

Longfield Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)
Minutes of Meeting
Friday, 28 November 2025, 2pm
Online

Members

Name	Organisation
Andy Higham – Principal Planning Officer	Essex County Council
Timothy Havers - Principal Planning Manager	Braintree District Council
Chris Paggi - Planning Development Manager	
Ruth Mabbutt - Senior Planning Officer/Planning Lead	Chelmsford City Council
Mark Norman	National Highways
Lee Perry T/Station Manager, Risk	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
John Webster Station Mgr Future Infrastructure Risk	
Will Wilcock_Sion Davies	National Grid
Katherine Evans	Essex Local Access Forum
Graham Reeve – Area Walking Environment Officer	Essex Ramblers Association
communications@essexalliance.org.uk	The Essex Alliance
Mark Weale - Chair	Hatfield Peverel Parish Council
James Raven – City Councillor	Boreham and The Leighs
Anthony Kingham - Chair	Little Waltham Parish Council
Dawn Whelan - Business & Partnerships Lead	East of England Ambulance Trust
Linda Reed	Boreham Parish Council
Peter Elkington (PE)	Boreham Parish Council
Graham Reeve	Essex Ramblers Association
Area Walking Environment Officer (GR)	

In attendance

Name	Organisation
Katherine Evans – Chair (KE)	Essex Local Access Forum
Robin Dixon (RD)	Terling and Fairstead Parish Council
Jennifer Johns - Assistant Project Manager (JJ)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm
Clodagh Steel - Community Liaison Officer (CS)	EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm

1 Welcome

CS welcomed the group.

2 Minutes of 10 September 2025 Meeting

CS confirmed the minutes of the September 2025 meeting were agreed and have been loaded to the Longfield Solar Farm website <https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads/>

3 Project Update (JJ)

JJ shared that procurement of the solar works contractor is almost finalised, and appointments for the battery and substation contractors would follow early next year. Once appointed, an event will be held to connect them with local businesses.

We are currently replacing plants that have not taken successfully, which includes approximately 2,300 whips and trees, and reviewing where small, targeted planting around the neighbouring properties will happen in the next planting window

We are working closely with National Grid and challenging the proposed grid connection dates. Construction of the main site is currently expected to begin between end of 2026/early 2027.

The design for the road widening and vegetation removal works on Wheelers Hill / Cranham Road is nearing completion. This includes the design of the site entrance on Boreham Road. Works are scheduled to commence start in early 2026 with the vegetation clearance followed by the construction.

A permissive path that was proposed to run between Lawns Farm and Scarlets Farm has been revised. The original path, as submitted in the DCO, has had to be rerouted to avoid the unnecessary removal of any trees or hedgerows.

RD wanted us to be aware that some of the areas currently shown as grassland on the masterplan is currently used for cover during the shooting season. JJ confirmed that EDF are aware of this.

CS highlighted the application for the non-material change application, all details are available on the Longfield website – [Longfield Solar Farm Limited Non-Material Change Application – Longfield Solar Farm](https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads/)

4 Questions

Q. When are we instructing the councils to the start of works?

A. Before any work begins on site, several important conditions must be agreed and approved by the local authorities. This helps ensure the project is delivered safely, responsibly, and with clear understanding of what work will be taking place. While the project does not require a formal announcement at the start of construction, we will keep the CLG aware of when works will start on site.

Q. When is the Community Benefit Fund established?

A. The Community Benefit Fund will commence when the main site works begin. The date is still to be confirmed but is anticipated to be late 2026/early 2027. Agreements between the LPAs, EDF Power Solutions, and the Essex Community Foundation are currently being finalised, and Essex Community Foundation will manage the fund.

Q. Can the new permissive paths update be shared?

A. The revised plan is still currently in draft format and cannot be formally shared. Once the plan has been submitted to the LPA as part of the discharge of conditions, we will be able to share the plan and provide a link to where it is located.

Q. How long will the permissive paths be in place?

A. They will remain accessible during the lifetime of the solar farm, except when required to be closed for example for maintenance reason. The paths will be operational for use once it is safe to do so following the completion of the construction phase.

Q. Is the new permissive path longer East to West?

A. There is not much change in the distance and will have no impact on residents.

Q. Is there a discount rate for power to those affected by the solar farm?

A. There is no scheme in place at the moment.

Actions

- CS to send a reminder of meetings to members just before each CLG. It would be appreciated if members could let CS know in advance of the meeting if they are unable to attend
- CS will share a link to the revised masterplan once it has been finalised and is submitted to the LPA.

Date and venue of next meeting

The group agreed meetings would take place every quarter and would be held either daytime, evenings, face to face or virtual, this would be decided by the group at the end of each meeting.

Next meeting 2.30pm, Wednesday, 25 February 2026, Boreham Village Hall, Boreham Essex