

Notes from meeting with Rutland Parish Representatives – 6th June 2024.

In attendance: Rhonda Miller	TotalEnergies
Eric Montmean	TotalEnergies
Alex Riley	Anglian Water
Cllr Andrew Johnson	Rutland County Council
Cllr Kevin Atkinson	Morcott Parish Council
Douglas Reid	Pilton Parish Meeting
Cllr Jane Potter	South Luffenham Parish Council
Cllr Andy Lawrence	Wing Parish Council
Cllr Susan Shepherd	Manton Parish Council

Establishing a Community Liaison Group

Rhonda Miller gave a brief overview of why TotalEnergies and Anglian Water had called the meeting.

- The primary aim of the CLG is to establish an open dialogue between the community and the project team.
- This group will serve as a conduit for exchanging information, addressing community questions, and ensuring transparent communication throughout the project's lifecycle.
- The CLG will help us understand the community's concerns, bring in experts to address queries, and share information with the wider community.
- While the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) is an important aspect, our immediate focus is on creating a robust communication channel through the CLG.

Eric Montmean explained that ideally, we would have started a CLG earlier in the process and apologized for not having done so previously. It was felt that it is important to have a CLG in place and welcome the community the opportunity to participate.

Cllr Johnson welcomed the invitation but wished it made it clear that their attendance at this meeting did not mean that they were supportive of this development, but rather that they needed to keep abreast of things in case planning was granted.

Membership

A discussion then took place about who should be invited to future meetings and it was agreed that we had invited the correct parishes, but we should offer an invitation to Rutland Solar Action Group.

It was agreed that membership should not be restricted to one person from each Parish, but rather one person would attend meetings from each Parish – not necessarily the same person each time.

We discussed inviting the parishes on the cable route, Gunthorpe, Eggleton and Oakham but agreed that we would invite them to meetings which were relevant, but not to be part of the core CLG.

Frequency of Meetings

It was pointed out that 2 weeks notice of meetings is not enough. Parish Councillors are volunteers and very busy. Trying to coordinate diaries is difficult at the best of times. It was agreed that meetings would be agreed well in advance and Rhonda would send out placeholders for end July and mid September meetings. It was also pointed out that each Parish Council has a website, so it would be worth checking for any conflicts there.

Locations of meetings

It was agreed that meetings should continue at Wing Village Hall.

Reviewing the proposed terms of reference

The Terms of Reference were then discussed and it was agreed that attendees would take these away and these will be the focus of the next meeting. Copies of the ToR will be sent to all those who were not present at this meeting.

Appointing a Chair

The discussion then turned to a possible Chair. It was agreed that ideally we would like an independent Chair or perhaps a Chair on a rotating basis. This would be looked again at a next meeting. At the next meeting a quorum should also be discussed.

Rhonda to change the ToR to reflect this. It was also agreed that the ToR should include a statement to the effect that attendance at the CLG does not mean support for the proposed development.

Community Benefit Fund structure and distribution

The discussion then moved onto the community benefit fund and Rhonda outlined how TotalEnergies and Anglian Water saw this going forward as a community interest company managed by the CLG. Those present were in agreement with this, and felt that within the group there was a huge amount of experience and knowledge around governance.

Rhonda outlined the increased offer for the Community Benefit Fund and the group were happy to see the change in our plans from the original consultation. They pointed out that each different parish will have a different stipend from the County Council and felt that a discussion around how to award the grants should wait until at least the next meeting, when hopefully more parishes will be represented.

Finally, Eric spoke about biodiversity and the need for local knowledge and engagement. Cllr Johnson explained that historically, each 'manor' planted specific trees around boundaries and it would be good to replicate that if possible.