



Hathern Parish Council's Response to Planning Application P/23/0379/2, Solar Farm, Hathern

As indicated in the application documentation, Hathern Parish Council has constructively engaged with the applicant and pressed for the maximum biodiversity on the development. The council notes that the suggestion, made by the local Hathern Wildlife Group to include a number of ponds within the development, has been accepted.

The impact of the development on Oakley Wood, which is a SSSI, and particularly the effect an underground cable would have on the tree root and fungal network appears not to be fully covered in the provided documentation. The council is not an expert in these matters and would wish to know the opinion of expert ecologists.

The council notes that Natural England, who has responsibility for SSSIs, considers there is insufficient information given in order to form a view on the effect on the SSSI. Moreover, the council notes the response from Morph Ecological Consultants acting on behalf of Leicestershire County Council. At the time of writing this communication is on the North West Leicestershire Borough Council planning portal, but not on the Charnwood Borough Council planning portal. This also queries the effect on Oakley Wood, comments on the detail of the biodiversity metric and suggests that more work needs to be done regarding the breeding birds survey.

Until Natural England, and the Leicestershire County Council Ecology team are satisfied with the responses from the applicant on these matters, Hathern Parish Council cannot fully support this application as it stands.

Regards

Mrs M Spencer, Clerk To Hathern Parish Council

Mrs M A Spencer, Clerk to the Council
10 St Peters Avenue, Hathern, Leics LE12 5JL
Email : clerk@hathernparishcouncil.org.uk
Website : www.hathernparishcouncil.org.uk
Tel : 01509 842813