

TB/P20-0771

27 July 2020

Ms Annmarie Duggan
9 Main Road
Astwood
Milton Keynes,
MK16 9JS
07811 140672

DELIVERED BY POST AND EMAIL
duggan725@btinternet.com

Dear Ms Duggan

Provision of a renewable energy scheme on land near Astwood, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK43 8SU.

Pegasus Group are working as Planning Consultants for Renewable Connections Development Limited (Renewable Connections). We are preparing a planning application for a renewable energy scheme to be situated on land near Astwood, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK43 8SU. The proposed solar farm is named, Cranfield Road Solar Farm.

A leaflet is enclosed which shows the location of the proposed development.

The proposal is the installation of a ground mounted solar farm and electricity storage with a maximum export capacity of 45MWp (megawatts peak). There is a potential second phase to the development proposal and this relates to battery storage facility. However, the delivery of batteries is constrained by grid reinforcement works and as such this is not considered to be a feasible option until 2026 at the earliest. The applicant has requested the Local Planning Authorities advice whether a 'hybrid' application would be accepted, that is one that seeks outline planning permission for the batteries and full planning permission for the solar element. The Applicant would like to consult the local community on both the solar and battery storage aspects of the development.

As a general design principle for the ground mounted solar, the layout will be based on a bifacial panels fixed onto a single tracker mounting systems. Depending on site conditions, bifacial yield-gain can reach +30 percent compared to traditional systems. The mounting system will also be able to track the sun through a single fixed axil. The top height of the panels is expected to be c. 3m.

The application proposal would also include a package of landscape, ecological and biodiversity benefits that could include the installation of barn owl boxes, bird nesting boxes, bee hives, log piles, restoration of traditional field boundaries, and other hibernacula such as small buried rubble piles suitable for reptile species, amphibians and insect life. Land between and beneath the panels can be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal grazing. Existing hedgerows surrounding the site would be bolstered with additional hedgerow and tree planting where required. The new hedgerows would deliver biodiversity enhancements by providing green ecological corridors.

Pegasus Group

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DESIGN | ENVIRONMENT | PLANNING | ECONOMICS | HERITAGE

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The proposed development would have a life of 40 years at the end of which the modules and battery storage would be decommissioned and removed from the site. The land would then be restored to its current use.

Due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, we are unable to hold a face to face public consultation event where we would usually invite the parish council to attend. The COVID-19 pandemic is at the forefront of all decisions that we make, however, we still want to share with you our plans for Cranfield Road Solar Farm. I am writing to you in your capacity as Clerk for Astwood and Hardmead Parish Council and I duly invite members of the parish council to view the proposed development via our project website – www.cranfieldroadsolarfarm.co.uk. This website has been set-up to provide information on the proposals to the parish council and the local community. Comments and questions can be sent to the project team through the website and the via the details below.

Pegasus Group and Renewable Connections Development Limited would like to present the proposals to the parish council via a video call. If Astwood and Hardmead Parish Council are interested in arranging this, please contact me via my personal email address provided at the bottom of this letter.

In addition to the leaflet, please find enclosed a notice. The Applicant kindly asks that this notice be erected on the Parish notice board for local residents to see.

I look forward to receiving any comments you may have. Please endeavour to provide your comments by Monday 17th August 2020, to ensure your input is taken into account during the design stage of the proposal. Please send your comments to the below email and postal address:

Email:

cranfieldroadsolarfarm@pegasusgroup.co.uk

Postal:

Cranfield Road Solar Farm, C/O Pegasus Group,
First Floor,
South Wing,
Equinox North,
Great Park Road,
Almondsbury,
Bristol, BS32 4QL.

In the meantime, if you require any additional information in respect of the above proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Tom Baguley
Planner

Email: tom.baguley@pegasusgroup.co.uk

Enc: Public Consultation Invitation Leaflet
Parish Notice