

Statement by Wootton Parish Council

“Botley West” - proposed Farmoor-Eynsham-Wootton solar farm

The announcement on 3 November of the proposals for the major “Botley West” solar farm development came as a complete surprise to the Parish Council, which had no prior knowledge of such a development being contemplated. We feel there is much more information which needs to be provided about the project, especially its layout, physical intrusion and effects on the environment.

The Parish Council is very aware that while the proposed development has been welcomed by some, it has caused a widespread and strong adverse reaction

If built, this development would be by far the largest solar farm to be constructed in the UK.

The proposed development raises major issues about the loss of productive agricultural land, the most effective ways of decarbonising our energy supplies, the effects on wildlife and the environment, loss of amenity for our parish, as well as concerns about the by-passing of local planning authorities, and the speed with which the project is apparently being pushed forward.

The Parish Council is therefore seeking to work with the West Oxfordshire District Council, and the other parish councils affected, to secure more and better information about the development itself and the planning processes through which it will need to be considered. This will enable the Council to participate as far as it is permitted in the planning process and be better able to represent the views of the residents of Wootton. We will be reporting back, and placing more information on our website when we are able to do so, and in time for us to submit a response to the consultations being undertaken.

In the meantime, we urge everyone in Wootton Parish;

- To let us know your initial views on the proposals, and any particular aspects you think we should be concentrating on.
- To complete the questionnaire set up by our local MP, Robert Courts on his website <https://www.robertcourts.co.uk/botleysolarfarmstatement>
- To visit the ‘information event’ in **Woodstock Community Centre on Saturday 19 November (11.00am-4.00pm)**
- To respond to the ‘community consultation’ by the developers either by emailing them on info@botleywest.co.uk or visiting www.botleywest.co.uk, or filling in one of their feedback forms

Wootton Parish Council
14 November 2022