

Application number	Type	Description	Location
15/01413/MAF	Major Full and Change of Use Application	Installation of a 40mw solar farm at land adjacent to Top Farm, (High Wood) and land at Little Staughton Airfield. To include perimeter fencing, access tracks, transformer stations and associated infrastructure. (Cross Local Authority boundary scheme between Hunts DC and Beds BC).	Solar Farm At Little Staughton Airfield and land adj to Top Farm (cabling to electricity substation Basmead Road, Staploe) with access to solar farm from Kimbolton Road, Hail Weston, St. Neots and Colmworth Road, Little Staughton).

Staploe Parish Council met to discuss these plans last night Tuesday 21st July. Plans were circulated to 3 Councillors in advance of the meeting and two Councillors attending an information meeting in Little Staughton. The remaining Councillors received links to the plans online and Green Hedge Renewables gave a presentation before the Parish Council Meeting and answered questions.

There were no votes in favour of the plans for the solar farm as currently presented. The Parish Council would therefore like to object to the plans. Concerns expressed were: the size of the scheme was too large (one of the largest in the country) and therefore construction would be excessively noisy and disruptive with large numbers of construction traffic and workers travelling to and from the site in a small rural community, the panels are too close to residents houses at Top End, Little Staughton and concerns about whether the fund to remove the infrastructure after 25 years was watertight eg. if the company went into liquidation would the funds for restoring the site to its former state be safe?

Five out of the six Concillors eligible to vote were in support of the scheme if there were to be no panels and only a substation at Top Farm (to reduce the size of the scheme and therefore reduce the impact on open countryside and reduce the level of impact during construction), and if panels were to be no closer than 200m from residential gardens.

One further comment was that Councillors would like to be certain that landscaping was effective eg. that the trees and hedges planted were protected from rabbits and deer and replaced if they did not succeed.