

Tracy Norris  
Clerk and RFO to Cromhall Parish Council  
25 Parkfield Rank  
Pucklechurch  
South Gloucestershire  
BS16 9NR

5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Ms Norris,

**RE: Varley Solar Farm Proposal**

I am writing to let you know that RES has now submitted a planning application for the 25MW Varley Solar Farm on land south east of Cromhall, in South Gloucestershire.

The Varley Solar Farm proposal has been through a detailed design process. Along with the results of site surveys and assessments, we have taken account of feedback from the community and stakeholders. This has resulted in a number of changes being made to the design to ensure the solar farm fits sensitively into the existing landscape whilst maximising the low carbon, low cost electricity generation. Changes made include siting the substation and other infrastructure further to the south reducing potential visibility. The hedgerow height has been increased to the north of the site and the site access enclosed by a close board timber gate to further reduce visibility from residential properties.

Also following feedback from the local community, we undertook a comprehensive review of all possible delivery route options for the proposed Varley Solar Farm. As a result of this review, to minimise potential impact on the community from delivery traffic, we propose to create a bypass for HGV traffic on private land running west of and parallel to Farleigh Lane with Farleigh Lane used for other non-HGV construction traffic.

Solar projects like Varley can be quick to deploy, enable more energy to be generated domestically improving security of supply and contribute to Net Zero targets. They are also the cheapest form of new electricity generation, alongside onshore and offshore wind. This makes developments like Varley not just good for the environment but also for the consumer.

The Varley Solar Farm proposal also has the potential to deliver a biodiversity net gain through the measures proposed in the Ecological Appraisal, which accompanies the planning application. These measures include planting of native trees, over 1000 metres of new species-rich hedgerows and the installation of bird and bat boxes, hedgehog houses, reptile hibernacula and invertebrate hotels.

If consented, Varley Solar Farm would deliver over £3 million in business rates to South Gloucestershire Council across the project lifetime. Business rates are used to fund vital local services. The project, if consented, will deliver additional benefit to the Cromhall community through support to Cromhall Road Safety Group towards the purchase of a SafeSpeed™ Camera System to be used in combination with the Cromhall Community Speed Watch team.

The planning application and accompanying documents may be viewed on the South Gloucestershire Council Public Access website at <https://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/>. The planning reference is P22/07114/F.

Additionally, the planning documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from our dedicated project website - [www.varley-solarfarm.co.uk/](http://www.varley-solarfarm.co.uk/).

A statutory consultation period will be advertised and held by South Gloucestershire Council to enable the public, as well as statutory consultees, to submit their comments on the proposal. These comments will then be assessed against the proposal and a determination made in due course.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Bertrand Devossel

Development Project Manager

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