

Plan for meeting with Pippa Heylings

Friday 6th December 2024, 17:30

The meeting is at the [Fulbourn centre](#)

Present: Simon Chandler (West Wrattling Parish Council), Kathy Day (KSCA), Geoff Havey (Cambridge District Council)

SJC overall aim: Use this opportunity to establish a productive working relationship with Pippa. Questioning. Not adversarial or overtly lobbying.

The following questions include what I've gathered from KSCA WhatsApp posts, including Helen, Colin.

1. Make sure Pippa is up to date with the proposed Kingsway solar farm development plans.
2. Confirmation of Pippa Heylings personal position on Kingsway development.
3. Does Pippa support (our) attempts to stop or mitigate the Kingsway development?
4. What is Pippa's advice about the best way to achieve that?
 - a. In the current pre-planning phase
 - b. In the pre-examination stage, engaging with the examining authority
 - c. In parallel with the pre-examination and examination stages, lobbying more broadly.
5. Does Pippa think there's any chance that if the Examining Authority recommends that the Kingsway project should not go ahead the Secretary of State will actually follow their advice this time - and stop the project?
6. If not, what does Pippa think needs to happen to bring about a change in the Secretary of State's response?
7. Land use / policy framework
 - a. What is Pippa Heylings' and the Lib Dem position on energy security vs. food security, in this constituency in particular.
 - b. Can large-scale developments be put on hold until a framework is in place (urgency vs democracy)?
 - c. How long will that take?
8. What regulation is there on NSIP projects? As far as I can see, monitoring adherence to the DCO is the responsibility of the local authority. Is that all?

9. The objectives of Great British Energy for community-owned energy generation are laudable. [Section 6.3 of the founding statement](#) says that local authorities and communities will be “owners and important stakeholders in local clean power projects”. How does that fit with the massive industrial-scale energy farm that’s being imposed on our villages by private enterprise. What are Pippa’s views on this?
 10. Question Pippa on the UK Climate Change and Nature Bill to ask how she envisages the role of large scale solar in helping to achieve both climate and nature targets when little is known about the potential impact of these developments on biodiversity (despite the claims). Does she believe in decarbonising energy without the need for large scale solar?
 11. How can Pippa help us? How best to speak for and negotiate for our community?
 12. Is there anything we can do to help her?
 13. Can we schedule a follow-up meeting? When?
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Appendix: Original email from Pippa Heylings

Dear Simon

Many thanks for writing to me about this proposed Kingsway Solar Ltd. development and apologies for the delay in you receiving a response.

I have previously spoken out against this proposal and I have been presented with no reason to change my mind. There is, of course, a need for more renewable energy but it is vital that planning for this is guided by a proper land use framework rather than sites being chosen by developers at random. In Westminster, I am pushing for the land use framework that Labour mentioned in their manifesto to be brought forward as well as raising concerns on the importance of community consultation on these schemes and for community benefits. I have also spoken in chamber and in the Great British Energy Bill Committee on the need for community energy projects to be given attention in this Bill.

As you will be aware, MP powers to influence planning decisions are limited but what we can do is convey the concerns of our constituents to the appropriate authorities and ensure these are taken to account throughout the planning process.

Yours sincerely

*Pippa Heylings
Member of Parliament, South Cambridgeshire*