

Longfield Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, 25 February 2025, 2.30pm
Boreham Village Hall, Main Road, Boreham, CM3 3JD

Members

| Name | Organisation |
|---|--|
| Andy Higham – Principal Planning Officer | Essex County Council |
| Timothy Havers - Principal Planning Manager Chris Paggi - Planning Development Manager | Braintree District Council |
| Ruth Mabbutt - Senior Planning Officer/Planning Lead | Chelmsford City Council |
| Mark Norman | National Highways |
| Lee Perry T/Station Manager, Risk John Webster Station Mgr Future Infrastructure Risk | Essex Fire and Rescue Service |
| Will Wilcock_Sion Davies | National Grid |
| Katherine Evans | Essex Local Access Forum |
| Graham Reeve – Area Walking Environment Officer communications@essexalliance.org.uk | Essex Ramblers Association The Essex Alliance |
| Mark Weale - Chair | Hatfield Peverel Parish Council |
| Anthony Kingham - Chair | Little Waltham Parish Council |
| Dawn Whelan - Business & Partnerships Lead | East of England Ambulance Trust |
| Graham Reeve Are Walking Environment Officer | Essex Ramblers Association |
| Katherine Evans – Chair | Essex Local Access Forum |
| Robin Dixon | Terling and Fairstead Parish Council |
| Jennifer Johns - Assistant Project Manager | EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm |

In attendance

| Name | Organisation |
|--|---|
| Bill Kyle (BK) | Boreham Conservation Society |
| Charles Martin (CM) | Boreham Conservation Society |
| Alan Swash (AS) | Boreham Conservation Society |
| Linda Reed (LR) | Boreham Parish Council |
| Peter Elkington (PE) | Boreham Parish Council |
| James Raven – City Councillor (JR) | Boreham and The Leighs |
| Vikki Ellis (VE) | EPC Project Manager National Grid |
| Ashley Hood (AH) | EPC Project Manager National Grid |
| Gethin Jones (GJ) | Graduate Associate Project Manager National Grid |
| Clodagh Steel - Community Liaison Officer (CS) | EDF Renewables, Longfield Solar Farm |

1 Welcome

CS welcomed the group, and all attendees introduced themselves

2 Minutes of the 28 November 2025 Meeting

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

3 National Grid Presentation

- National Grid delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining:
 - The need for Bulls Lodge substation as the key connection point between Longfield Solar Farm and the wider electricity transmission network.
 - An overview of what the substation will look like, including layout and visual characteristics. Why have we chosen to utilise a GIS format for space saving reasons etc.
 - Additional context and information on the project's purpose, scope, and benefits.
 - The session was well received, with councillors receptive to the explanation provided.
 - No major objections were raised, and the discussion was constructive throughout.
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4 EDF Construction & Highways Update

- Ongoing road closure remains in place. De-vegetation is underway in preparation for road widening planned for May 2026.
 - Some areas cannot currently be cleared due to required coordination with UKPN.
 - Road widening and passing lane layouts are still in design.
 - Essex Water works are expected to begin late May 2026 and continue until end of 2026.
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5 Landscaping

- 2,000 replacement trees to be planted following unsuccessful growth from previous planting.
 - Routine maintenance of shrubbery scheduled March–September 2026.
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6 Longfield Main Works

- Main contractor appointed: Metlan.
- Ground surveys now underway.
- Archaeological works were completed late 2025.
- Main construction works scheduled to start March 2027.
- Recruitment strategy will focus on local employment and community upskilling, aiming for a net positive local impact.

7 Construction–Operations Handover Concern

- A resident raised the potential risk that collaboration between EDF, National Grid, and Longfield during construction could be lost once the project enters its operational phase.
 - Both EDF and NG reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining strong coordination throughout the project lifecycle.
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8 Communications

- NG (Vikki) to organise business cards for distribution to residents with key site contact details so that any concerns can be raised by the team instead of going through corporate channels.
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9 Requested Technical Information - National Grid / Bulls Lodge

- Building height: 14 metres
 - Fence height:
 - 2.4m mesh fencing
 - Total 4 metres including electrical safety topping
 - Gantry height: To confirm and provide at earliest possible opportunity.
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10 Next Meeting

- **Early June 2026**