

Notes from 11th July 2023 Parish Meeting – PA23/04306

4. Public Comments

- Are the company under an obligation to inform the residents of Canworthy as no notifications were received.
- One notice up on a electric pole, not in the village
- Tried to read through planning – Pegasus disingenuous about number of residence
- What powers do the PC have? Chair – Parish Council is consultee to feedback to CC, at the end of the meeting a decision will be made by the Councillor what will be placed on the Portal.
- Can the Community take legal advice if the CC are in favour of the development – Yes
- Highways have indicated that they have no apparent objection about the roads – traffic – safety and possible congestion.
- What about the 130 workforce – accommodation -traffic
- What impact on farming and livestock.
- Visual impact – photos were all taken for the bottom of the road/hill not showing the real effect as photos are subjective – not in the right place.
- Extremely close to residence- Solar panels should not be any closer than between 500 to 1000 meters. The existing plan shows residences as close as 20 meters.
- Consultation was inconsistent and the answers provided were contradictory. They showed no knowledge of local information or surrounding areas. Emails requesting information were not replied to.
- The views regarding the impact were dismissed.
- All screening photos were taken in the summer so winter impact would be much greater.
- Some of Pegasus paperwork was inconsistent.
- When washing the solar panels what if any provision would be made for collecting polluted water.
- Pegasus have brushed aside government guidance and when it is likely to be imposed.
- The documents were inaccessible to ordinary people. Everything designed to confuse and there was no notification from CC that the plans and guidance were online.
- 100% that this plan would be pushed through regardless of local residents views but the community must be compensated. At the moment there is no apparent benefit to the community.
- Canworthy is a designated dark sky area, the existing solar farm already shows some additional light and this new development will be significantly greater.
- The plans describe the roads as a lane the increased volume of traffic would destroy the existing road network.
- Pegasus claim there will be no effect to traffic flow as they say are able to control all traffic.
- There are areas with massive developments in the county of Cornwall and we have a large percentage of this countries solar development, how much more can we take and how long will it be before it effects food production.

Councillors Comments

- Cllr. Hutchinson. I tempted to go through all the paperwork but due to the overall volume I was unable to do so.

I attended two Parish meetings Jacobstow and Week St Mary. Jacobstow were completely in the dark and not even showing on the Consultee list. They are in the process of asking why not and were added yesterday.

Two Councillors from Week St Mary attended the consultation in May 2022 and Pegasus commented they unaware of this Parish.

WPC held a meeting for two hours after the consultation with Pegasus, relaying everyone's concerns, Community benefits being the final concern. At the end of the meeting we were asked to submit an email to Pegasus. A two-page email was sent (last paragraph only referred to Community Benefits. WCP has never received a reply, only an acknowledgement of the email. The next correspondence, a year later, was to inform councillors that the planning has been sent to Cornwall Council.

A phone call was received followed by an email, after the notice went up about the emergency meeting, to say if we could contact them with any concerns after the meeting.

A Statement in Cornwall Council '**Policy Guidance – Climate Emergency Development Plan Document**' states there should be evidence of community support demonstrated.

Community benefits is a term generally used to refer to the voluntary provision of a payment (financial, or in-kind) to the host community.

This has not happened, there has been a complete lack of communication from both Pegasus and Cornwall Council.

- Cllr Wheable. Traffic is a conservative estimate on the Construction Programme it is estimated and is shown as 1412 articulated trips, 16.5 and 15.4 metre loads. With this high traffic volume maintaining 20mph is very unlikely, what about enforcements, with a subsequent danger to residents. Disabled residents find the existing traffic levels dangerous and the potential increase in volume will make it more so. This high level of traffic would make the roads not fit for purpose. The impact on the countryside and the public view is, and will be significant. There is well documented information that the power generated is far in excess what can be handled by the national grid.
- Cllr Luckwell. The meeting held back in May 2022 was a disgrace, Pegasus did not understand the concept of Community Funding. With regards to workforce, what percentage would be local and what would be imported. It took four years to get the roads improved and this traffic flow would inevitably cause serious damage. Who will be responsible for covering the cost of repairs.

With regards to Community Funding there are no projections available from Pegasus and benefit must be consistent over the life of the development.

- Cllr Shute. The size of the development is of concern, and it is all focused on summer production. It is taking up more farmland and we currently import 600 tons weekly of foreign food, which is being processed and coming into Cornwall. It is estimated that 1 acre of farmland yields 1 ton of meat and this is what we will lose if this development goes ahead.
- Cllr Barton. In agreement with other councillors, it is not very efficient to send electricity over large distances. We should have Smart city developments which supply the local needs.

It is estimated that it would take 4 to 5 years for all existing sites to come online because the national grid cannot cope.

This is merely a speculative development, when the grid is congested, they will use local non-renewable energy. Present information show that when renewable energy is turned off the developer still gets paid.

The consultation in 2022 showed the taxpayer paid £500 million to turn the sites off and by 2030 this will raise to between £2-4 billion in such compensation.

- Cllr Ireland. In agreement with other councillors, expressed concerns about the wildlife and the volume of concrete that will be used and how will this affect the environment. There is no consideration about how the development will be disposed of when it becomes time expired. If the developer goes into liquidation who is responsible for any cleanup and restoration of the site.
The bridge at Canworthy is not fit for purpose and Pegasus have claimed that the road is already damaged which is not true.
What consideration has been given to brown field or industrial sites, which are not in use, as opposed to existing farmlands.
Cornwall has two big industries Tourism and Farming. More developments of this size will mean that tourism, farming, and nature could be ruined. There is also no mention of the carbon footprint when building and maintaining this site.
- Cllr. Short. Unfortunately, this development will go through, we need to resolve the Community Benefit before it goes to planning.
In agreement with the other Councillors about traffic control and volume.
The are specifics with regards to design, they only show possible/typical which allows the developer to use similar items. irrespective of specification.
CCTV Cameras will be positioned around the site and as residents are in close proximity what privacy will they be guaranteed.
Green energy is the cheapest form. Nuclear power is not cheap Hinckley Point is guaranteed 70p kwh and consumers only pay 35p kwh.
We may have cheap energy but lots of good farmland will be lost and make us import more, so a much high carbon footprint.
They are only interested in profit, can we get a profit projection and a green projection