

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**REPORT TO:** Planning Committee 2 March 2011  
**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director / Corporate Manager – Planning and Sustainable Communities

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**S/2205/10- BOURN**

**Construction of solar energy farm to include the installation of solar panels, woth on site plant and machinery, access tracks, security fencing, landscpaing and associated works**

**Recommendation: Delegated Approval**

**Date for Determination: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

A letter of objection has been received from the occupiers of **Winthrop, Broadway, Bourn**. This dwelling is located directly opposite the site, to the western side of the road. The occupiers object on grounds of visual impact, impact upon the landscape, and the lack of benefits to the village. They state that hedgerows will not significantly screen the development, especially in winter months, and would be visible from ground floor windows. There are other brownfield sites considered more appropriate in the village. They add that there no direct benefits to Bourn, but disadvantages such as heavy goods vehicles during construction, road digging for cable laying, and noise pollution during construction and operation.

These issues are covered within the original Committee Report. Members will be able to view the relationship during the site visit. With regard to road digging, the electricity would be fed into the existing system on the east side of the road, and therefore no road digging should be necessary.

Additional comments have been received from the occupiers of **Park Farm** located adjacent to the plot. They note that no provision is made for a utility building for toilet, first aid or other facilities that visiting solar plant operatives would require. This is considered a huge omission for the well-being of such operatives.

The applicant has verbally stated that it is likely a portaloo would be located on site during the construction phase. They will confirm this and Members will be updated verbally on this matter.

Following comments from the **Local Highways Authority**, the applicant has submitted further information with regards to the Construction Method Statement. This covers vehicle routing, route signage, vehicle types and trip generation. It has been forwarded to the Local Highways Authority for comment, and they note its findings are acceptable. The proposed condition would be re-worded to ensure works take place in accordance with the statement.

Members will be aware that the consultation period for Go-East expires on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011, and therefore the recommendation remains as Delegated Approval subject to comments received up to that date.

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