

Consultee Comments for Planning Application

UTT/24/1417/PINS

Application Summary

Application Number: UTT/24/1417/PINS

Address: Land To The North-West Of Bishops Stortford Farnham Road Farnham

Proposal: Consultation on S62A/2024/0045 - Erection of a Solar Photovoltaic Farm with supporting infrastructure and battery storage, inverters and transformers, fencing, landscaping works and connecting cable

Case Officer: Tim Cakebread

Consultee Details

Name: Stephen Armson-Smith

Address: Essex Police Headquarters - Local Policing Support Unit, Springfield, Chelmsford CM2 6DA

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Crime Prevention Tactical Adviser

Comments

UDC Local Plan Policy GEN2 - Design (d) states" It helps reduce the potential for crime"

From experience pre-planning consultation is always preferable in order that security, landscaping and lighting considerations for the benefit of the intended management of the solar farm and those neighbouring the development are agreed prior to a planning application.

It should be noted that other parts of the country have seen an exponential rise in crime in relation to solar farms with everything from solar panels to cabling and ancillary equipment being targeted. In view of this we would like to see greater consideration given to the security of the site. With regards to the suitability of the proposed security provision there is insufficient detail provided to enable us to provide a meaningful comment on this application.

Generically in relation to solar farms it should be noted that: a) planning to install "Deer fencing" in relation to crime will only provide a symbolic boundary, some high risk areas such as those containing batteries and other equipment will need greater security including a boundary treatment of appropriately security rated LPS1175 security fencing and gates. b) CCTV will provide history of an event, to be an effective deterrence and security measure CCTV needs to be monitored incorporating an intruder alarm, perimeter intrusion system and a viable response by the operator to any activations.

We would draw attention to the BREEAM document "Guide to large scale ground mounted solar PV systems". (www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/pdf/other_pdfs/KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf)

) and would welcome the opportunity to consult with the developer in relation to this and other proposed large scale solar farms.