Kingsway Solar Community Action

Report for West Wratting's Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) is a local volunteer group formed in response to the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm. We came together in early 2024 after concerns were raised at a presentation by the developer's, Downing Renewable Developments, to Balsham Parish Council¹. Since then, we've grown into a committed group working to inform residents, support parish councils, and ensure our communities have a voice in the process.

We are not against solar power—in fact, we support renewable energy. But we believe this development is simply the wrong scale in the wrong place. It risks major loss of agricultural land, disruption to wildlife, negative effects on wellbeing, and years of construction traffic on minor roads, all with no guaranteed benefit to the local community.

So far, KSCA has created an informative <u>website</u> and built active communities on Facebook and WhatsApp, produced leaflets and posters to engage with the community, attended public events, met with MPs and local councillors, and joined forces with national groups. We've also responded to consultations, supported parish councils with writing their responses to the scoping Environmental Impact Assesment (EIA) document², and raised awareness through local media.

Looking ahead, we'll be examining the final project plans, responding to the statutory consultation, and preparing for the public examination stage. If the development goes ahead, we'll push for meaningful community benefits and mitigation.

To keep going and make the strongest case possible, we need more volunteers. We're also looking for people with expertise in planning, ecology, law, or communications and fundraising who can support our work. Finally, we need financial contributions to help cover costs like printing, travel and professional advice.

KSCA stands for a green transition that protects nature, supports local people, and puts communities at the heart of decision-making.

To learn more visit: www.kingswayaction.org

¹ See the article in Challenge April 2024, written immediately after the first presentation. https://westwratting.org.uk/parish_council-planning-applications/solar-farm/kingsway-solar-farm-the-news-breaks/

² See https://westwratting.org.uk/west-wratting-parish-council-3/