



Longfield Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)

Inaugural Meeting - Minutes

6.30pm, Wednesday, 4th December 2024

Boreham Village Hall, Main Road, Boreham, CM3 3JD

Members

Name	Organisation
Andy Higham – Principal Planning Officer	Essex County Council
Timothy Havers - Principal Planning Manager Chris Paggi - Planning Development Manager	Braintree District Council
Ruth Mabbutt - Senior Planning Officer/Planning Lead	Chelmsford City Council
Mark Norman	National Highways
Lee Perry T/Station Manager, Risk John Webster Station Mgr Future Infrastructure Risk	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Zoe May and Kieran Wright	East of England Ambulance Trust
Will Wilcock	National Grid
Katherine Evans	Essex Local Access Forum
Graham Reeves – Area Walking Environment Officer communications@essexalliance.org.uk	Essex Ramblers Association The Essex Alliance
Mark Weale - Chair	Hatfield Peverel Parish Council
Charley Dervish (Vice Chairman)	Terling and Fairstead Parish Council
James Raven – City Councillor	Boreham and The Leighs
Anthony Kingham - Chair	Little Waltham Parish Council

In attendance

Name	Organisation
James Raven – Councillor (JR)	Boreham and The Leighs
Lee Perry - T/Station Manager, Risk (LP)	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Graham Reeves - Area Walking Environment Off (GR)	Essex Ramblers Association
Katherine Evans – Chair (KR)	Essex Local Access Forum
Jennifer Johns - Assistant Project Manager (JJ)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm
Clive Cosby - Construction Manager – (CC)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm
Kerry MacPhee - Community Liaison Officer (KMP)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm
Clodagh Steel - Community Liaison Officer (CS)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm

1. Welcome

CS welcomed the group.

2. Introductions and apologies

CS provided an introduction and members introduced themselves.

3. Election of a Chair

The group agreed for CS to chair the meetings and work together as a group going forward.

4. Terms of Reference

Update - The Essex Local Access Forum was added to Section 2. Group Membership and Section 3.1 was changed to reflect agreement of the chair.

CS suggested that the representatives speak with their networks, share updates and encourage questions from their communities and parishes which can be discussed at CLG's and then shared by the representatives of the group with their communities.

5. Project Update – Clive Cosby Construction Manager

CC explained the works that have taken place to date.

Site investigations, road/land surveys - boreholes, legal boundary investigations, unexploded ordnance surveys.

Infilling hedgerows, visual screening, creating wildlife corridors.

Archaeology Investigations – 300 trial trenches, completed beginning December 2024. Following an archaeological discovery, we have been granted a special license to exhume roman remains which will be taken to Chelmsford City Museum. Other finds included old farm machinery, pieces of pottery/spades.

5.1 Questions

Q. Where will the connection point be?

A. Bulls Lodge would be the connection point. National Grid will perform an upgrade prior to connection.

Q. Where will all site vehicles enter site?

A. All site vehicles will enter site via Wheelers Hill and Cranham Road. Traffic to the site will be regulated by a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP will include work start and finish times, specific traffic routes which EDF Renewables contractors must adhere to.

Q. Have the location of panels been confirmed and when will construction start?

A. The actual location of panels and fences have been confirmed. Construction currently planned to start early 2026 with a two-to-three-year duration, the overall construction program is subject to many factors related to National Grid, Highways Enabling works, suppliers and contractors and LPA discharge of conditions.

Q. What is the size of Longfield Solar Farm?

A. Longfield Solar Farm site is 453 hectares.

Q. Would the public pathways be open during the construction period?

A. CC gave an assurance that public pathways would remain open during construction and operation and an updated PRow drawing would be sent out to KR.

Q. Who would maintain the paths?

A. The public paths will be maintained as they are presently. Longfield Solar Farm will maintain all leased areas within the boundary.

Q. GR asked about the public rights of way, what has been submitted?

A. CS to provide GR with a link to an updated plan.

Q. Who will send out communications concerning road closures?

A. CS confirmed she would send out the communications and they could also be found on the Longfield Solar Farm website - [On-site activity – Longfield Solar Farm](#)

Q. GR and KR asked where they can find the updated documents.

A. CS to provide a link. [Downloads – Longfield Solar Farm](#) Planning Inspectorate Website
[Documents | Longfield Solar Farm](#)

6. Community Benefit Fund

CS confirmed that EDF Renewables – Longfield Solar Farm have committed to a Community Benefit Fund. The fund will be for the purpose of delivering benefits from the Project for communities living in the geographical areas of Braintree District Council and Chelmsford City Council. Further details about our Community Benefit Fund will be available closer to the commencement of the project.

7. AOB

None

8. Date and venue of next meeting

The group agreed meetings would take place every quarter and would be held either daytime, evenings, face to face or virtual, this would be decided by the group at the end of each meeting.

Next meeting 2.30pm, Wednesday 5th March 2025 – Boreham Village Hall, Goodwin Room.