

**Glebe Farm Solar**

# **Statement of Community Involvement**

**On behalf of Glebe Farm Solar Limited**

**June 2025**



**Document Title:** Statement of Community Involvement

**Client:** Glebe Farm Solar Limited

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Scope**

- 1.1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Glebe Farm Solar Limited in support of a planning application relating to land at Glebe Farm, Welby Road, Ropsley, Grantham ('the Site').
- 1.1.2 This report outlines the process of community consultation undertaken in respect of the proposal for Solar Farm Development.
- 1.1.3 The site is comprised of several agricultural fields located approximately 8.5km to the northeast of Grantham. Surrounding smaller settlements include Oasby approximately 1km to the west, Welby approximately 1.2km northeast and Kelby which is approximately 1.7km southwest. The site is positioned north of the buildings which form Glebe Farm, accessed via Welby Road.
- 1.1.4 This document describes the methods of community consultation which have taken place, reporting on the level of community interest and the feedback received from the public and other key stakeholders. Finally, the report reflects upon this feedback and considered the implications for the proposed development.



## 2.0 Planning Policy Context

### 2.1 National Policy

2.1.1 The consultation carried out during the preparation of this planning application was undertaken in line with Government guidance on the value of pre-application engagement<sup>1</sup> and has been designed to:

- provide an understanding of the relevant planning policies and other material considerations associated with the proposed development
- work collaboratively and openly with interested parties at an early stage to identify, understand and seek to resolve issues associated with a proposed development
- discuss the possible mitigation of the impact of a proposed development, including any planning conditions.

2.1.2 In addressing the need for consultation (between applicants and the community) the Framework states:

*“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.”*

2.1.3 The Framework continues to set out further benefits of the process as follows:

*“The more issues that can be resolved at pre-application stage, including the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing, the greater the benefits.”*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/before-submitting-an-application>



## **3.0 Scope of Pre-application Activities**

### **3.1 Background**

3.1.1 The site is located within the administrative area of South Kesteven District Council and is not allocated for development. The site is defined as being within the countryside.

### **3.2 Local Engagement**

3.2.1 Community engagement will be undertaken in addition to the local authority's statutory consultation as part of the planning application process.

3.2.2 The method used to engage with the Parish Councils was a meeting held 'virtually' on 18<sup>th</sup> June which was a mutually convenient time agreed between the interested parties. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Lighthouse Development Consulting to explain the Proposed Development, the project background and site choice as well as allowing for a "Questions and Answers" session.

3.2.3 The goal of the meeting is to explain the proposals, design and the accompanying evidence base and to enable comments and feedback to be provided that can be considered by the design team and ahead of the public consultation event to be held in person (on a date to be confirmed). Where appropriate, amendments to the scheme may be made, informed by the statutory consultation feedback.



## **5.0 Conclusion**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 In recognition of best practice and to ensure that the local community is provided with a meaningful opportunity to voice their opinions on the scheme, the Parish Council and local Ward Members will be invited to a 'virtual' meeting.
- 5.1.2 Any concerns and relevant feedback raised through this consultation will be considered alongside the statutory consultation feedback. Where any scheme design changes are identified by the design team and LPA as being necessary, local people's comments will also be considered. Where changes to design cannot be made, a written response will be provided. The goal is that there are no outstanding concerns that have not been fully addressed by the proposals.

