the documents submitted to the clerk prior to a decision being made on the way forward.

**6. Town and County Planning**

**6.1 Planning Applications.**

**FPL/2019/16 ANGLESEY AIRPORT, ROYAL AIR FORCE, MINFFORDD ROAD, CAERGEILIOG, HOLYHEAD, LL65 3NX**

Full application for the demolition of existing fence together with erection of new fence – no objection.

**7. Correspondence**

Invitation from ‘Say No to Traffwll Solar’ to attend their meeting at Valley Hotel Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**8. Any Other Urgent Matters - none**

**9. Next Meeting – 19 February 2019**

Signature .....Chairman