

Save Hardy's Vale' community group - proposed solar generating arrays full planning application [P/FUL/2021/01018](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning/P/FUL/2021/01018)

[SHV MEMORANDUM - IMPORTANT MATERIAL PLANNING MATTERS](#)

The Gatehouse
1 Coppercourt Leaze
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 1QX

Phone: 01202 889199

Mobile: 07968 265897

Bus. email: cllrrobin.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Cook,

We write to you about the proposed major solar generating development on land at North Dairy Farm, Pulham DT2 7EA - planning application [P/FUL/2021/01018](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning/P/FUL/2021/01018).

In order that we comply fully with the 'lobbying' requirements set out by the Authority, the Localism Act, the associated Nolan guidance, and recent judgements¹ we have sent this email, to all the other members of the committee, and to the Case Officer.

We believe you will soon consider this Application Chairman of the Strategic and Technical Planning Committee. While the Case Officer will present all the relevant material planning matters in his Report, there are a number of pertinent points we wish to emphasise directly to you. These are set out in the memorandum attached to this email.

At this time of climate and biodiversity emergency, a crisis for food production and the clear and urgent need to quickly transition to low carbon energy generation, it is remarkable that the Solar proposal is so controversial and almost universally opposed by the North Dorset community, particularly those engaged in the farming and leisure industries.

In the memorandum we refer to the expert opinion that the proposed development would be in the wrong place and would not fully conform to national and the Council's development policies. It certainly would not "protect and enhance" Dorset's "greatest economic asset", its "exceptional countryside".

The proposed Site is in a hydrologically unique location, which has not been fully assessed. The Applicant has not provided surface runoff calculations to "demonstrate" that the

¹ [Richard Harwood KC](#) - [39 Essex Chambers](#) - [Lobbying members – Save Hardy's Vale \(savehardysvale.com\)](#)

development would match, or reduce, the existing greenfield surface runoff rates. In the absence of that objective “demonstration”, along with the established fact that the only access and egress road floods to a depth of one metre, and for the other material planning reasons submitted by the Council’s Officers, the AONB Officers and contained in our representations, ² we believe planning approval should be refused.

We do appreciate that the Authority cannot lawfully determine the Application unless and until it has all the necessary information on which to reach its decision. We know that you must be able to ask the right questions and to take reasonable steps to acquaint yourself with the relevant information to answer those questions correctly. In the absence of such information, a decision to allow the development would not be properly informed and would be unlawful.

We fully understand that you will not make up your mind about the Application until you have considered all the relevant material planning matters. If you have any questions about the information, we have presented to you, or submitted in the other SHV representations listed on the planning register, we would do our best to answer them.

Very best wishes

Ian Bryan

For, and on behalf of, the ‘Save Hardy’s Vale’ group.³

01258 881669

[Save Hardy’s Vale - Representations to Dorset Council](#)

[SHV Web](#)

[SHV Facebook](#)

friends@savehardysvale.com



©2023

² [Save Hardy’s Vale - Representations to Dorset Council](#)

³ In collaboration with David Horrell, Mark Bentley, Catherine Langham and Peter Moise