

Minutes of the extra Planning Meeting, Monday 16 November 2015 at 7.30pm
Lower Meeting Room, Town Hall, Bentham

Present: Cllrs Stannard, Adams, Vendy, Taylor, Bridgman, Cowling, Swales, Townson, and Locum clerk, Miss Hill.

143. To Receive **Apologies** from Members Unable to Attend

Cllrs Pritchard, Marshall & Faichney.

144. To Receive **Declarations of Interest** – None

145. Public Participation - To receive comments and concerns

A resident who lives directly across from the site, considered it wrong to have the solar farm on a greenfield site. She objected to the visual aspect and location but added that she was not against solar panels but not on agricultural land. The solar panels would disruptive the views to and from Ingleborough and Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Another resident raised the concern that Bentham relies heavily on tourism and this would be an eyesore. Concern about the Greater newts was also raised.

Concerns about the provision for clearing the site and that it would be seen from Twistleton and was too prominent. It was of concern that the company didn't know about the gas pipeline when originally consulting the community.

Concerns about the Flood Risk - it floods across the field and across the road. What measures will be in place? Raised by a resident who lives 18 yards away from the wall.

Another resident stated that the town have a responsibility to provide electricity but that an alternative location be found. Bentham do not benefit it goes to the national grid.

146. Planning

08/2015/16260 Development of a solar farm & ancillary infrastructure at Fountain Lot, Land at Bentham (at junction of Dumb Toms Lane & Bentham Road)

RESOLVED: In principle the councillors did not object to solar energy however they objected to the application on grounds of visual impact.

147. Highways Matters

146.1 To Consider whether to accept NYCC Highways reduced payment for 2016/17 to continue cutting urban 'visibility' splays as per the current season

RESOLVED: That the payment on offer £255.66 be accepted.

148. To Consider Craven's request to identify areas around Bentham for consideration as designated green space, according to the criteria laid down in the request, and agree a response.

Cllr Brockbank reported to the meeting that this was an important document for identifying areas of protection

The whole of craven outside the National Parks was designated in the previous local plan. The presumption seems to be in favour of building. If Craven District Council do not meet their housing targets there will be a lack of protection against development. Various suggestions were proposed including:-

Areas where newts are known to live make them SSSI Sites and identify Historic Sites Areas that the community want to protect. In the old local plan no local historic sites were identified in Bentham.

The area of the old school playing field with trees and a pond was suggested.

Cllr Townson thought it would be better to think of green spaces for the future not just existing.

RESOLVED: That a map be made available for proposed areas at the coffee morning on Saturday 21st November in Town Hall from 10:00 - 12:00



THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:20PM.

