Report on Solar Community Consultation Event

Event Overview:

- **Date:** 28th September 2024
- **Location:** Brymbo Enterprise Centre

1. Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to summarise the outcomes of the community consultation event organised by Stori Brymbo to discuss the proposed solar farm project at the Wonderbank site. The event aimed to inform the local community about the project, gather feedback, and address any concerns.

2. Event Overview

The consultation event was organised by Stori Brymbo as part of their Open Day and was conducted by consultants from Dulas on the 28th September 2024 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Brymbo Enterprise Centre. The overall event was attended by 205 visitors (not all from Brymbo) and 23 consultation feedback forms were collected.

3. Consultation Summary:

The consultation discussion with interested parties included the following key points:

- Project Overview: The proposed solar farm will cover the Wonderbank area, with enough space for approximately 900 panels to generate well over 1 megawatt of electricity, supplementing the electricity use and reduce running costs of the Stori Brymbo site.
- Consultees were shown plans of the Wonderbank site, proposed technologies were discussed, and the timeframes laid out.
- Timeline: Once environmental assessments have been conducted and planning permission has been granted, construction is expected to take around 6 weeks, with the park expected to be operational by May 2025.

Community Feedback:

Positive Feedback:

- Support for renewables: 100% of attendees expressed support for the use of renewable energy within the UK. All 23 consultees were familiar with the principle of solar energy and support the use of solar specifically.
- Site location: Based on the information provided to them, 100% of consultees felt that the proposed site at Stori Brymbo would be a good location for a solar park. Feedback overwhelmingly references the “excellent” “brilliant” and “perfect” use of land that has few options for redevelopment.
- Project Proposals: Consultees felt that the project was “well thought out and practical.”
- Timetable: Consultees were impressed with the phased in timetable.
- Future Consultation: 52% of consultees would like to be kept informed about the proposals.

Concerns Raised:

- No concerns were raised with the Stori Brymbo solar proposals presented.

Suggestions:

- Smart Export Guarantee (SEG): One consultee suggested exploring funding options with SEG.
- Support and Community Benefit Package: Suggestions include youth schemes, Brownies/Guides, and EV chargers.

Conclusion:

The consultation event was successful in engaging the local community and gathering valuable feedback. It demonstrated that there is overwhelming support for the solar project, with no concerns raised. The project team will incorporate the feedback and continue to communicate with the community throughout the project's development.

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