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Planning Office

Re Application

2020/0173/FUL

Construction of solar farm to include the installation of solar panels to generate up to 9.99MW of electricity with substations, transformers, security cameras, fencing, grid connection and associated development | Carn Nicholas Farm Track From Brokesby Road Bonymaen Swansea SA1 7BL.

As a ward Councillor in the Bonymaen Ward, please accept this as my support for the above application.

Solar farms provide a source of renewable energy. Energy is captured using solar panels and, using inverters and transformers, converted to a form suitable for connection to the grid.

They can only be developed where a range of primary site development criteria are met, as follows:

- a) There is a suitable solar resource
- b) Land is available
- c) There is a suitable electrical connection
- d) Site sensitivities and potential impacts of development – there must be no clear barriers to potential development and preferably a relatively low impact on the local area.

This application encompass all this criteria.

The community welcome the application, and have n understanding of the positive impact this application will have in the community.

I fully support the in-depth considerations for safety of construction traffic and the arrangements that are made to ensure

- a) Llanerch Rd is kept free of mud and dirt.
- b) Temporary signage to direct drivers and prevent construction traffic using unsuitable roads.
- c) The sub station is on private land and is fenced.
- d) Community safety has been taken into account in the design and construction arrangements of the proposed development. The solar farm site is, and will be retained as private land, and therefore there will be no public access.

The application is supported by me as,

- a) The proposal is for a solar farm to generate electricity from a sustainable source, and The UK Government has a legal obligation in relation to generating renewable energy.
- b) Swansea Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019.
- c) This scheme will therefore provide enough electricity to supply approximately 3,000 homes annually and save approximately 4,300 tonnes of CO2.
- d) It is anticipated that as much as possible of the equipment and workers needed for the project would be sourced locally (subject to usual commercial tendering arrangements, suitability and availability).
- e) In addition to providing a sustainable source of energy, the proposal includes additional planting which assists with the climate emergency, and also provides for lasting biodiversity and landscape benefits.
- f) The location is not constrained by any statutory designations. It has suitable irradiation, access and grid connection for a solar farm.
- g) The landowner is willing for the land to be used for generating renewable energy whilst also enabling a grazing function to continue.

Therefore the site meets the key requirements for solar electricity generation.

It is considered that the proposal would provide a valuable source of energy without any unacceptable effects and with gains extending beyond the life of the solar farm.

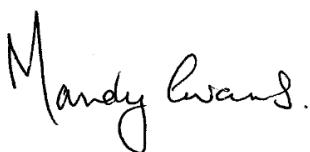
The proposal would retain the existing field boundaries and add to the hedgerow and woodland landscape elements.

This would enhance biodiversity linkages, visual amenity and landscape character.

The application documentation includes a range of reports from specialists and a planning statement. All these assessments and reports confirm that the application proposals are appropriate and would enable a valuable contribution to renewable energy obligations to be made. Therefore it is considered that the application should receive Council support and planning permission be granted for the proposed solar farm.

This application has the support of the community, and I fully support this application as it will have a positive impact in the community of Bonynmaen.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Mandy Evans