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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Environment, Planning & Enforcement**

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26 October 2017

Dear Hugh,

**Re: Cleve Hill Solar Park project - Draft Statement of Community Consultation**

Thank you for your email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 providing Kent County Council (KCC) with the opportunity to comment on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) relating to the Cleve Hill Solar Park ('Solar Park').

Officers of the County Council have reviewed the draft SoCC and are satisfied with the proposed consultation process which is supported by a comprehensive communications plan. The comments below are set out in relation to the headings included in the draft SoCC.

The County Council would welcome feedback on how the results of the draft SoCC consultation will be reviewed and which of KCC's suggestions have been taken into consideration by the Solar Park.

*8. Public Consultation*

KCC recognises that a 28 day consultation period is short for a project of this scale. It is therefore important that there is an openness to accept feedback throughout the project's development and a robust commitment to action such feedback.

*Phase 1 consultation events*

KCC requests that a consultation event should also be held in Harty on the Isle of Sheppey, as it has been identified within the core consultation zone.

KCC advises that the consultation events should be fully accessible and held at a variety of times during the day and week. Specifically, some sessions should continue into the evening and on occasional Saturdays. KCC advises that the Solar Park should also contact the relevant Parish Councils to see if any particular dates should be avoided.

To ensure the consultation is accessible to all members of the community, KCC requests that the Solar Park should consider producing an easy read version of the consultation leaflet, consultation report and questionnaire. It should also be clear in the consultation material how interested parties can request alternative formats if required (e.g. braille, audio, large print etc.)

#### *10. How will we consult?*

KCC advises the Solar Park to make contact with the local voluntary and community sector so they are informed of the consultation and are able to support their service users. KCC therefore recommends that Bill Ronan KCC's Community Liaison Manager for Swale ([Bill.Ronan@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Bill.Ronan@kent.gov.uk)) and Allison Allan KCC's Community Liaison Officer ([Allison.Allan@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Allison.Allan@kent.gov.uk)) for Canterbury are contacted.

KCC recognises that currently only one of the Council office locations is local to the core consultation zone. KCC recommends contacting KCC's Library service ([AKL@kent.gov.uk](mailto:AKL@kent.gov.uk)) to determine if consultation materials can be displayed in libraries that fall within the core zone.

Additionally, the [Gateway](#) on the Isle of Sheppey could be used as a location in the core consultation zone.

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If you require any further information or clarification on any matters in this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Katie Stewart**

Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement