RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

At the Public Exhibition we have presented preliminary design drawings. Feedback from the local community is important at this stage of our pre-application consultation when it can have a direct influence on the final design of the project.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comments form with your feedback. Please provide feedback by **2nd August 2023**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

*Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Stafford Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.*

**1 Leaford Solar Farm public exhibition**

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Newsletter through the door |
|  |  |
|  | Advert in local newspaper |
|  |  |
|  | Project website – [www.leaford-solarfarm.co.uk](http://www.leaford-solarfarm.co.uk) |
|  |  |
|  | Word of mouth |
|  |  |
|  | Other (please specify) |
|  |  |
|  |

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Leaford Solar Farm?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Knew a lot |
|  |  |
|  | Knew quite a lot |
|  |  |
|  | Knew a little |
|  |  |
|  | Knew very little |
|  |  |
|  | Knew nothing at all |

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Leaford Solar Farm?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | A lot |
|  |  |
|  | Quite a lot |
|  |  |
|  | A little |
|  |  |
|  | Very little |
|  |  |
|  | Nothing at all |

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**2 Leaford Solar Farm Proposal**

Your views on the Leaford Solar Farm proposal - specifically the preliminary layout of the project where people’s comments can have a direct influence – will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Leaford Solar Farm?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I am happy with the proposed layout |
|  |  |
|  | I am neutral towards the proposed layout |
|  |  |
|  | I have concerns about the proposed layout |
|  |  |
|  | I don’t like solar farms in general |

 Further comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2.2 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Leaford Solar Farm

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**3 Local benefits**

3.1 As part of the proposal, RES is exploring the potential to create a new permissive footpath to enhance the local Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. The preliminary design identifies two locations for the potential new permissive footpath.

We are keen to develop this idea in collaboration with the community and are asking visitors to choose their preferred permissive footpath option.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Permissive Footpath A |  | Permissive Footpath B |  |

We are also keen to explore other opportunities for improvements to the Public Rights of Way network which can be considered as part of our proposal. Examples could include picnic benches, information/educational boards and wildflower planting. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know in the box below.

|  |
| --- |
|   |

3.2 The Leaford Solar Farm, if consented, has potential to deliver significant biodiversity enhancement. Which biodiversity enhancement measures would you like to see?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Wildflower planting |  | Bird and bat boxes |  | Bee banks/hives |  | Other |  |

If you have ticked Other above please provide any suggestions for biodiversity enhancement opportunities in the box below.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3.3 We firmly believe that solar schemes should provide meaningful benefits locally and we will work with the local community to gain feedback on local aims and priorities to deliver long-term economic, social and environmental benefits, which the Leaford Solar Farm could support, if consented.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the solar farm may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**4 Climate change, energy security and renewables**

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people’s thoughts on how renewables can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I strongly agree |
|  |  |
|  | I agree |
|  |  |
|  | I don’t know |
|  |  |
|  | I disagree |
|  |  |
|  | I strongly disagree |

 Further comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I strongly agree |
|  |  |
|  | I agree |
|  |  |
|  | I don’t know |
|  |  |
|  | I disagree |
|  |  |
|  | I strongly disagree |

 Further comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

4.3 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to support greater energy independence and security for the UK?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I strongly agree |
|  |  |
|  | I agree |
|  |  |
|  | I don’t know |
|  |  |
|  | I disagree |
|  |  |
|  | I strongly disagree |

 Further comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop solar farms to cut energy bills?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I strongly agree |
|  |  |
|  | I agree |
|  |  |
|  | I don’t know |
|  |  |
|  | I disagree |
|  |  |
|  | I strongly disagree |

 Further comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**5 Your details**

Please provide your name and contact details below.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Email |  |
| Address |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box  |  |  |

When you have completed the comments form, please send by email to carey.green@res-group.com or by post to: Leaford Solar Farm Project Team, RES, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8LR.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us.