



Sharon Holman
Development Control Planning Officer
Wrexham County Borough Council
16 Lord Street
Wrexham
LL11 1LG

14 September 2015

Dear Sharon Holman,

My name is Archie Graham Palmer. My family have been at Cefn Park for several generations. The business extends to just over 1000 acres and includes a number of arable and livestock enterprises, some of which are farmed in hand and others are let.

We have promoted the site at Erlas Hall for development for the following reason. Erlas Hall Farm extends to less than 50ha. By today's farming standards this farm is too small and the tenants, who have been there for three generations struggle making ends meet through farming alone. The addition of a solar farm will enable Erlas Hall Farm to be expanded by including a further 7 hectares of high quality land (currently kept in hand) while the sheep can continue to graze what is mostly poor and wet land which will be occupied by the solar array. This will enable Peter Done, the tenant, to increase the size of his potato enterprise, which is the most profitable part of his farm.

The agricultural sector has faced innumerable challenges for as long as we have been in the business and the present situation is no exception. Wheat and barley prices fluctuate like all commodities and are currently some 45% lower than they were in 2014. Given the comparatively small size of Erlas Hall farm's arable business they are unable to benefit from the economies of scale that the larger producers can. The land traditionally only yields between 2-3 tonnes of wheat per acre, which isn't competitive in the global market place.

The income generated from the proposed Solar Farm will allow us to reinvest money into the estate and historic house of Cefn Park, be it maintenance of buildings or upgrading agricultural equipment/machinery. The steady income stream will also help immeasurably with business planning.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Archie Graham-Palmer'.

Archie Graham-Palmer