To: Solar 5/PVDP Partners/Botley West

Subject: Cumnor Parish Council's response to the June/July 2024 'consultation'

Cumnor Parish Council (CPC) responds to the consultation as follows:

1. Solar 5 Ltd/PVDP Partners launched what they described as a 'targeted consultation' on Friday 14 June. CPC was only informed of this by email at 09:53 on 14th June.

2. Some residents report that they received an A5 'flyer' through the post. At the earliest this arrived some time in w/c 17th June. This meant the A5 flyer often arrived in with a sheaf of election campaign literature.

3. Attempts by CPC to find other ways by which the consultation was publicised in the parish have largely proved fruitless. Residents have found an A4 laminated sheet tied to a metal pole deep in a verge/hedge on the B4017 (see picture below left) and a sheet tied to a wooden post in woodland on a local footpath (picture below right).

4. This consultation does not include any public sessions in the Parish, nor a webinar. Documents are available to view at 5 locations (Woodstock, Witney, Kidlington, Botley and Eynsham) – all outside the Parish and one in a Parish not included in the proposals. This is disappointing given CPC's response to the 2nd consultation (see pp2).

For these reasons Cumnor Parish Council considers this consultation to be inadequate.

5. Of the 8 changes in Cumnor Parish presented, the developer judges that 6 of them (#51-#56) are '*unlikely to lead to significant adverse environmental effect'.* Even though the locations include homes and businesses in the Parish and a proposed '*maintenance road*' to be built on the Oxford Green Belt, **as no evidence is presented for these assertions, CPC assesses that it has a very low degree of confidence in the statements made**.

6. In the case of the other 2 sites in the Parish (#50 and #57) the developer asserts that their proposed mitigations will make it '*unlikely*' that there are '*significant adverse environmental effects*'. **Given the lack of detail in this consultation – as with the previous consultation (see pp2), CPC is unable to assess the developer's assertions, and so has a very low degree of confidence in the statements made**.

To: VWHDC, WODC, PINS, Layla Moran MP, N Hinksey Parish Council, Stop Botley West and Cumnor residents

Subject: Cumnor Parish Council response on the adequacy of the Botley West 2nd consultation process

Cumnor Parish Council believes the consultation process conducted by PVDP between 30th November 2023 and 8th February 2024 was inadequate for the following reasons.

1. Contrary to the proposal made by Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) in its 8th August 2023 response to PVDP no Community Access Point was provided in the Parish, the largest in the VWHDC area and the Parish proposed to be the location both for the southern section of the power station and its associated National Grid sub station.

2. Contrary to the proposal made by Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) in its 8th August 2023 response to PVDP the venue in this Parish chosen for the consultation event was not reachable by public transport. There are at least two other venues in the Parish that are on bus routes, one of these being immediately adjacent to the proposed Botley West site in this Parish.

3. The consultation event held in the Parish was conducted on a mid-week school day (17th January) between 3pm and 7.30pm, while that in the neighbouring parish (N Hinksey) was held the following weekday between 1pm-5pm. This effectively precluded parents and those working during the day from attending. By contrast, when the Parish Council consulted on its draft Neighbourhood Plan, it did so on both weekdays and weekends, daytime and evening.

4. Those who did attend the consultation event in the Parish noted that:
   4.1. PVDP 'experts' either couldn't answer detailed questions and/or chose to dismiss concerns as 'unimportant'
   4.2. The so-called 'visualisations' shown were inadequate, partial, and didn't include key viewpoints (such as the Oxford Green Belt Way PROW)

5. Not all parts of the Parish received the Consultation Leaflet in the post.

6. Of those that did receive it and found time to read it across the Christmas holidays, many described it as 'PR' for the developer, lacking enough evidence for an informed choice to be made.

7. The feedback form was generally described as 'poor' and 'biased', not giving respondents adequate opportunity to express concerns and to challenge the assertions made by the developer. Question 2 in particular was adversely commented on.

Cumnor Parish Council

5th March 2024